Subject: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 17:46:25 GMT
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I felt impressed to put in a 'bulletin board' here in the coffee break room. Maybe we could share a 'thought for the day' or a scripture that The Lord has given and we think it would be encouraging and edifying to others. Something to meditate upon during the day.

This scripture was impressed upon me this morning as I was looking up at a small mountain and giving The Lord thanks and praise for His wonderous works. I started singing to myself the song we used to sing from this verse and allowing The Holy Spirit to minister to my heart; He promised to NEVER leave us or forsake us, and this is just another way He tells us...

" As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so The Lord is round about His people from henceforth even for ever." Psalms 125:2

Hope it blesses ya'll as much as it does me,

james

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 31 Dec 2008 12:23:40 GMT
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We have SO much to be thankful for, and it's all made possible by The Blood of Jesus, freely shed for us.

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man unto whom The Lord imputeth not iniquity,

and in whose spirit there is no guile." Ps.32:1-2

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 02 Jan 2009 13:20:45 GMT
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JUST A REMINDER:

God's Word doesn't change with the seasons and times, the promises He made in the days of Abraham, King David, Isaiah, until the N.T. promises Jesus made; they're all yea and amen. The calendar changing doesn't effect Mk.11:24 or John 3:16 or Ps.91 or Isaiah 53:5 or Acts 2:38-39.

Isn't it great to have this confidence in Him who made these great and precious promises, to be able to enter into a place of rest as Paul wrote of in Hebrews chapter 4.

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus The Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 06 Jan 2009 11:35:27 GMT
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" The name of The Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10

THERE IS POWER IN HIS NAME...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 12 Jan 2009 12:13:25 GMT
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" And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us:

And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." I John 5:14-15

Faith is not some magic formula, or a secret code that allows christians to abuse God's promises; with name it, claim it doctrines, such as the false 'prosperity message'. Faith is trusting; believing; having confidence in; knowing in our hearts; that He who made the promises, God, will perform that which He promises.

And 'prosperity' is a promise from God...but not as it's being taught by 'seed' and 'give to get' teachers, who are only seeking after personal financial gain.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 14 Jan 2009 14:03:06 GMT
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"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." II Corth.4:18

"Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand."

"But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear." Matt. 13:13&16

"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." II Peter 3:13

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 16 Jan 2009 13:14:29 GMT
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"But they that wait upon The Lord shall renew their strengh; they shall mount up with wings as eagles;

they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by james on Wed, 21 Jan 2009 14:32:34 GMT
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" It is of The Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion, saith my soul: therefore will I hope in Him."

Lamentations 3:22-24

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 01 Feb 2009 11:07:47 GMT
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" One thing have I desired of The Lord, that will I seek after;

that I may dwell in the house of The Lord all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of The Lord, and to enquire in His temple."

Ps.27:4

AMEN...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 04 Feb 2009 10:52:36 GMT
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" I WILL bless The Lord at all times: His praise SHALL continually be in my mouth.

My soul SHALL make her boast in The Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

O magnify The Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together."

Psalms 34:1-3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 14:23:07 GMT
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" For whatever is born of God overcometh the world. And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is The Son of God." 1 John 5:4-5

" He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son." Rev. 21:7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 15 Feb 2009 12:15:15 GMT
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Earlier this week some of us were talking of the desert and the comparison between a literal desert and the spiritual desert many of us feel we've been in for the past 20 years.
We're not the first people to feel this way, King David wrote of his wilderness experiences in Psalms 63. We can take heart in knowing God delivered him, remember Ps. 23 as well as Ps. 91. Remember the promise of the latter rain in Joel 2:23 and the promise to restore the years that the locust, cankerworm, catepiller, and palmerworm has eaten. Joel 2:25 All of the book of Joel is prophesying of what God promises to do in the end-times to restore us unto Him.

" O God, thou art my God; early will I seek Thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for Thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

To see Thy power and Thy glory, so as I have seen Thee in the sanctuary.

Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise Thee.

Thus will I bless Thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in Thy name." Ps.63:1-4

" And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of The Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as The Lord hath said, and in the remmant whom The Lord shall call." Joel 2:32

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Sun, 15 Feb 2009 13:04:54 GMT
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Good post Brother James

I was reflecting yesterday on the pilgramage of the children of Isreal and I think I have hit on something.

Isnt it interesting that there was NO Idolatry while they were in the 40 year pilgramage? As soon as they became affluent and satisfied in the riches they had is when the Idolatry started. They didnt have to depend on the Lord any more.

Leeds me to the conclusion that the most dangerous time in a christians life is like the Jews. We become independent (or so we think)and seemingly no longer need God. Jesus said to the church of Laodicea " because thou sayest ,I am rich,and increased with goods and have need of nothing, and knowest not that thou art wreched, and miserable and poor and blind and naked" How many people that you know of are driven to their knees in a time of plenty. Jesus knew the dangers.

We must constantly be on guard against unthankfullness and not givin the Lord the Glory for everything we receive.

Lord bless

Dick

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by whitearizona on Mon, 16 Feb 2009 02:53:57 GMT
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He that has my commandments, and keeps them,he it is that loves me. And he that loves me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

John 14.21

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 17 Feb 2009 22:46:07 GMT
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"Freedom in Christ is not the right to do as we please,

but the liberty to do as we ought."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Wed, 18 Feb 2009 12:33:11 GMT
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Sorrow is better then laughter,

for by the sadnest of the countenace

the heart is made better.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 26 Feb 2009 11:50:01 GMT
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A thankful heart produces a humble spirit.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 04 Mar 2009 12:54:27 GMT
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" O give thanks unto The Lord; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people.

Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him: talk ye of all His wondrous works.

Glory ye in His holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek The Lord.

Seek The Lord, and His strength: seek His face evermore.

Remember His marvellous works that He hath done; His wonders, and the judgements of His mouth; "

Psalms 105:1-5

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 07 Mar 2009 17:22:05 GMT
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Forrest Gump said, 'My momma always said', " Life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get."

And while there is a bit of truth in that statement, WE can ALWAYS KNOW who's in charge of our lives and that nothing is going to happen that HE hasn't ordained. And ultimately we can rest in the promises He's made and have peace in our hearts, reguardless of the times we live in and in the midst of chaos all around us. His name is JESUS.

Remember Psalms 91 verses 7-8 " A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; But it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shall thou behold, and see the reward of the wicked."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Mon, 09 Mar 2009 18:24:56 GMT
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Spurgeon on Preaching Jesus Christ

"I believe that those sermons which are fullest of Christ are the most likely to be blessed to the conversion of the hearers. Let your sermons be full of Christ, from beginning to end crammed full of the gospel. As for myself, brethren, I cannot preach anything else but Christ and His cross, for I know nothing else, and long ago, like the apostle Paul, I determined not to know anything else save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. People have often asked me, "What is the secret of your success?" I always answer that I have no other secret but this, that I have preached the gospel,â€”not about the gospel, but the gospel,â€”the full, free, glorious gospel of the living Christ who is the incarnation of the good news."

Maybe we could substitute messages for sermons.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 13 Mar 2009 13:31:31 GMT
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As I drove in to work this morning I was listening to Carl Seitz; and the words to this song, he wrote 30 years ago, just spoke to my spirit. I'm going to try to write part of them down, they were so encouraging...

"For there's another flood acoming,

it's a flood of end-time evil

and like a mighty wave, it shall soon engulf all people.

But although the sky above you looks so dark,

for God's people, there's an ark

you alone my friend decide whether you will be inside,

you alone can pay your price, to be a living sacrifice

upon the alter, brother don't you falter...

For when the world in tribulation is crying loud,

you can be with The Lord Jesus dwelling in the clouds."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 22 Mar 2009 19:37:24 GMT
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JUDGEMENT IS COMING UPON AMERICA, AND IT WILL BEGIN WITH THE CHURCH...

If God spared not Israel for their iniquity, the apple of His eye; but poured out His wrath upon both young and old, women and children, sparing only those who had been crying out unto Him for the

abominations going on around them, what makes America think God doesn't see? Yet 'the church' has those speaking, 'thus sayeth The Lord, America's best days are ahead'; these are false prophets speaking lies, giving false hope, preaching false doctrines, covering over sin. But God sees.... and He has a remnant, crying out saying, 'don't listen to the false pleasers of man, who are speaking great swelling words which God hath not spoken.'

Ezekiel 9:4-6

" And The Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.
And to the others He said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity.
Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; AND BEGIN AT MY SANCTUARY..."

verse 8-10
"And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord God! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in Thy pouring out of Thy fury upon Jerusalem?
Then said He unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The Lord hath forsaken the earth, and The Lord seeth it not.
And as for Me also, Mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Wed, 25 Mar 2009 13:47:26 GMT
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And The Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.
And to the others He said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity.
Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; AND BEGIN AT MY SANCTUARY..."

Hey James,

I have been really thinking about this Word you had. It is sobering and I would like to ask your opinion on something.

Dr. Freeman, in his Revelation teachings, said that he believed that a group of people would be kept during Tribulation. These people had a mark upon them, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but did not totally die out or go all of the way, as he put it.
Therefore, they had to be purified, somewhat, during Tribulation.

Do you think this passage in Ezekiel is talking about this mark? What does this prophet mean by mark, etc. Is it also referring to our times, as well, concerning this mark?

Also, the slaying stuff is serious too! Do you think that all of this refers to Tribulation and persecution of the denominational saints, etc.? I know that me and my household have tickets on the first load going up!

These are really serious times we live in. Thank you for sharing this with us here at OO. I just need a little more input. I don't think I need anymore sobering up, but if that is the case, than so be it.

I am going to post all of the Revelation outline. It may take a little time, but these issues are all mentioned.

Blessings,

GWB

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 05 Apr 2009 11:11:17 GMT
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INFORMATIVE DVD: AMERICA, FREEDOM TO FASCISM

This link will allow you to view a film about the erosion of America. It was released in 2006 and in view of what has happened over the past year with the banking system, as well as other problems that have come to light, it gives some insight to how it was set up to bring America to the place we are now.

It's not bibically based and in the original film there is only one reference to the bible in it, and that is Rev. 13:16-18. But it is informative and shines light on the coruption in government, as well as

exposing the IRS, The Federal Reserve, the power that the banking system has over the people and how it was first set up. Interesting info about tax laws and filing income taxes? (No, I'm not avocating for people to stop paying income taxes, after all...lol)
The DVD original is almost 2 hr. long, but the internet version is a good bit shorter.

The link is http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1656880303867390173

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by sparkles on Sat, 11 Apr 2009 17:45:13 GMT
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Thank you James for this very interesting video, although I have not seen all of it. About 20 years ago I worked in a restaurant where we had some customers who were handing out this same kind of material and telling us we did not have to pay income tax because the 16th amendment was never ratified. There was a christian financial advisor on the radio, whose name escapes me, that was asked about this, and I believe his response was, yes it is true the 16th amendment was never ratified, but our highest court in the land, The Supreme Court, told us we had to pay tax, and therefore we must.
The Lord is just using all this to bring about his plans and purposes with all the corruption in the government. There is an excellent writer, who was involved in the Indiana government years ago, who sheds some very interesting light on some people and things that have happened and are happening. I saw this man speak before he wrote his first book. His name if Gary Kah.
He wrote an excellent book called "En Route to Global Occupation." He has a website, so if you get a chance I would recommend looking at it. I haven't looked at his site for a while, but you bringing this video out, I will have to see what he is writing about now.
Also we can't be naive to think that sites like this are not being monitored, as we know how the the christian will be hated. I can remember someone saying how christians are the reason we have so many problems in this country. It was just an off the cuff comment during the Clinton years, but it stuck with me. May God's peace be with us all.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 11 Apr 2009 18:27:48 GMT
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Hey Sue,

I just finished listening to one of Bro. Freeman's earlier teachings on, 'The Day of The Lord'(the introduction); Hombre shared it with me, and it is SO appropriate for today.(remember, he taught

this message over 30 years ago) The text is from I Thess. 4:13-18. There were many scriptures he used to point to the fact that we're in the last days; but what stands out to me is the false prophecies today coming out about how America is yet to see our best days and how we are God's special nation. Exactly what people want to hear...yet NOT at all what God is saying. In Jeremiah 28, Jeremiah had prophesied that God said, Israel would go into captivity for 70 years due to their sins and rebellion. Yet, Hananiah prophesied that it would only be 2 years. Not only did God vindicate His TRUE prophet, He smote Hananiah for prophesying false prophecy unto His people.

We have Hananiah's standing up all across America proclaiming blessings. OH! For prophets of God to speak TRUTH unto this nation, JUDGEMENT IS COMING UPON AMERICA.

Just in case someone wants some biblical references that point to the SIGNS that are everywhere around us, as to the Day of The Lord being at hand...here are a few, there are many more...

I Thess.4:13-18 5:3
II Thess.2:1-12
I Tim.4:1-5
II Tim.3:1-9
Matt.24:3-28
Luke 17:26

He's coming, as a thief in the night...LOOK UP!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 19 Apr 2009 02:34:04 GMT
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" For ever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven." Ps. 119:89

If God's Word is SETTLED in heaven, FOR EVER, and He said it was; then it seems to me that if we'll settle it in our hearts, that what God says is true, we have made a HUGE step towards walking in fellowship with Him. He said ALL His promises are yea and amen, we believe John 3:16 but wrestle with Isaiah 53:5; with I Corth.10:13; Rom.13:8; James 5:14-15; II Corth. 6:17

II Corinthians 7:1 " Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 07 May 2009 18:36:08 GMT
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I AM THE LORD THAT HEALETH THEE...

Ps. 107 verses 17-19 speak of fools who because of their transgressions and iniquities, are afflicted. But verse 20 reveals the LOVE of God,

because He sent Jesus(who is The Word...~John 1:1-2)and healed them.

" He sent His WORD, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." ~Ps.107:20

"...Who HEALETH all thy diseases." ~Ps. 103:3b

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Sun, 10 May 2009 07:56:26 GMT
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A friend loveth at all times. and a brother is born for adversity.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 13 May 2009 11:30:22 GMT
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"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit." ~Ps.51:10-12

"...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." ~Ps.30:5b

What a great and merciful God we serve, His mercys' are new every morning...Hallelujah

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by JWBTI on Wed, 13 May 2009 17:11:48 GMT
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James, I love that verse and the Song Ps 51:10-12

I'll upload the Song from Shelbyville,Ky

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say Rejoice !

Phil 4:4

Ron

File Attachments
1) Ps51v10-12.mp3, downloaded 7389 times

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Wed, 13 May 2009 18:49:32 GMT
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Back in the old days when i was growing up in the denominational
church we sang that every sunday after the sermon..
To this day I love that song.

I never get tired of hearing it.

Create in me a clean heart.

Yes do it Lord.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 16 May 2009 01:56:22 GMT
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" So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth:

it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish

that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing

whereto I sent it." ~Isaiah 55:11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Sun, 17 May 2009 13:59:00 GMT
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3Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 17 May 2009 14:07:16 GMT
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FAITH

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." ~Heb.11:1

Faith comes by hearing and believing the Word of God.

"...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." ~Rom. 10:17

Faith is believing that God will do for, in, or through you what He promises in His Word.

"God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it?
or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?" ~Num.23:19

Faith is believing God, and acting accordingly.

" But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." ~Heb.11:6

" But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." ~James 1:22

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by sparkles on Sun, 17 May 2009 15:38:51 GMT
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2 Peter 1:2-8

2) Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5) And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtrue knowledge:

6) And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7) And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowlege of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Mon, 18 May 2009 11:40:08 GMT
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Jude 1:17-25

17) But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18) How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19) These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

20) But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22) And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23) And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Fri, 22 May 2009 03:49:36 GMT

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Isa 29:19 The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.
Isa 29:20 For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:
Isa 29:21 That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 23 May 2009 11:20:00 GMT
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" The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me..." ~Psalm 138:8

This scripture is today's verse to meditate upon, in the "Morning by Morning" daily devotions written by Charles Spurgeon.

The writter writes: "The Psalmist was wise, he rested upon nothing short of The Lord's work. It is The Lord who has begun the good work within us; it is He who has carried it on; and if He does not finish it, it never will be complete. If there be one stitch in the celestial garment of our righteousness which we are to insert ourselves, then we are lost; but this is our confidence, The Lord who began will perfect. He has done it all, must do it all, and will do it all. Our confidence must not be in what we have done, nor in what we have resolved to do, but entirely in what The Lord will do."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Sun, 24 May 2009 10:36:01 GMT
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Ps 122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 26 May 2009 15:20:22 GMT
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How do we 'overcome' the human tendency to become anxious and fearful, when facing the many decisions of day to day life?

When all around us people are reacting in negative ways to the stress of 'living in the last days', without hope, without a personal relationship with Jesus; turning to drugs, alcohol, escapism; or attempting to deal with it by going to therapy...

God's Word is filled with promises, promises to give us the victory regardless of what we're facing...we just need to apply them by faith and rest in Him who made them...

" Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." ~Isaiah 26:3

" Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct thy paths." ~Proverbs 3:5-6

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Abiding on Tue, 26 May 2009 20:02:23 GMT
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Amen, James!

I love how Philippians 4:6-7 gives us both God's command that we shouldn't be anxious and the means by which we can obey His instruction:

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

It also tells us the result of our asking the Lord to take away our anxiety and work everything out--the peace that surpasses all understanding!

Also for those who trust in the Lord:

"He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established; He will not be afraid..." (Psalm 112:7-8)

I am so thankful for the Lord and His Word!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 05 Jun 2009 01:17:52 GMT
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"A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." ~Matthew 12:35-37

Words of Jesus...seriously sobering...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Wed, 10 Jun 2009 13:20:14 GMT
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Todays devotional form A.W.Tozar

June: Worship

The whole import and substance of the Bible teaches us that the God who does not need any thing nevertheless desires the adoration and worship of His created children.

Whatever Happened to Worship?, 37.

June 10

Worship: Our Reason for Existence

Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
--Psalm 29:2

Yes, worship of the loving God is man's whole reason for existence.

That is why we are born and that is why we are born again from above. That is why we were created and that is why we have been recreated. That is why there was a genesis at the beginning, and that is why there is a re-genesis, called regeneration.

That is also why there is a church. The Christian church exists to worship God first of all. Everything else must come second or third or fourth or fifth....

Sad, sad indeed, are the cries of so many today who have never discovered why they were born. It brings to mind the poet Milton's description of the pathetic lostness and loneliness of our first parents. Driven from the garden, he says, "they took hand in hand and through the valley made their solitary way." Whatever Happened to Worship?, 56-57.

"Oh Lord, we live in a world that has so totally lost its way! How few have any concept at all of their reason for existence. How sad to see so many all around us who 'took hand in hand and through the valley made their solitary way.' Use me today to direct at least one to the right path. Amen."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Thu, 11 Jun 2009 11:03:14 GMT
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Quote of the Day

We need a day of repentance for the way we sing songs that we do not mean. Plenty of people sing: â€œMy Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine; For Thee all the follies of sin I resignâ€¦â€• without any thought of giving up their sins. Lying is still lying when set to music.

We ask the Lord to â€œhold oâ€™er our beings absolute sway,â€• with no thought of consenting to His control.

Then there is that old favorite, â€œTake My Life and Let It Be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee,â€• but most people who sing it mean it as it reads in the index, â€œTake my life and let it beâ€•!

Can you ask God to take your hands and let them move at the impulse of His love â€“ at a card

game? Can you ask Him to let your feet be swift and beautiful for Him â€“ on a dance floor? Can you invite Him to take your voice and let you sing only, always, for your King â€“ and then sing the evil songs of this world? Can you ask Him to take your silver and gold, affirming â€œnot a mite would I withholdâ€• â€“ when you hold onto it with all your might?
Vance Havner

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Tue, 16 Jun 2009 13:36:38 GMT
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Kinda neat video.
Hope it blesses you as it did me.

http://www.openmyeyeslord.net/godforgiveusthepowerofprayer.h tm

Grandom

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 16 Jun 2009 14:23:18 GMT
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Jesus, our High Priest...

" Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus The Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." ~ Hebrews 4:14-16

The Lord had put upon my heart this morning this passage in Hebrews, and was reminding me about prayer and how Jesus, through His shed blood, gave us access unto the throne of God. I had started this post when I saw Grandom post the above presentation on 'prayer'. I think what

The Holy Spirit is saying, well at least one thing is, we have access to God through Jesus' shed Blood and we can reach Him from any place, any time...

Prayer, is one thing that cannot be taken away, maybe verbably in a public place, or in certain areas they can restrict 'public prayer' but ANYONE, saved, has a blood bought right to enter into The Holy of Holies and commune with our Father. Prayer is from the heart and that communication can't be stopped by anyone, except us.

We can enter whenever we want, God is never too busy to hear our prayer, or receive our praise and thanksgiving. All made possible by Jesus, our High Priest.

Are we blessed or what? Think for a moment of Israel and the purifications, sacrifices, and rules of obedience they HAD to follow, just to OFFER unto God...That didn't get them an audience with Him, only the appointed high priest could enter The Holy of Holies. We don't have to kill lambs or go through 'man'; we can come boldly before the throne of grace, into the very presence of God, and commune there with Him...for as long as we want...Our Father, The God of all creation, will hear us and give us the petitions we desire(I John 5:15)
I don't know about anyone else, but sometimes I need to stop and reflect on just what all my Lord and Savior has done for me.

Thank you, Father for your great love wherein you loved us, and displayed this great love throught the willing sacrifice of your Son, Jesus....Thank You Jesus.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Tue, 16 Jun 2009 14:45:38 GMT
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Thank you James for being faithfull to post what the Lord had put on your heart this morning.

I am always blessed when I see confirmation when I know the Holy Spirit is saying some thing to me and I see He is saying the same thing to another Brother.

Especially when that Brother is half way across the world in another country (ala.)

Bless you.
Grandom

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 17 Jun 2009 16:34:29 GMT

Jesus, the author of our Faith...

" Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

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

For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." ~Hebrews 12:1-3

Yesterday The Holy Spirit started giving me some definitions of what Jesus is to Christians. He is our High Priest, giving us access unto The Throne of God. Today He pointed me to Heb.12 and there we see that He, Jesus, is the author AND finisher of our faith. That should be comforting, knowing that the faith we have was given us by Jesus, and that He will 'finish' it. I'm not a Greek scholar but I can look word meanings up in a concordance and Lexicon, and the word 'finisher' can also mean to bring to completion or make manifested.

So we see that not only is He the author of our faith but that He will complete it. Faith is described in different ways in Gods Word...We're told if we have faith as a grain of mustard seed, we can move mountains(Mt.17:20) And I haven't ever moved a literal mountain, yet I KNOW I have faith, (it takes faith to come to God...Heb.11:6 " But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him") but that faith to believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths(Rom.10:9-10), comes from Him. He chose us before the foundation of the world unto salvation(II Thess.2:13 "...because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"

Hopefully these words from Gods Word encourages and strenghens our faith...because after all, this is how our faith grows.

" So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." ~ Rom.10:17

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 18 Jun 2009 11:21:49 GMT

Jesus, our redeemer...

" In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" ~ Col.1:14

" Accordingly as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved.

In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace;" ~ Eph.1:4-7

Webster defines the word redeem as, 'to purchase back; to regain, to ransom, to deliver from sin; to make good; to recover.' Not one promise given in Gods Word would be applicable unto us without the redemption we received through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We, through sin, was alienated from God and had nothing to offer on our behalf to restore us unto fellowship with Him. (The atoning sacrifice for sin, HAD to be spotless, without blemish, perfect...ONLY Jesus' shed blood could redeem us) Jesus willingly took upon Himself our punishment (Is.53) to deliver us from sin and the effects of the curse(hell, sickness, disease, poverty) and restore us or recover us from eternal damnation unto eternal life.

And the benefits (ALL the promises given throughout The Bible) are available to us, ONLY because Jesus' redeeming us from the curse. ~ Gal.3:13 " Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"

Thank you Jesus...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 19 Jun 2009 15:34:12 GMT
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Sometimes, 'in the past', I have wrestled within myself as to whether or not 'a word' is from God for others , or if it's just The Holy Spirit quickening something to me, for me. I'm sure no one else has ever experienced this before. While I know that any time it is God's WORD that's being given, then of course it has to be for somebody at some point in time; after all, every scripture we read

has already been read by millions of people before us. So any given scripture has ministered to the hearts of countless numbers of saints throughout the ages. Anyway, my point being is to encourage one another to not be self conscience concerning sharing what God puts on our hearts; because while we may think we know what's being said and for whom, it might be that God will have someone read what He is telling us to post today, 5 years from now...someone not even saved yet... So that's what I believe The Lord has shown me...

This passage of scripture has been coming to mind lately and I believe The Lord wants me to share it; and I'm confident that He will accomplish that which He sends it forth to do.

" As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus The Lord, so walk ye in Him:

Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." ~ Col.2:6-8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 21 Jun 2009 14:35:02 GMT
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Jesus, our healer...

"...If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of The Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am The Lord that healeth thee." ~ Ex.15:26

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and by His wounds we are healed." ~ Is.53:5

"Who in His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." ~I Peter 2:24

This promise of healing, and even better, divine health; is every bit as valid as the promise given in John 3:16. The same simple child like faith that it took to receive Jesus into ones' heart is all that is required to receive of the other promises He's given. If one can believe that God gave His

only Son, Jesus, out of love for us; and that if we'd believe in Him we wouldn't perish, but have everlasting life...Then the promise of healing and health HAS to be true as well; did He not say that He was NOT a man, that He should lie? and that what He has spoken, He would make it good?

"For ALL the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him A-men, unto the glory of God by us." ~ II Cor.1:20

Are there conditions that must be met, Yes...Hearken to the voice of God; do that which is right in His sight; listen to His commandments; keep all His statutes. Just as there are conditions we must meet for salvation, we must be DOERS of the Word...James 1:22 "But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 2:19-20 "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" NO, we aren't saved through 'works'; but salvation will produce 'good works' or fruit.

Salvation is a free gift from God, paid for by The Blood of Jesus...just as healing is....by His stripes, ye were healed.

Praise You Jesus

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Mon, 22 Jun 2009 11:48:31 GMT
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BOLDNESS TO ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veilâ€¦let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faithâ€• (Hebrews 10:19â€“20, 22).

There are two sides to Christâ€™s work at Calvary. One side is to the benefit of man, and the other side is to the benefit of God. One benefits the sinner, while the other benefits the Father.

We are well acquainted with the benefit on the human side. The cross of Christ has provided us with forgiveness of our sins. We are given the power of victory over all bondages and dominion

over sin. We are supplied with mercy and grace. And, of course, we are given the promise of eternal life. The cross has given us the means of escape from the terrors of sin and hell.

I thank God for this benefit of the cross to humankind, and for the wonderful relief it brings. I rejoice that it is preached week after week in churches all over the world.

Yet there is another benefit of the cross, one that we know very little about. And this one is to the benefit to the Father. You see, we understand very little about the delight of the Father that was made possible by the cross. Itâ€™s a delight that comes to him whenever he receives a prodigal child into his house.

If all we focus on about the cross is forgiveness â€" if that is the end-all of our preaching â€" then we miss an important truth that God has meant for us about the cross. There is a fuller understanding to be had here, and it has to do with his delight. This truth provides Godâ€™s people with much more than just relief. It brings liberty, rest, peace and joy.

In my opinion, most Christians have learned to come boldly before God for forgiveness, for supply of needs, for answers to prayer. But they lack boldness in this aspect of faith â€" an aspect that is just as crucial in their walk with the Lord.

David Wilkerson Devotional

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Tue, 23 Jun 2009 04:12:43 GMT
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I, certainly, have been a prodigal child at one time. His mercy is so awesome to behold and experience. Praise Him for His everlasting mercy on me, and my family, when I got off track.

He called me back to Him, in His still, gentle voice. It is the least we can do for those we see getting off of His path as well.

He is faithful and His delivering powers are mighty to behold. Blessed be the Name of the Lord;

Jesus.

Blessings,

GWB

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Tue, 23 Jun 2009 12:31:39 GMT
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Judge Gently
==========

Pray, don't find fault with the man who limps
Or stumbles along the road.
Unless you have worn the shoes he wears
Or struggled beneath his load.

There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt
Though hidden away from view.
Or the burden he bears placed on your back
Might cause you to stumble too.

Don't sneer at the man who's down today
Unless you have felt the blow
That caused his fall or felt the shame
That only the fallen know.

You may be strong but still the blows
That was his if dealt to you
In the selfsame way, at the selfsame time
Might cause you to stagger too.

Don't be too harsh with the man who sins
Or pelt him with word or stone
Unless you are sure - yea, doubly sure
That you have no sins of your own.

For you know, perhaps,
If the tempter's voice should whisper as soft to you
As it did to him when he went astray

It might cause you to falter too.

~Author Unknown

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 27 Jun 2009 11:31:59 GMT
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Praying in tongues

Just a reminder for us all...

" But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." ~ Jude 20-21

Praying in The Spirit builds us up in our faith and prepares us for the day ahead. We don't know what we will encounter throughout our daily walk, but The Holy Spirit does. By praying in The Spirit (our prayer language...tongues) we are allowing The Holy Spirit to interceed according to the will of God.

" Likewise, The Spirit also helpeth our weakness: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but The Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which can not be uttered.

And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of The Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." ~ Romans 8:26-27

Many times we don't know what a brother or sister is going through, but we have a burden within our spirit concerning them; praying in The Spirit is the only effective way to interceed on their behalf since we don't have knowledge of what they're going through (unless we receive a word of knowledge), so interceeding in tongues is one of the purposes we have received this gift for.

Just an encouragement and reminder, it's easy to get caught up in the daily routine and overlook

the importance of praying in The Spirit (until we are going through something ourselves).

We are all faced with an enemy who is going about as a roaring lion, seeking to devour us...I Peter 5:8 ...

One of the ways we resist him and overcome him, is by praying in The Spirit...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 03 Jul 2009 13:17:01 GMT
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Jesus, our strength...

" And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness....~ II Corinthians 12:9

" The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" ~ Psalms 27:1

" For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." ~ Romans 5:6

When we come to the place of realizing just how hopeless we are without Jesus; how of ourselves we can do nothing; and learn to be totally reliant upon Him for everything...THEN, we become as clay in His hands, willingly yeilding to be made into whatever He desires of us.

Could it be the reason the church (for the most part) is failing today, is because everyone is running around instituting 'programs' that rely upon the efforts of man; rather than acknowledging their inadequacy and seeking to be lead by The Holy Spirit...

We must confess our weaknesses and our utter dependence upon Jesus to be our strength, and He promises to perfect HIS srength in our weakness.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 07 Jul 2009 14:52:25 GMT

Zacharias...a priests' prophecy.

I was reading in Luke about Zacharias; the priest who didn't believe the words of Gabriel, the angel sent from the presence of God, to tell him that he and Elisabeth were to have a son named John. And because he didn't believe Gabriel, he was struck dumb, unable to speak until after the birth of his son, John The Baptist.

But once John was born, his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed and he praised God. Now Zacharias was not a prophet, he was a priest; but The Holy Spirit came upon him after John's birth and he prophesied...one of the most wonderful prophecy's recorded in The Bible.

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people,

And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

As He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;

To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant;

The oath which He sware to our father Abraham,

That He would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear,

In holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto His people by the remission of their sins,

Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." ~ Luke 1:68-79

I found it interesting that God didn't use a Prophet for this important prophecy, but a Priest. From

which I see as another example of how God uses different ways to communicate with us; while He could have used a prophet with the calling of that office, He chose to use a priest and anoint him with the 'gift of prophecy'. The prophesy didn't make Zacharias a Prophet, he remained a Priest...who prophesied.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 09 Jul 2009 14:59:35 GMT
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July 9, thanksgiving day...

If you're taking the time to read this today, take time to thank God that you can...read, see, comprehend.

Let today be thanksgiving day for the goodness and mercy of God unto us; let us thank Him because He has given unto us the knowledge and understanding that we are supposed to give THANKS unto HIM.

"Make a joyful noise unto The Lord, all ye lands.

Serve The Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing.

Know ye that The Lord HE is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.

For The Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations." ~ Psalms 100

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by sparkles on Thu, 09 Jul 2009 17:08:26 GMT
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Thank you James for reminding us of how we should continually give thanks for all the Lord has blessed us with.
There are so many things we seem to take for granted, such as having fresh drinking water,

transportation, trees, flowers, a bed to sleep in, a place to live, food, books, freedom to worship (at least freedom for now), computers where we can be blessed by such sites as this, and any other thing you can do or enjoy that glorifies the Lord.

We as believers and followers of Jesus should be most thankful.
2 Timothy 3:2 says that in the last days perilous times shall come and one of the signs is unthankfulness. Just take a look around and see how God has blessed you. Most of all He has promised us eternal life with Jesus, which we should give thanks for every day of our lives.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 14 Jul 2009 16:00:47 GMT
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Anyone going through a trial; maybe coming out of a period of dryness, battling sadness or depression? While there are many scriptures that offer encouragement, and remind us of God's love, and that it's through trials and tribulations that we enter the Kingdom of Heaven; these couple of verses from Psalms speak from a thankful and joyful heart. We used to sing it and I still do, it blesses and lifts my spirit every time I do.

" Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: Thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

To the end that my glory may sing praise to Thee, and and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto Thee for ever." ~ Psalms 30:11-12

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Wed, 15 Jul 2009 03:46:34 GMT
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I have not thought of that song for a very long time. I really need it at times too.

Thanks for your posts and for sharing. I come to this site, many times, for strength. Praise Jesus, because that is what I exactly get!

Blessings,

GWB

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 15 Jul 2009 15:45:24 GMT
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Lately The Holy Spirit has really been allowing me to see just how blessed we are. In talking to others who profess Jesus as Lord and Savior, they seem to have hardly any understanding of, or relationship with, Jesus. And anything beyond John 3:16 is written as historic records, just to be read (if even that); and certainly not believed and acted upon. And when read, the truth of it all just goes right by, as if it was all written in code. (maybe to them it is, could that be the reason for all the code breakers, and seeking of truths by sets of numbers that seem to be the fad today?)

I don't want to portray a sense of false modesty, nor do I want to come across as proud; because the revelation of this into our spirits, brings humility...especially when we examine ourselves in light of God's Word, remembering how in times past we behaved and even still fall so far short of what He has called us to...Being Christlike... but we are blessed! Jesus said it Himself in Luke 10:23-24

"...Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:

For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them."

Do we know everything and have all the answers? NO! But we know who does and where to find them; just the fact that Jesus PROMISED not to leave us alone but that He would pray that The Father would give us another Comforter, The Spirit of Truth, shows how extremely BLESSED we are.

"And I will pray The Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever;

Even The Spirit of Truth: whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." ~ John 14:16-18

Again I say, Thank You, Jesus

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 15 Jul 2009 16:16:03 GMT
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I know what you mean... the verse that comes to mind is:

Luk 12:48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

You mentioned yesterday in another note that it is hard to see a real purpose in meeting together with that group of "explorers" or something to that effect. While we aren't able to see God's plan as clearly as we would like, how many times have you found yourself around people just "living your life" as they say, and find out later that something you said had a major impact on someone else?

We almost never realize the circumstances surrounding those we come in contact with, but the Holy Spirit knows, and in His providence He can use us even when we don't realize we are being used -- to say something or do something that we wouldn't think anything about yet this word or action may influence another's life dramatically.

Of course it works both ways... I've been influenced many times by being around a conversation where something is said that gets me to thinking, and this interaction ends up affecting an area of my life that otherwise would not be enlightened!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 15 Jul 2009 16:41:17 GMT
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I agree William, I'm believing that The Holy Spirit will direct my interaction with these folks and that He has a purpose for this door opening and will bring about His desired plan.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by GWB on Thu, 16 Jul 2009 01:42:57 GMT
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I am going to be very open and share that I have been very down today.

I just read this entire thread. Through tears of joy, the heaviness is gone.

The Word is alive and sets us free when the world, the flesh, and the devil try to overcome us.

It is no telling who has been, or will be, blessed by this site. Thanks for your faithfulness in sharing.

Blessings,

GWB

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 21 Jul 2009 14:17:32 GMT
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Hi Gillyann,

Thanks for sharing your heart and thoughts, I too hope that this site can and will be a blessing to people. It's my prayer and hearts desire to encourage, edify, and point people to JESUS. And any praise or thanksgiving be focused on HIM, because He is our source of strenght and comfort.

That God would even consider using me to be a vessel to bring His Word to anyone, by whatever means, is humbling beyond my ability to fully comprehend. But I am thankful, because I know the road I've traveled and it's not always been the straight and narrow...It just proves to me, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that God's Word can indeed transform a man.

I'm reminded of Carl Seitzs' song, "Sweet Water of The Word" and how it ends, '...it's doing a work in my heart.'

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by jisamazed on Wed, 22 Jul 2009 06:16:11 GMT
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Encouraging scriptures, James. Sometimes when I am trying to encourage a depressed person, I point out that the Psalmists cried out to the Lord in their depression sometimes, and God breathed

out his written Word through that experience. Take Psalm 13 for example:

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? (I love his raw honesty with God)

However, it does not end with him complaining in despair. He is determined to trust the Lord in spite of how he feels-- verse 5, "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to me." He did not end his prayer in doubt. He made a decision to trust the Lord through it all.

Psalm 61:1-2 is another one. We used to sing this song in church a lot:

"Hear my scream, O God! Pay attention to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I will shreik to you! When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock that is higher than I am, for you have been a shelter for me, a strong tower against my enemy."

Yes, my understanding is that "cry" in this passage would best be translated "scream". "Cry" refers to a loud wail. It's not just a sob, it is a scream or shreik. Have you felt like screaming lately? You have a Biblical precedent for doing so. Just make sure that no one else is around when you do, or they will think that you are losing it. Maybe you are, but in a good way. We need to lose our sense of cool sometimes. David sure did in this passage. Or in Psalm 55:17, "Evening and morning and at noon I will scream out loud in distress, and He will hear my voice."

Sometimes you just need to pour out your heart to the Lord and forget the nice, pat approach to prayer. Be honest to God. He already knows what is on your heart, anyway.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Wed, 22 Jul 2009 13:44:38 GMT
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I will now take this post, along with the entire thread, and the "Who Is Israel" posts and joyfully study in my cave when I get the time!

Blessings,

GWB

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by james on Wed, 22 Jul 2009 15:32:03 GMT
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Those are some good points as well as applicable scriptures to encourage anyone battling depression or 'feel'n down'. Two things I'd like to say, one, I am NOT a counselor; though through The Holy Spirits' guidance and wisdom freely given me, I can give godly advice. And second, I had no clue GWB was having a bad day or depressed, I was only posting what I believed The Lord was giving me to share. He took care of the timing and details, as well as using His Word to encourage her...I just got to witness how He works when we will seek Him and ask to be used by Him.

I believe, as I have stated before, this forum can be used to reach people for Jesus, as well as encourage and lift up one another. This is possibly the only connection some of us may have with other believers; and then again I also believe that God can and will, use what He directs us to share with someone who may read this 5 years down the road, to touch their lives. Ministry can take on more than one form, some have the gift to boldly proclaim The Gospel to huge crowds; while others may be better equipted to share one on one...either way, only The Holy Spirit can convict a person of sin and lead them to repentance, we can only plant the seeds.(and even that, is by the Grace of God)

And while I'm on this subject, I do believe God has directed me to share words of encouragement and scriptures from time to time as He leads or gives it to me, so if it sometimes appears that I keep posting biblical principles, admonishments, encouragements, and warnings; without anyone responding or commenting, it's because I believe He has a purpose in directing me to do it, so I will continue as long as I am lead to do it...(and no one needs to feel pressured to respond unless you want to...)

obtw: a simple awesome truth: JESUS loves me, this I KNOW, for The Bible tells me so...

Blessed be the Name of The Lord...for ever

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 28 Jul 2009 16:04:35 GMT
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" Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises..." ~ II Peter 1:4

Yesterday's devotional by Charles Spurgeon really was encouraging and put into simple words God's faithfulness to fullfill His promises. He, Spurgeon, speaks of how when dealing with anyone making us promises, we should look at their character and ability to fullfill those promises.

'Besides meditating upon the promises, seek in thy soul to receive them as being the very words of God.' That it is God Himself, who cannot lie, who speaks to us. He is unchangeable, and He has not altered the thing which has gone out of His mouth, nor is He lacking in power to perform His Word. He, who framed the very heavens and earth, has given us these great and precious promises.

'Therefore, seeing that it is The Word of a God so true, so immutable, so powerful, so wise, I will and must believe the promise.'

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 12 Aug 2009 14:01:54 GMT
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Jesus, our peace...

" Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." ~ John 14:1

" Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." ~ John 14:27

" These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." ~ John 16:33

There is nothing like walking in peace, KNOWING that the peace of Jesus dwells in our hearts. The opposite of peace is fear, anxiety, and worry; when we allow fear in, peace leaves. We can't be in fear and be in faith; faith and peace go together. When we're walking in relationship with Jesus,(which only comes through faith) we have peace. Allowing fear, worry, anxiety, doubt into our hearts means we've taken our eyes off Jesus and The Word of God.

What did Jesus say in John 16:33? "In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

I bear witness that His Word is true; I have personally experienced anxiety and worry; and had no peace until I repented and sought mercy from God(which He graciously gave). We serve a God who loves us enough to die for us, overcoming the world and all it's fears, worries, and problems;

though we live in it, we can have the peace of Jesus if and when we're "in Him"

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 22 Aug 2009 14:18:27 GMT
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" I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel...

I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell(sheol); neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." ~ Psalms 16:7-11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 12 Sep 2009 16:55:38 GMT
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PRAISE JESUS

Jesus is SO worthy of our praise, He works in the hearts of man to turn them as He desires. I want to encourage anyone reading this, that Jesus will never leave us or forsake us; even when we stumble, He is there to lift us up. The Word speaks of us 'taking heed' lest we fall, which is God trying to help us so that we don't fall, but even if we do, He is faithful and just to forgive us of all our unrighteousness.

"There is therefore NOW no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." ~Rom.8:1

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Jesus, our liberty...

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

"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." ~ Gal.5:1&13

Many Christians struggle with what Jesus came to do, The Word tells us that He came to set the captives free. We were the captives, captive to our carnal lust, captive to sin, captive to the law that we couldn't keep. Paul wrote in Romans 8 verse 6, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.(John 10:10)

Some use the word liberty to justify carnal actions, saying that Jesus has set them free and they're free to do as they pretty much please. And often times those who are seeking to obey The Spirit and walk a separated, holy life before The Lord, are charged with being legalistic and under bondage. And that's not to say that many are under bondage and walk in legalism, believing that by their works they are justified, making the Grace of God of no effect in their lives.

Being set free and given liberty, is not freedom to sin, God forbid. It's not freedom to go back to the carnal ways of the world and the flesh, from which Jesus died to liberate us from. We're set free to be able to FREELY chose righteousness. We're free to follow Jesus; to, in love, serve one another; to walk in holiness.

Romans 8 verse 1 is not there so we can do as we please and tell ourselves we're free in Christ and our sins don't condemn us; the second part of the verse qualifies who are not condemned...those who are IN Christ Jesus, and walk NOT after the flesh, but after The Spirit.

We can't walk after the ways of this world and use them as the standard of righteousness. Our standard is God's Word and The Holy Spirit guiding us, revealing to our hearts that which is holy and unholy. As Christians, we shouldn't be trying to see how closely we can emulate the world, without losing our salvation; but rather, we should be striving to see how much like Jesus we can be. Will that bring perscution? Yes, it will even bring false accusations from the religious community, with charges of legalism and bondage. But to walk in liberity is to walk in The Spirit, and we know that ..."For as many as are lead by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Rom.8:14

Do we all struggle with the temptations and cares of this world, yeah, to some degree. What did Paul say in Rom 7 about wanting to obey God and the battle between the flesh and the spirit? It's only by walking in the spirit that we can overcome the flesh, and we're only able to to that because of the LIBERTY we have in and through Jesus.

Subject: Jesus our Liberty
Posted by sparkles on Sun, 13 Sep 2009 16:01:36 GMT
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Excellent post James! I very much enjoyed the balance in Christ you presented. As some would say there are certain freedoms we have as citizens of the United States, but as christians, followers of Jesus Christ, we do not have those same freedoms. For example a person is allowed to get drunk as long as they don't drive or endanger someone, but as a christian we are not free to get drunk and have it be okay.
Our Lord requires us to walk in purity and holiness, and be separate from the worlds and its ways.

Romans 8: 2-6 "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and by a sacrifice for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

And it is peace when you can walk away from someone sharing a dirty joke, or from not going with the crowd and laughing and making fun of someone who isn't where everyone else is. There is a joy and peace when one can minister and be kind to the ones rejected by the world, just because they are different. Did not Jesus say in I Cor. 1:27-31
"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; Ahd base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chose, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

Truly, Jesus is our liberty to walk as He walked, and to minister to those for whom he died.

Subject: Re: Jesus our Liberty

Some more thoughts on liberty and what is a balanced approach to Christian life. We see that Jesus has set us free, but there are many warnings about becoming entangled again into bondage. So how do we stay free? What are ways we can open doors to become caught up in sin once we've been set free?

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith The Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith The Lord Almighty." ~ II Corth.6:14-18

So we see that being involved in the ways of this world, fellowshiping with darkness, we are NOT walking in the liberty Jesus purchased for us with His own Blood. We also know that we have to live IN this world; but we don't have to be LIKE THE WORLD. How do we distinguish between righteousness and unrighteousness, between light and darkness, between spiritual and the flesh? By measuring everything against what God's Word says and, this is SO important, walking in The Spirit. If we walk in The Spirit, stay filled with The Spirit, always listening to The Holy Spirit, He will lead and guide us into ALL TRUTH. There is no 'grey' area with God, it's either right or wrong, good or bad, black or white.

Do I have all the answers? NO, but The Holy Spirit dwelling within me does, and I/we, have been given these precious promises and He has promised to complete the work within us that He has started.

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." II Corth. 7:1

That's part of being set free, that is the liberty that was bought for us, that frees us to walk in The

Spirit and in LOVE, serve one another.

If anyone is struggling with bondage or legalism, or bitterness about the past; still blaming Bro. Freeman for these problems, I encourage you to seek The Lord to open your eyes to what The Holy Spirit was and IS trying to work in our lives. We can't try to hold on the the world and it's ways and be sold out to Jesus; we can't be like everyone else, liked by everyone, be friends with everyone, and walk in The Spirit as God has commanded us. The message of the crucified life/deeper life is just as valid today as it was 2,000 years ago when Jesus taught it, and 35 years ago when we first heard it through HEF. That is LIBERTY, freedom to chose the cross, freedom to turn from sin and serve God from our HEARTS. Not because somebody TOLD us to, or because of peer pressure, but because Jesus has set us free and we WANT to follow Him.

AMEN LORD, Help us to be doers and not just hears only...

Subject: Re: Jesus our Liberty
Posted by james on Thu, 17 Sep 2009 15:10:39 GMT
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Some more scriptures on what Jesus expects from us as followers of Him.

" I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:1-2

We can't be transformed into the image of Christ if our minds haven't been renewed; and our minds can't be renewed if we're still servants to the flesh. And we can't overcome the flesh if we're constantly exposing ourselves to, and becoming involved in, the ways of this world. And it's through the LIBERITY we have been given in Christ that we're able to walk in the spirit and overcome the lust of the flesh.

Yep, we have been set free, and we DO have liberity in Christ; but it's only through and by Jesus we're truly free....

FREE to obey what His Word instructs us to do...NOT free to live as the world lives. The way IS narrow, and few there be that find it...it's not the time to be compromising the truths we've been given; it's time to ..." But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to

fulfil the lust thereof." Rom.13:14

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Rom. 12:3

Subject: Encouragement
Posted by james on Wed, 23 Sep 2009 14:28:05 GMT
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"This is the day which The Lord hath made; we WILL rejoice and be glad in it." Ps.118:24

I believe The Lord would have us be encouraged and reminded, not to become weary in well doing, and to remember that the joy of The Lord is our strenght. We become weary when we take our eyes off Jesus and start to focus on our circumstances, or become entangled with our day to day affairs. By remembering that THIS is the day The LORD has made, and rejoicing in it and giving HIM praise and worship, thanking Him for His great mercies in our lives, we become spiritually energized.

Everyone is given 24 hours in each day, how do we chose to spend them?

Subject: Revival for America
Posted by james on Thu, 01 Oct 2009 12:24:35 GMT
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Joe Brenneman, pastor of the current FA, has just updated his 'blog' with a response to the 'movement' and 'call' through e-mails that are going around the country asking 'christians' to pray for revival for America.

Just click on PALTALK ROOM at the bottom of the page and then click on 'pastors blog' to read it.

He may not post very often, but when he does.....

btw: I agree with him.

Subject: Holding Fast to what we've received
Posted by james on Fri, 02 Oct 2009 15:46:58 GMT
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We have been given SO much, the Word of God has been faithfully preached/taught/expounded to us. I was studying and contemplating about 'studying'(II Tim.2:15) and rightly 'dividing' the Word of truth. Paul, in I Corinthians 15, is reminding the church at Corinth to hold on to, keep in memory, what I have preached unto you. I believe The Lord would have us be reminded of that which we have been taught, He didn't give us this knowledge and understanding of His Word to see us slowly fall by the wayside.

My heart is burdened as I see so many who once embraced the message of the Gospel, of faith, of deliverance, of divine health, of holiness, the crucified life; turning their backs altogether or compromising to the point they no longer can discern between the path God set us on and the path that the world is traveling down.

Paul wrote in I Corinthians 15:1-2 "Moreover, brethren, I declare into you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

By which also ye are saved,if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."

How many times were we warned by The Lord through Bro.Freeman? We're to be separate from this world, we live in a country saturated with 'churches' yet there's nothing that distinguishes between believers and nonbelievers, for the most part, they all act and live alike.(Oh! The 'believer' goes to church on Sunday)

The time is closer than when we first believed, Jesus is at the door...remember, the darkest hour is alway just before the dawn.
Now is the time to shore up that which is weak, to make our calling and election sure, to bear down and get serious. Our adversary, the devil, is as a roaring lion seeking to devour whom he may...we must resist, steadfast in the faith. The Lord would encourage us, brothers and sisters, Eph.6:10-18 Put on the whole armour of God, for without it we won't be able to withstand the devils wiles.

Again in Colossians 1 verses 21-23 Paul writes:

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled

In the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in His sight:

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard..."

Subject: Re: Rightly Dividing The Word of Truth
Posted by james on Sun, 04 Oct 2009 15:41:12 GMT
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II Timothy 2:15 contains a wealth of instruction and encouragemet. There are 3 things shown here that there could be in depth teachings on; 1.'studying to show ourselves approved unto God'; 2.'how to avoid being ashamed before God'; 3.'and how to rightly divide The Word of God'.

I have been pondering and praying about 'rightly dividing The Word of Truth' lately because through the 'Christianity Explored' study group I've met people who have been taught that what the Bible says isn't what it means. Or that it only applied to the time frame to which it was written(and they're sincere). A student of divinity(planning to be a seminary educated pastor, currently attending the seminary) told me that the 'gifts of The Spirit' aren't for the church today, that speaking in tongues ceased around 70 AD, once the NT church had been established. He says that God 'can' heal supernaturally, but doesn't because He gave the gift to heal to the doctors.

So quoting God's Word to people who have dispensationalized it, or are cessationist(believing the gifts ceased after Acts) seems to have no effect. They just say it's not for today and go on their way...to figuring new ways to 'grow' their churches, raise funds for programs, and reach the lost, sick, and suffering; without the power to do anything to help them once they get them into 'church'. They have no power because they're DENYING it.(II Tim.3:5)

So when in James chapter 5 and verses 13 through 16 we're told:

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Now this Word of Truth concerning divine healing, plus the many other scriptures given werein God promises healing and health to believers who will receive it by faith, has been deemed 'not

for today'. Yet John 3:16 has been decided to be believed as 'for today'. So today we find people who are 'studying', yet are going to be VERY ashamed when facing God on the day of judgement, because they HAVEN'T 'rightly divided The Word of Truth'. Could it be said that some are '...Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth' II Tim.3:7

I spent a considerable amount of time sharing my testimony of how The Lord has healed, protected, provided for, delivered, and saved me; how He placed His Spirit within me, The Spirit of Truth with the evidence of speaking in tongues. I shared how God's promises ARE for today, that when The Bible says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and for ever, it's true; but it can only be received through FAITH...we MUST believe it to be true BEFORE we see it come to life in our lives.
To which I got quoted something a 'church founding father' wrote in 1800 that their denomination is based upon, thus, in his mind, nulifying the sovereign Word of God. That's a tragedy, and the seminaries and denominational system is filled with people who believe and teach this. As they go about 'planting' churches and establishing programs to draw converts, not converts to follow after Christ, but converts to their belief system.

May God raise up men who aren't afraid to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, rightly dividing The Word of Truth...with signs and wonders confirming The Word.

Mercy Father, mercy...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 12 Oct 2009 22:16:17 GMT
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Jesus, our confidence...

Hebrews 10:35-39

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

My faith has been challenged lately, not by people who don't even profess Christ; but by people who believe they're Christians and confess to be. It seems that if a person actually BELIEVES what God's Word says, and lives like it, then not only does the heathen rage, but those who are suppose to be in The Body of Christ will come against the very Word of God they say they believe.

But I'm not drawing back(I've made that mistake before, compromising due to either my own selfish will, or the lack of confidence to stand alone in the face of ridicule and peer pressure.) We've been given so much truth, yet many among us have departed from it.

Chapter 11 of Hebrews is a reminder, as well as an encouragement, not to give in to this snare of Satan. We should be FILLED with confidence, just by what God has done and continues to do in our lives; but we not only have these experiences of God's faithfulness, we have the recorded history of God fullfilling His promises from Abel, to Enoch, to Noah, to Abraham, and all the way to giving us the Messiah, Jesus to redeem us from our sins.

I believe The Lord would have us to encourage one another and pray that we remember in Whom we've believed, and to remember that He's more than able to keep that which we've commited to Him, even the saving of our souls. To exercise the FAITH we've received, to be bold in The Lord, knowing that our confidence is not in any man or systems of men, but our confidence is in The Lord and it doesn't matter if NO ONE else believes, God is faithful to perform every single promise He made...to those who will BELIEVE.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 16 Oct 2009 14:43:24 GMT
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Overcoming Discouragement...

I was reading in I Kings 18-19 where Elijah had gotten discouraged after he had experienced God's power and anointing when calling down fire from heaven to consume the burnt sacrifice on the altar. After the false prophets of Ba'al were killed Elijah went into the wilderness and stayed in a cave to get away from Jezebel(she didn't like him killing her prophets)

In verse 14 of I Kings 19, Elijah told The Lord; "...I have been very jealous for The Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and

slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

God encouraged Elijah by first reminding him that he wasn't alone; verse 18 of chapter 19..."Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Ba'al, and every mouth which hath not kissed him." And second, by providing him with a helper, friend, and companion; Elisha.

I believe there's encouragement to be found in this account of what Elijah went through, for us today. It's easy to become discouraged, but we must remember that discouragement is a snare of the devil. We must focus on Jesus, His faithfulness in our past as well as His promise to keep us unto the end. Maybe things aren't happening like they did 25-30 years ago in our lives(maybe for some they are,if they are you should be giving God the glory and testifying about it to encourage others), maybe some of us feel like we're in that 'cave' in the wilderness...but even if that's true, remember, God sent an angel to feed Elijah. And he used that time to rest and strenghten himself for what lay ahead.

We, most of us, believe we're in the last days; are we using the time given us to prepare for what lies ahead? We can't become discouraged by what goes on around us, that only plays right into satans hand.

I believe The Lord would have us be encouraged, we're not alone, even though it may at times seem like it, there's an end-time army that God is preparing, who have not bowed their knees to the God of this world. The time is nearer than when we first believed, let us not become weary in well doing. He promised NEVER to leave us or forsake us...Remember our promise to Him? We said we'd never forsake Him, we promised to never let go of that plow handle, we said not our wills, but thine, O Lord. Stir up that which has been placed within us, it doesn't matter what's happening to the 'left' or the 'right', if we're dwelling in the secret place of The Most High...SURELY He shall deliver thee...

Remember the song we used to sing? 'Thou hast turn my mourning into dancing'.
Remember how it ends? 'To the end that my glory may sing praise to Thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto Thee for ever.'
In the middle it says, 'Thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness'...This song was written by David and is found in Psalms 30:11-12

We can't be discouraged while singing unto The Lord, while praying in The Spirit, while giving thanks unto God, while sharing The Word of God with others, or while focusing on Jesus. What is the victory that overcometh the world? Even our faith.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 18 Oct 2009 22:04:57 GMT
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Living Water...

How many times have we confessed to being in a 'dry place' or wandering around in the wilderness. Yet Jesus said in John 7:37-38 "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

I have asked The Lord to forgive me for confessing that as well as the mindset that was behind it. If I'm 'dry', it's my own fault, I've either allowed sin to disrupt my relationship with God my Father, or have just not been 'drinking' from the fountain of life, God's Holy Word(which is also a sin).

I was reading in Jeremiah chapter 2 where God had Jeremiah to go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem and ask them why they had departed from God. The children of Israel had forgotten who had delivered them from Egypt, led them through the deserts, fed them with good things; yet they were once again in a place of spiritual rebellion against Him. Verse 13 says: "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

The only reason for us to ever experience a 'dry spell' is because we exchanged the fountain of living water for a man-made source of water, a broken cistern. We don't need to run all over the country to conferences, retreats, seminars, and read all the latest books on the latest movements; we have available to us 'The source of living water' from which if a man will drink, he shall never thirst. It's residing within us, if it wasn't, then it couldn't flow out from us.

I don't think it would be too far of a jump to conclude that if we're drinking from broken cisterns(man-made water sources), then we don't have rivers of living water flowing from us. Thus when we find ourselves in a dry place, feeling like we're in a desert, God's Word tells us that we have forsaken Him and are drinking from cisterns that produce water that doesn't quench our thirst.

It's amazing what The Lord will show us if we'll just set our heart to seek Him, " If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 24 Oct 2009 15:38:08 GMT
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Yet will I rejoice...

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

Yet will I rejoice in The Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." Habakkuk 3:17-18

Self-explanatory...

Praise YOU Jesus! Thank YOU...Thank YOU...Thank YOU...

Subject: Re: Holding Fast to what we've received
Posted by ineterer on Sun, 25 Oct 2009 01:44:42 GMT
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James, I really recieve what you are saying. I have

found a wonderful web-site that has set me free from

the leaglistic doctrine that was taught in FA. It is

Americas Last Days.com I was a member for 14 years

but I was so blinded by trying to be the perfect wife,

mother, housekeeper, and was so pious and rightous it

was sickening!! I am now in fellowship with God, I

know I am loved and protected and cared for. I have

a quite and peaceful spirit now trusting in the Word.

After I left FA I have NEVER attended (church) (why)?

I found this site three years ago and the live teachings

are Sun Eve and Wed Eve. It is like the rest of the story!!!

Subject: Re: Holding Fast to what we've received
Posted by james on Sun, 25 Oct 2009 03:02:57 GMT
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Hi ineterer,

I remember you mentioning this site a year or so ago, seems like I went to it and listened to some sermons. The testimonies were a blessing to hear as well. I wasn't a member of FA in Indiana, but a 'body' located in Clanton, Al. I was on Bro Freeman's automatics and considered what he taught to be the truth sent from The Lord.(STILL DO) I am aware of the legalism that people got off into, but I personally never thought it was him teaching it, as much as the members placing burdens on each other.(also, I believe several of the '5-fold' that went out from FA might have taught legalism, I'm sure there was some bondage and legalistic additudes that I have had...but I don't blame Bro. Freeman for it, more than anyone else, it was my own over zealousness)

I'm glad you've found a place to be feed, and that you've been set free from any bondage you were under. I will go back and check out this site again when I have some time, but for some reason I keep thinking that there was a problem with the preachers' theology about the Godhead.

I don't know if you know Bro. Tom Hamilton, but he has a web site that I posted the link to, and he has some good solid teachings on there. (it's not legalistic to me, it's pretty close to what Bro. Freeman taught, based on what I've heard so far...faith, holiness, divine healing, crucified life...the whole council of God)

What I was saying in my post was a reminder for us to hold fast to that which we have received, because so many have, for whatever excuse they use, departed from the Word we once received with joy and thanksgiving. THE WORD hasn't changed, it will still set us free, deliver, heal, transform us into the image of Christ. Yeah, anything we allowed in our lives that lead to bondage should be shed, but the core teachings and deep truths God revealed through Bro. Freeman shouldn't be rejected just because some got off track and put burdens on others.

Recently someone stated to me that we were basicly a few stragglers trying to 'pick up the pieces' from the glory days; I hope that isn't where everyone's mindset is, we need to put the negative things that happened behind us and move forward. It's been 25 years, most of us are in our 50's and 60's, isn't it about time we quit whinning and allowing satan to keep us focused on the negative or reminiscing about the 'glory days', thus robbing many of their faith and what God wants to be doing in our lives NOW. Living in the past isn't healthy; remembering God's

faithfulness to fullfill His promises in the past is great, but expecting Him to it now is what He desires.

FAITH IS, not was...

God bless,

james

I did go to Americas Last Days, and there is a lot of truth being shared there. But I would caution anyone to be discerning whenever gleaning through what people write on web sites. There is a good bit of emphases placed on Numerics, and while I'm not discounting the way numbers line up or equal to amazing things in The Bible, Numerics DO NOT PROVE THE WORD OF GOD TRUE, The Word of God is TRUE because God says it is. It was true from the time He spoke IT, and the 'discovery' in the mid 1900's by the genius math guy, isn't a revelation by God offering mankind 'PROOF' that His Word is true.

Subject: Re: Holding Fast to what we've received
Posted by sparkles on Sun, 25 Oct 2009 16:51:59 GMT
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James said:
"Recently someone stated to me that we were basicly a few stragglers trying to 'pick up the pieces' from the glory days; I hope that isn't where everyone's mindset is, we need to put the negative things that happened behind us and move forward. It's been 25 years, most of us are in our 50's and 60's, isn't it about time we quit whinning and allowing satan to keep us focused on the negative or reminiscing about the 'glory days', thus robbing many of their faith and what God wants to be doing in our lives NOW. Living in the past isn't healthy; remembering God's faithfulness to fullfill His promises in the past is great, but expecting Him to it now is what He desires.

FAITH IS, not was..."

Very nicely put James. What is important is our relationship with Jesus today. It is good to hear that the Lord is working in peoples lives and bringing them deeper in the things of the Word. We were given some wonderful truths and it is a blessing to have the Lord help us in our everyday application of those truths, not look back and try to live in the past, but to look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

Subject: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 30 Oct 2009 15:22:00 GMT
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The real enemy...

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:11-12

Paul goes on to remind us of what the whole armour encompasses; our loins girt about with truth, the breastplate of righteousness, feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, sheild of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is The Word of God. And even with all this, he says to be praying always in the Spirit...watching with all perseverance. (remember the watchman Is.21:11 & Is.62:6)

So he is reminding us of who our real enemies are, they aren't people, though people can be an instrument in Satan's hand, our real enemies are the forces of darkness, Satan and his demons. At this time of year with the 'celebration' of halloween and everyone caught up in it, let's not lose sight of who the enemy is and remember he was defeated at Calvary.

We, as Christian who know the truth, have power over the enemy through the Blood of Jesus and by praying in the Spirit. We should be praying for one another and focusing our warfare against the real enemy, Satan; and not allowing him to distract us by warring in the flesh against flesh and blood.(which is one of his wiles)

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 31 Oct 2009 10:06:14 GMT
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A Defeated Enemy...

"And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." Colossians 2:15

Just a reminder for us all, while Satan is our enemy, he was defeated at Calvary. And being

defeated by Jesus he has no power over us as Christians unless we allow it. We're told in James 4:7 "...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." And in Ephesians 4:27 "Neither give place to the devil."

We already have been given the victory, through the shed Blood of Jesus at Calvary...

Thank you Jesus.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 03 Nov 2009 14:17:33 GMT
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Continuing in the faith...

Paul, in Colossians chapter one is describing what all Jesus has done, both in the creation of all thiings in the earth, as well as His sacrifice of Himself on our behalf. And in verses 20 through 23 it says;

"And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

And you, that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled

In the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreproveable in His sight:

IF ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven..." Colossians 1:20-23

Continuing in the faith is not just starting out believing and then forsaking it because of the cares of this world, or because God didn't do something according to our agenda. Being grounded and settled is a requirement of true faith. Remember what James wrote; "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."

Ps.119:89 "For ever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven."

We can't continue in the faith(or for that matter, even BE in faith) unless we are GROUNDED in

The Word and have it SETTLED in our hearts.

Brothers and sisters, we are in the last days, as we witness the decline of America in the fullfillment of God's plan(NO, Americas' best days don't lay ahead, those are false prophecies from false prophets) and as the man made church system is exposed for what it is; we can have confidence that if we'll abide IN Him and continue in the faith that been delivered unto us, grounded and settled, that only with our eyes shall see and behold the reward of the wicked.

For what purpose did Jesus do this, Reconciliation?

" ... to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in His sight."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 04 Nov 2009 17:30:11 GMT
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Guaranteed Fruit ...

We all desire to produce good fruit in our Christian walk; God has given us instruction on how to...and He guarantees it.

Psalms 1:1-3 " Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, or sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

He instructs us to delight in His law and meditate in it both day and night. Also he promises the man who refuses to walk in the counsel of the ungodly, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of scornful people; that he will be blessed. We're told if we 'take heed' to this instruction, then we'll bring forth fruit in our season.

I've heard Christians say they need 'down time' to relax and enjoy themselves, or as some have said, 'I get bored talking about religious stuff all the time'...I'm sure guilty of not delighting and meditating 'day and night'...Well, according to The Word of God, that, plus possibly taking counsel of ungodly men, could certainly answer the question as to why there's not more fruit being

produced in our lives.

My confession is that I DELIGHT in the Law of The Lord, and upon His Word do I meditate both day and night...IT refreshes and renews my mind daily, and that I'm like a tree planted by rivers of water, LIVING WATER, my roots go deep and I am blessed...Thank you, Jesus

---

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by sparkles on Thu, 05 Nov 2009 02:53:00 GMT
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Thank you James for the reminder of not walking in the counsel of the ungodly, but if we would meditate in the word of the Lord, and have it be our delight we wouldn't even look to the counsel of the ungodly, but rather the Lord would bring forth fruit and we would prosper. God has promised to lead and guide us on our path while in this life, but too often I have looked to man for help, rather than the counsel of the Lord. Even now at work I am in a situation where now I can see the counsel of the ungodly will only lead to empty answers, but by the counsel of the Lord and some godly friends the answer is to overcome and pray for those involved. The scripture you shared reminded of this.

When you go on to read in Ps. 1:4-6 "The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungoldly shall not stand in the judgment, not sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

Very sobering thoughts on the how God views the ungodly. For myself I needed to be reminded of who my enemy is, as it is not other people, but as we heard in another place it is the powers of darkness.

I can lay claim to the promise of Ps 1:1-3, and trust the Lord to lead and guide me in His word and will, and not give in to the counsel of the ungodly, but rather delight in the law of the Lord!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 08 Nov 2009 13:20:52 GMT
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"Rejoice evermore.

Pray without ceasing.

IN every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Quench not the Spirit.

Despise not prophesyings.

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Abstain from all appearance of evil." I Thessalonians 5:16-22

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 17 Nov 2009 13:54:05 GMT
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God's Peculiar People...

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority..." Titus 2:11-15

Are we peculiar? Do we stand out as different among others? Are we looking for the appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? Are we sober minded, temperate, sound in faith, teachers of good things, obedient to authority? Are we guilty of crying legalism when we're confronted with something we don't want to obey? Do we use scriptures that tell us we're not saved by works to avoid doing anything for the kingdom of God?

"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." Titus 1:15

Are ALL things pure to us? Have our minds been renewed abd washed by The Word of God? Do we understand what chapter 3 verse 5 means?

"Not by WORKS of righteousness which we have done, but according to His MERCY He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of The Holy Ghost;"

Can we comprehend and balance this scripture with verse 8 which says...

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good WORKS. These things are good and profitable unto men."

Something to examine ourselves about, ARE WE A PECULIAR PEOPLE?

Or do we just want to fit in with the crowd?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 19 Nov 2009 13:40:20 GMT
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Giving Thanks...

Thankfulness is a conscious response that comes from looking beyond our blessings to their source. We have been forgiven, healed, made to prosper, delivered from death, and adopted into the Kingdom of God; I'd say that's reason for giving thanks...EVERY DAY, to He who is the source of those blessings, Jesus.

We're given so much here in this country, how many are really giving thanks unto God? Remember the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus? Only one returned to the source of his healing, Jesus, and gave thanks.

"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

And fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks: and he was a Samaritan." Luke 17:15-16

THANK YOU, JESUS...THANK YOU.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 23 Nov 2009 16:00:33 GMT
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He ain't heavy, he's my brother...

The other day Sage shared about seeking God for guidance in looking for opportunities to help others, be it financial helps, emotional support, spiritual encouragement, physical needs, simple things like a phone call to tell someone you're thinking of them and appreciate them. As I was mulling over it, The Lord lead me to this scripture:

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.

For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." Ecc.4:9-10

Here's what I found so interesting about it, that scripture was the daily bible reading verses from a little devotional that I read each day. The gist of the commentary was bearing one anothers burdens, especially during times of trials and tribulation.

There is a 'gift' of helps placed in the Body of Christ, I've seen it in opperation and witnessed the relief and comfort it brought to others. Sometimes we need to be reminded that we're not in this alone, and the best way to take our focus off ourselves, is to see what we can do to bring help(in whatever form) to others. There are many Christians that find themselves in a place of going at it alone(single parents, single individuals, divorced, widowed), it's not easy at all, the very least we can do is offer encouragement and remind them of Jesus' love. But we need to also remember, that His love is reflected in actions...Jesus set the example we're to follow, though a KING, He humbled Himself and became a servant, that we might, through His obedience have eternal life.

helping a young mother with child rearing is a tremendous help...right GWB?
showing love by spending time with the aging is as well...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Tue, 24 Nov 2009 17:15:28 GMT
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..."helping a young mother with child rearing is a tremendous help...right GWB?
showing love by spending time with the aging is as well..." James

Absolutely! Not only is it helping others, but it does a work in the helper as well.

Blessings,

GWB

"Be still and know that I am God"

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 27 Nov 2009 13:59:28 GMT
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Being fully persuaded...

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off,

and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Hebrews 11:13

As I was reading in Hebrews 11, I began seeing some things in a way that I haven't thought of before, concerning the results of having 'faith'. Being persuaded is 'having faith', and when we do, our actions will reflect what we're persuaded of. All these examples of faith and faithfulness are a results of people 'believing God'("Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Gal.3:6); our persuasion is what we believe, and if what we believe is what God has spoken, then we will be like those saints who've gone on before us, persuaded and willing to live and die, if need be, basing our lives actions on those promises.

And the promise of a heavenly kingdom wherein dwelleth righteousness. I also see in this why we're to be separate from the affairs of this world and the ungodliness that is embraced here. Verses 14-16 of Heb.11

"For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city."

I am persuaded that this is true, and I look forward to living in that 'country', an heavenly, where

God is not ashamed to be called our God. Just something to think about; I wonder if God is ashamed that Americans (in general) call Him their God and profess this to be a 'christian' nation, while iniquity abounds in every facet of this society? What does He think when He hears 'professing christians' say things like; "I'm PROUD to be an American"? or "I'm proud to be a conservative christian republican"? or imploring fellow christians to get involved in this corrupt political system, when Jesus tells us that we're not of this kingdom...That kind of shows where our allegiance really lies.

Just some food (not leftovers) for thought. Where does our allegiance lie, and if we're persuaded of this, does our day to day life reflect it?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 02 Dec 2009 21:10:52 GMT
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All scripture is profitable...

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:16-17

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 09 Dec 2009 13:40:43 GMT
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Obstacles...

"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel,

saying,

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6

How often do we fall into the trap of looking at circumstances when facing obstacles. Remember the 12 spies sent out by Moses to search out the land of Canaan? All but one was overcame with fear because they were focusing on the size of the inhabitants rather than doing as Caleb, and trusting in God to deliver unto them what He had promised.

As we witness the events unfolding around us in these end times, there will be the temptation to rely upon our strenghts and wisdom rather than trusting in The Lord. But only those who are lead by The Spirit of God and walking in The Spirit, having learned to trust totally in Him, will be delivered in that day.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 11 Dec 2009 16:07:55 GMT
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"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified

through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." I Peter 4:7-11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 12 Dec 2009 15:33:28 GMT
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Cruise Control...

I did something this morning that in thinking about it, The Holy Spirit used it to speak to me about my focus on Him. I was preparing breakfast, and obviously had my mind on other things, because I opened the microwave instead of the refrigerator to put the butter and eggs back inside.(now that sure wasn't the first time I'd ever done something absentminded, we all do it from time to time) But I started thinking about how often I/we just run about on 'cruise control'.

I confess that there have been far too many days of my life where I just 'punched the clock' so to speak, spiritually. Oh, I read my Bible, prayed before I ate, didn't go out and do as the heathen, and told myself 'all is well, I love The Lord'. Yet I was just going through the motions, following Jesus on cruise control. Neither hot nor cold, just hanging on...not that different from those who know not God; not defeated, but certainly not walking in the victory and joy Jesus purchased with His own Blood and made available unto me.

Thank God for His mercy and grace, for because of His great love and mercy, He granted me repentance and restored me to Him.(I'm not using myself as an example of what we should aspire to be, I'm saying if you should find yourself in this position in your christian walk, WAKE up, Jesus is merciful and there for you, repent and return to your first love.)

I don't want to see how far I can streach the longsuffering patience of God, He hasn't called us to just 'endure' life; He's called us to OVERCOME whatever we encounter, whether it be temptations, trials, or our own 'SELF-CENTEREDNESS'. It's my desire to be prepared and anticipating His return, to have my lamp filled with oil and sensitive to The voice of The Holy Spirit, whether He want to reveal to me a deep revelation through The Word, or just use a simple example from day to day life...and I can't if I'm going through life on 'cruise control'.

Many tactics used by Satan are not easily discerned, it's not always as a roaring lion that he'll attack, he uses our own lack of vigilance to slip a snare in.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 20 Dec 2009 18:01:40 GMT
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Why the need for Watchmen...

Because people forget; Israel forgot; the church has forgotten...

God's Word is filled with warnings to 'take heed', to be diligent, to not forget The Lord our God. How many from among us have forgotten what we were taught, how many have gone back into

the religious system that they sought 'deliverance' from...Literally? How many are caught up in the idolatry of this time of year, the same idol worship they denounced as a paganism 25 years ago? What about just growing complacent as time goes by and there's 'nothing happening'?

Not only have many forgotten what God has said, even when reminded, the warnings are falling on deaf ears. 'Speak unto us smooth things, show some love, entertain and excite us with what we want to hear and see'...'Hey, bro lighten up, we aren't looking for heavy conversation, let's just chat about current events and have a good laugh. After all, the bible does say that a merry heart doeth good like a medicine. LOL'

If God has a chosen people(and He says in His Word that He does), and if He's coming back for a Bride what will be prepared and watching and waiting(and He says He is, and that His Bride WILL be ready), what about those who profess to be Christians but have been lead astray due to their own lust and the false shepherds? What will God have to do to sober up people? Remember the additude of the people as Noah was preparing the ark?

WAKE UP CHURCH

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies,

even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not." II Peter 2:1-3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 23 Dec 2009 20:22:33 GMT
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God's Law... what it is and does

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure,

enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Response... of the humble

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strenght, and my redeemer."

Psalms 19:7-14

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 30 Dec 2009 01:48:44 GMT
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Lot's wife...

Genesis 19 describes the events that lead up to the destruction of Sodom; of how the men of the city tried to attack and sodomize the two angels that came for Lot and his family. Lot was told that God had sent them to destroy Sodom and for him and his family and flee to the mountain. His sons in law refused to take him seriously and were left behind with two daughters, and even Lot didn't want to get too far away, he pleaded to be allowed to stay in a nearby city, Zoar. God allowed it, but in the exodus from Sodom, Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt.

Why? She was leaving...she was outwardly obeying, but the looking back showed a heart that wasn't willing to give up her attachment to what she had back in Sodom, and her heart's desire was revealed by her actions.

In Luke 17 Jesus is telling the disciples how it will be in the end, that it'll be like unto the days of Noah when people were eating, drinking, and giving in marriage and wouldn't heed the preaching of righteousness by Noah. Also He says in verse 28 how the inhabitants of Sodom were doing the same thing, disregarding all warnings.

Then in verse 32 Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife."

How many messages have we heard with that warning in it? How many times were we warned of 'looking back'? About Israel looking back at Egypt, remembering the fish, cucumbers, garlic, leeks, and melons they had left behind(Numbers 11:5). What did Jesus say in Luke 9:62? "...No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God ."

I'm not sharing this to condemn anyone,(I've looked back and to some extent even gone back) but to encourage anyone reading this who has grown weary of obeying God, who might have decided that maybe the way doesn't really have to be so straight and narrow, that maybe God isn't all that concerned with our day to day walk of obedience. Remember Lot's wife; It Matters!

Remember the 100 sheep, and how The Lord left the ninety and nine and went for the one lost one? He loves us and isn't willing that any should perish...if The Lord convicts your heart, repent and seek His mercy, He is a merciful God...But He is also a God who will not be mocked, we can't 'play' Christian, He requires total commitment and obedience.

Besides, what did the Psalmist say in Psalms 73:25?

"Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 06 Jan 2010 00:51:34 GMT
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Triumphant? or just grinding it out...

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ..." II Cor.2:14

"But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing." II Thess.3:13

It is so easy to get spiritually bogged down in the day to day grind of life. But we've been called to live a victorious life, to triumph over all adversity. It's easy to get distracted by life, family,

business, cares of this world; so that our relationship with Jesus suffers.

I have about 50 minutes of commuting time early in the morning going to work and it's a good time to get 'stuff' done. And being on a fairly strict schedule while working, I organize my time and priorities to get the most accomplished.(yep sisters, men can multi-task too)

As I was 'giving' Jesus His allotted time(it's not really like that, but it can get that way if we aren't careful), He reminded me about 'priorities'. What is my top priority? My relationship with Jesus(at least I had the right answer).
But it is easy to fall into a pattern where the 'relationship' disappears/fades and we are just going through a ritual.

Prayer is conversation with God, but if I'm/we're too busy to listen to what HE has to say, (just being sure to cover the staple daily needs....me, me, me, Ps.91, me, me, me, Phil.4:19, me, me, me, Rom.8:28); then how can we possibly be walking in The Spirit and being lead of The Lord?

Just something The Lord shared with me, maybe there's a nugget mixed in with the sand there somewhere...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 10 Jan 2010 21:37:54 GMT
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God's Sanctuary...

"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee,

my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name." ~ Psalms 63:1-4

There are so many references the Sanctuary of God, most are about a place where He dwells. Throughout the Old Testament it's usually a physical location that is saintified and set apart unto Him. In the New Testament we're told that we are the temple of God.(I Co.3:16 & 6:19, I Peter 2:5)

If the sanctuary God inhabited had to be saintified and set apart unto Him for Him to dwell there, how much even more so are we called to be holy and set apart unto Him. He won't dwell in an unclean temple, and His Spirit won't manifest Himself to and through carnal vessels.

We were talking about God's attributes and His Holiness a few days ago also about how we will be given a new song to sing unto Him that none can sing except those to whom He choses to reveal it to.

Last night I was allowed to experience The Lord in a way that I'm having a very difficult time explaining. If I knew how to write 'in tongues', maybe then I could express it properly. He took a simple little song titled, "Sanctuary" that I was listening to and as I began to sing it and worship Him, He started working in me in a way I haven't experienced in many, many years. The words are a heartfelt prayer/confession of a desire to be what HE wants us to be, a Sanctuary that He can dwell in.

"Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary

pure and holy, tried and true

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living

Sanctuary for YOU."

I don't know fully what all was worked in me, I do know I was healed from a migraine headache in the midst of worshiping The Lord. I know He cleansed and delivered me from things I had thought were dealt with...They are now. I started trying to share and express this in some way that would encourage and edify others, this morning, but I couldn't stop praising Him and crying long enough to even attempt to.

Ps.73:17 says, "Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end."

I do know this, I'll never take offense again of what another person says about me, whether a fellow Christian or the unsaved. I know God can't dwell in a vessel that isn't totally yeilded unto the cross of JESUS, and I have seen their end. And my heart crys out for mercy for them...truely, they know not what they're doing.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 22 Jan 2010 19:35:38 GMT

God's Sanctuary...more thoughts

The Lord has continued to speak to my heart from His Word concerning His Sanctuary. In the Old Testament the sanctuary of God was called His temple, the house of God, among others. I've been reading Nehemiah this week and about the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. When Nehemiah got permission from the king of Babylon to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls, he had opposition from the start. Sanballat and Tobiah first laughed at Nehemiah and the Jews who were to help in the work. But soon their laughter turned to anger and they conspired to fight against Jerusalem and hinder the restoration.

Nehemiah got wind of their plans and had the men arm themselves, half would work in the restoration, while the other half would stand guard against the enemy. So when it was finished they had a dedication of the walls of Jerusalem and they also read to the people of their history, how God had delivered them from Egypt. They reestablished sacrifices and priestly duties, and sanctified them.

Eliashib, the priest, who was supposed to be set apart and righteous unto God as the priest of God's house, had an alliance with Tobiah(the enemy of Israel and Nehemiah). Nehemiah had returned to his place in Babylon as the king's cupbearer. So he wasn't there to witness what was taking place, in that the house of God was being inhabited by the enemies of Israel. So when Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem he found a city with rebuilt walls, people going through the motions of obeying God by having sacrifices and worship on the sabbath, yet they were profaning God's holiness by allowing Tobiah to dwell in the house of God and allowing merchants and sellers to come into Jerusalem on the sabbath and violate God's holy day. Not only this, but they had taken unto themselves wives of the surrounding nations, which God had forbidden, and even one of the priest sons had married a daughter of Sanballat.

"And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God." Neh.13:7

What The Lord was showing me from this (the whole book of Nehemiah)was the parallel between what they were doing then and what is going on even today. Many who profess the name of Jesus and go through the outward motions of living a christian life haven't totally forsaken the world and idolatry. We can not serve both God and man, and since we know that God looketh upon the heart, the only ones being fooled are those watching from the outside. He will not be mocked, nor will He make His abode within a polluted sanctuary.

The time is drawing ever shorter for the return of The Lord, He's seeking a people who are set apart, sanctifed, and holy unto Him.

"Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true...

with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by sparkles on Fri, 22 Jan 2010 21:32:31 GMT
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"The time is drawing ever shorter for the return of The Lord, He's seeking a people who are set apart, sanctifed, and holy unto Him."

"Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true...

with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you."

When we see all things going on in the world and what happened in Haiti there is just a sense the end is just around the corner.
Tried and true: easy to sing, but sometimes hard to live. Jesus has promised us trials and tribulations, but in each one He will be with us.
Remember the song we use to sing: Purify my heart.

When we pray these things, whether in song or prayers, God will do the work.

So after singing these songs be aware or sensitive to what God is doing in our lives with others. Look for opportunities, or be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in daily activities, because God is doing the very things you have prayed for. And let it be with thanksgiving.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 27 Jan 2010 23:04:45 GMT
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Tired of this life's sufferings?

Don't be, the things we suffer righteously teaches obedience...

"Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered;

And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him."

Heb.5:8-9

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 03 Feb 2010 18:21:45 GMT
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Unshakable Faith...

I was thinking about Job and the trials and testings he endured and how he never gave in in the face of adversity. His friends didn't support him or understand what was happening, even though they were wise men. They would give him council and advise and he would refute it, to the point that it was taxing their friendship. In chapter 19 verses 2 through 4 Job asks them,

"How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?

These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed that ye make yourselves strange to me.

And be it indeed that I have erred, mine error remaineth with myself."

Then in the midst of the loss of everything he had and the turning on him of his closest friends, Job makes this declaration...

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me." Job 19:25-27

God says that without faith it's impossible to please Him, and it's only by faith that we overcome. Job had the faith to overcome these trials because his faith was grounded in a personal relationship with God. He didn't say that he 'thought' his redeemer was alive, he said, 'I KNOW' that my redeemer liveth, and his position was that even if he died he wasn't questioning God.

Praise The Lord, may we all seek to have this same unshakable faith that Job had.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 06 Feb 2010 16:38:47 GMT
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A promise from God, based on obedience...

Here's another promise from God, but like all His promises, it's based on our obedience. He says we must search for Him with all our hearts. Christians can't expect God to fulfill His promises when we have divided loyalty.

"For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you the expected end.

Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by sparkles on Sat, 06 Feb 2010 22:34:21 GMT
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Words of our mouth

Psalm 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

Proverbs 15:1-2 "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness."

Proverbs 15:4 "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit."

Proverbs 15:7 "The lips of the wise disperse knowldge, but the heart of the fool does not do so."

How many times do we pray that our words would be acceptable in the Lords sight and to bless others, and then someone says something we don't like, or cuts us off in traffic and all of a sudden we forget what we prayed, and we give in to the flesh and blast someone with our words. God help us to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit with what we say to others.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Sun, 07 Feb 2010 01:42:44 GMT
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James 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be

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Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 17 Feb 2010 12:05:02 GMT
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Denying self...

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" ~Matt.16:24-26

The way of the cross is the way God has ordained for Christians to walk. It entails dying, but before we can die to our own self wills and be conformed into the image of Christ, we must first deny ourselves. Sin causes people to be self-centered, with attention on ourselves rather than God. The essence of salvation is a turning from self-centeredness to God-centeredness. And it's a lifetime commitment, a daily desire to not only accept God's way,(trials, tribulation, prayers, fasting, complete obedience...) but to embrace the cross, knowing of the joy that is set before us...just as Jesus did.

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

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 18 Feb 2010 11:55:37 GMT
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"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matt.16:24

Something else The Lord was showing from this scripture, we can't think we're following Jesus if we haven't first denied ourselves, and secondly, taken up our cross. To confess to be followers of Jesus without having denied ones self and taken up our cross means someone is deceiving themself.

Jesus didn't just say 'follow me', He set conditions, self denial and the willingly taking up of the cross...then, follow me.

There are no shortcuts, no free passes; the conditions are spelled out in God's Word...One way, Jesus; many guidelines given to let us know if we're on the right path, 'following' as He directed. Is the path straight and narrow? Are we persecuted for righteousness sake? Are we living a God centered life? Are we separate from the world? Do we esteem others above ourselves?

Do we walk in fellowship and daily commune with The Lord? Do we love the brethren?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Thu, 18 Feb 2010 12:43:42 GMT
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Good reminder James.

It`s interesting that Bro. Joe (FA) has started a series on giving up electronic media. He of course referenced the teaching HEF gave on TV or trashy vision as he called it then and it still apply's today. It seems that when he gave that teaching several in the body did get rid of their TV`s

however upon his death they reappeared in peoples living rooms.

So one can conclude from that a couple of things.
1) They succumbed to peer pressure.
2) They denied themselves TV but in their hearts they really hadn't given it up.
Bro Joe said he gave it up 33 years ago and he said he honestly could say he didn't miss it. Praise the Lord.You have to bear in mind he had 11 children so those poor things were denied TV. I hope I`m not in trouble. I`m being facetious about that.

The thing that blessed me most about the message was that those who did give it up should not look down with an attitude of the pharisees on those that didn't. I have seen that many times when people do deny themselves of something they in turn do just that. They judge other people who haven't done it.

Bro.Ron mentioned to me about a message his pastor gave on throwing away our pharisee manuals. What a great line. The pharisees were always making comparisons to other people. Unfortunately many fall into that same category. Christians will compare themselves to other Christians instead of comparing themselves to Christ.

Bro. Joe then went on to say that those who piously gave up TV`s thought nothing of having computers which has the potential of entertaining more sin then the TV.

So we have to be constantly on guard so that we truly do deny self and the not take pride in doing that.

I must confess I never gave up tv. However the Holy Spirit is working on me in that direction. I in the past have put way to much affection into sports. That seems innocent enough however there is plenty of advertiseing and other problems with it that can cause the eye gate to sin let alone a complete waste of time.

So we have another day given to us to obey so that we can be a blessing to the Lord.In the great scheme of things others have given their lives for following the master. What is it that we can deny ourselves that even compares with that.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Tue, 23 Feb 2010 18:30:22 GMT
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James. I have often seen your posts on the cross and self denial etc.
Here is a devotional from Spurgeon for today.

Take Up Your Crossâ€¦"
. . . Take up his cross daily and follow me.

Luke 9:23

You do not make your own cross, although unbelief is a master carpenter at cross-making; neither are you permitted to choose your own cross, although self-will wants to be lord and master. But your cross is prepared and appointed for you by divine love, and you must cheerfully accept it; you are to take up the cross as your chosen badge and burden, and not to stand complaining.

This night Jesus bids you submit your shoulder to His easy yoke. Do not kick at it in petulance, or trample on it in pride, or fall under it in despair, or run away from it in fear, but take it up like a true follower of Jesus.

Jesus was a cross-bearer; He leads the way in the path of sorrow. Surely you could not desire a better guide! And if He carried a cross, what nobler burden would you desire? The Via Crucis is the way of safety; fear not to tread its thorny paths. Beloved, the cross is not made of feathers or lined with velvet; it is heavy and galling to disobedient shoulders; but it is not an iron cross, though your fears have painted it with iron colors; it is a wooden cross, and a man can carry it, for the Man of Sorrows tried the load.

Take up your cross, and by the power of the Spirit of God you will soon be so in love with it that like Moses you would not exchange the reproach of Christ for all the treasures of Egypt. Remember that Jesus carried it; remember that it will soon be followed by the crown, and the thought of the coming weight of glory will greatly lighten the present heaviness of trouble.

May the Lord help you bow your spirit in submission to the divine will before you fall asleep tonight, so that waking with tomorrow's sun, you may go forth to the day's cross with the holy and submissive spirit that is fitting for a follower of the Crucified.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 02 Mar 2010 11:32:17 GMT
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"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his.

And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth;

and some to honor, and some to dishonor.

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor,

sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." ~II Tim.2:19-21

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 06 Mar 2010 14:30:20 GMT
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Living a sober life...

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience." ~ Titus 2:1-2

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" ~ Titus 2:11-12

Paul is instructing Titus to set in order the things that are wanting in the lives of the Christians in the area of Crete. And there are several things that he is pointing out besides being sober minded,(temperate, sound in faith, grave, patient, discreet, chaste, gentle, meek, guarding of the tongue, and zealous).

Also he points out the things in their lives that was sin and needed to be repented of...greed, vain talking, deceptions, disobedience, foolish, serving divers lusts and pleasures, contentions, striving about the law, envious of one another, and having hate in their hearts towards each other.

Paul says that many of these sins were in many Christians lives before salvation, BUT, he says

that after God saved them there was changes, no longer were they caught up in the ways of the world.

"But after that the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;" ~ Titus 3:4-6

The transformation of our minds is not an over night happening, it takes disiplined study of The Word (II Tim.2:15); a yeilded and obedient heart; prayer time with The Lord; and time. There's a difference between living a sober minded life and being the life of the party type individual. Vain babblings, foolish gesting, scoffing, mocking, striving and critizing others, always casting doubts, these things ought not to be named amongest Christians.

This was written almost 2,000 years ago, yet the problem is as prevalent today as then. And how much closer are we to the return of Jesus than they were? It's a time to be sober minded, serious about the things of God, preparing for and focused on, the Kingdom of God...not this kingdom of man on earth.

"But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." ~ II Tim. 2:23-26

We see by these last scriptures that it is possible to receive repentance and to get out of the snare that Satan has caught people in...people who are 'opposing themselves'. How? Repent and start acknowledging/obeying/living the truth...which is?

LIVE SOBERLY...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Mon, 22 Mar 2010 12:29:09 GMT
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Iron sharpeneth iron Prov 27:17

Most want to be the sharpener.

Few want to be sharpened.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 22 Mar 2010 19:07:32 GMT
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A promise from God, based on repentance...

After Solomon had finished building the temple he then consecrated and dedicated it unto The Lord with an offering, prayer, and a feast.(I Kings 8 and II Chronicles 6-7) Afterward The Lord appeared unto Solomon by night and gave him this promise.

"If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:13-14

In I Kings 9 there is more scripture given where God was talking to Solomon and warning if Israel failed to obey and walk in the way God had commanded.

" But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:

Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people." I Kings 9:6-7

I believe these commandments and promises given by God to Israel are applicable to us today here in America. We as a nation, have forsaken God, including much of the religious system. Is there hope, has God grown tired of the rebellion and disobedience? I don't think so for America the nation, I believe this country's demise is eminent, but I believe as Christians we should continue to pray, and especially for 'the church'. God's will will be done, both in heaven as well as on earth, we're witnessing the unfolding of prophecies made thousands of years ago. And just as with Israel, who turned from God and paid the price, so has America turned. God knew Israel would rebel and turn their backs on Him, does He know that America will as well?

God offered them a promise, based on repentance, and they refused to turn...what will America do with that choice? Repent or receive the wrath of God.

Do we care enough to stand in the gap? Are our houses in order? Are we really overcomers? Do we really have the FAITH that God said He would be seeking when He returned? Are we the five wise virgins who are ever watching and ready with our lamps lite and extra oil in reserve? Or are we caught up in our day to day lives as were those in the days of Noah? The fire can be rekindled, but it will require us seeking Him with our whole hearts. Today if we hear His voice, may we not harden our hearts.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Tue, 23 Mar 2010 04:44:24 GMT
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Mat 12:36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.

If Jesus cant say Amen to what you have said... Dont say it.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 27 Mar 2010 15:40:21 GMT
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Unity, or Deception?

It seems to me that today more and more professing Christians are crossing denominational lines(for lack of a better word).
I see many people partaking of Lent(non-Catholics), Methodist, Presbyterian, Anglicans, Episcopalians all have some form of 'self-denial' leading up to what they celebrate as Easter. It's odd, that if you talk with a person from these denominations, they'll denounce everything Catholic, yet they join in with them with these practices.

Someone I know has given up chocolate and Cokes for 40 days to 'show' Jesus that she wants to sacrifice like He did.....(and she ain't Catholic, and is quick to point out their faults such as praying to Mary and works salvation)

Also there seems to be a 'move' among many to identify with Israel by starting to celebrate the Jewish Feast as decribed in the OT. I see Yeshua used a lot more as well as Shalom in peoples conversations, people who aren't Jewish. A return to Levitical laws on what to eat and sacrifices...People who profess to have been set free of the Law by The shed Blood of Jesus Christ, being deceived into returning to the bondage of the Law.

Why do we see this going on in these end times? Is it the desire to serve God, or is it a desire for 'unity' and an unwillingness to stand firm in what God has shown in His Word. (btw: I'm not saying it's wrong at all to use the word Yeshua when speaking of Jesus, but why start using Hebrew and Greek when confering with English speaking brethren? It's almost like if a person says they serve 'Yeshua' rather than saying 'Jesus', it puts them on a higher spiritual plane.)

Even today I experienced a 'little spiritual jab' concerning the celebration of Easter, as well as an admonition about being negative concerning America(with hands on hips, I was informed how great this country is), I meekly replied that while I am thankful to live here, America is no longer <if ever> a 'great' country, that in fact America is an extremely evil country and that God is going to judge her <america>. Patriotism is a very strong spirit, with strongholds in many, many Christians lives.

Opps, that's being negative...What sayeth the scriptures? Prophesy unto us good things <tickle our ears>...OK, JESUS IS COMING SOON, He's coming for a bride that is ready, one without spot or blimish, one that has obeyed His commandment to come out from among the 'religious, institutional, traditional, false church' and be separate unto Him...a member of His Kingdom, not the kingdom of this earth. HE LOVES US...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 02 Apr 2010 12:58:17 GMT
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"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom.5:8

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom.8:1

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name." Psalms 103:1

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by sparkles on Sat, 03 Apr 2010 12:53:18 GMT
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James said:
"It seems to me that today more and more professing Christians are crossing denominational lines(for lack of a better word).
I see many people partaking of Lent(non-Catholics), Methodist, Presbyterian, Anglicans, Episcopalians all have some form of 'self-denial' leading up to what they celebrate as Easter. It's odd, that if you talk with a person from these denominations, they'll denounce everything Catholic, yet they join in with them with these practices."

I sure do agree with your statement James. Too bad our politicians don't learn to do what the churches do, and reach across party lines to compromise the good of the country. But these things must happen with the division and strife so all will be in place for Anti-Christ to make his entrance.

Where I work there are also non catholics giving(at least trying) to give things up for Lent. Some of us went out to eat yesterday and there were a few Catholics that didn't go because it was "Good Friday" and they couldn't eat meat, and others that went just had the fish off the prime rib/pizza buffet. I wonder what they would think if they knew of the paganness of Easter?

It seems like there is so little discernment today in the churches, where it has become a country club atmosphere. The kids have their game rooms and big TV's and couches so they can hang out and play. The adults have their loud rock and roll music that they call "worship" music, and they also have their coffee shops in the church.

The false teaching of the Emergent Church seems to be growing daily, and people like Rick Warren have deceived multitudes.
We have books like "The Shack," "Velvet Elvis," "Forty Days of Purpose," books on the Emergent Church, false prophets writing books, false Apostles, seed faith teaching, karate in the churches, yoga being taught, and a multitude of other errors and deceptions that is doing nothing but desensitizing people to the Word of God and the way Jesus told us to walk. People are encouraged to get involved in social justice issues and politics, instead of being encouraged to be separate from this world and serve God and prepare for the soon return of Jesus.

And I suppose one of the saddest things is the way churches are not speaking out against heresy and deceptions, but embracing the Catholic Church, one of the biggest cults in the world, who have robbed untold multitudes of salvation in Christ. There is abuse in many churches because we will always have the wheats and tares together, and the devil is more than willing to plant someone to bring reproach on the name of Christ, but the sexual abuse we have heard about in the Catholic church is astounding. Could part of the problem be that they are commanding their people to not marry, which is in direct violation of scripture? A church my friend use to go to thanked God for the Pope when he died a few years ago, and thanked the Lord that the pope was in heaven. And then prayed that God would give us a charasmatic pope to replace the other one. What are these so called conservative churches thinking?
May God open all our eyes to the deceptions out there, but even more, help us to walk in truth we have been given over the years, and all the truth contained in the Word of God.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 06 Apr 2010 14:46:32 GMT
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"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned;

and avoid them." Rom. 16:17

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 08 Apr 2010 14:32:35 GMT
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Just a reminder, lest through the deceptions of the enemy we become lax and content, comparing ourselves to the worlds standard rather than Gods. We know it takes time for fruit to mature, but if through self-examination, we find a lack of godly fruit coming to maturity in our lives, maybe we aren't obeying God's Word that tells us to live and walk in the Spirit, to crucify the flesh, stop

seeking vain glory, and don't provoke or envy one another.

If we can't guard our tongues and control our words, and find ourselves repeatedly injuring fellow Christians, to think we're followers of Christ could be a deception. Rather than blindly continuing down the same path that hasn't brought the desired results after 30 plus years, maybe it would be good to get alone with God and seek His wisdom and understanding on how to correct the problem.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." Galatians 5:22-26

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 10 Apr 2010 15:02:52 GMT
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Praise, the precursor of victory...

Mark 14:26

"And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives."

I see in this passage that Jesus wanted to give His Father praise and worship through song before going to Gethsemane and then the cross. He already knew the outcome, yet He wanted His disciples(including us), to understand some things about praise. One thing about praise, if we have true faith in our hearts, we'll be giving praise and thanks without being told to, because we already know we have the petitions we desire. Another thing about praise shown throughout God's Word is that it comes before victory. In the OT how many times do we see the children of Israel instructed to praise and worship God before a major battle and how God delivered and gave them the victory through praise.

Jesus knew that His disciples would go to sleep on Him, forsake Him, deny Him, and leave Him to face death alone; yet He knew there was strenght and victory in praise. If we're focused on Jesus, and not our circumstances, then praise should come willingly. When we're looking at lying circumstances and allowing what we see to dictate our additude, we're not walking in faith. Faith will always see what God says, regardless of appears in the natural. And when there's faith present, praise will be unstoppable, because what's in our hearts will always come out.

And if God inhabits the praises of His people, victory has to follow the praise. So take a moment to give God praise...actually, let's praise Him for the rest of our lives.

Praise The Lord

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Sat, 10 Apr 2010 23:43:23 GMT
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Amen Brother James.

Again, I came to this site and found out what I needed to do for victory.

Come on Sister Gillyann , PRAISE HIM ALWAYS!!! It always works! I just needed to be reminded.....again.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 20 Apr 2010 12:01:56 GMT
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Body Ministry...

The Holy Spirit spoke to me through these scriptures this morning and reminded me of what we're called unto. May God place within each of us the mindset of Christ, that we've been called to lay down our lives for the brethren. It's not all about us, it's about JESUS and us being conformed into His image; Who being King of Kings, and Lord of Lord, lay down His life for us.

"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification.

For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

For whatsoever things were written foretime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God." Romans 15:1-7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 23 Apr 2010 20:01:37 GMT
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"...the word of their testimony."

"O Give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name:

make known his deeds among the people." ~Ps.105:1

There are times when I wrestle a bit in my mind with 'testimonies', as to what to share publicly and what to keep between me and The Lord, (especially concerning money). There's not many days that go by that I'm not made aware of the presence of The Lord and receive from Him things to be thankful for...in the physical, financial, as well as the spiritual realm.

I know, from reading what others write, that it's easy to come across on forums and blogs as bragging or appearing to be 'superspiritual', or that a person is blessed above others and thus cause people to stumble. But there are times when our testimonies can and should do two things, one give glory and honor to God for the blessings, and two, encourage our brethren in the faith.

So today I want to humbly 'make known His deeds among the people'... A person walked up to me today and asked me if I would be offended if they offered me a gift of money...(knowing a little

about the person, very little, I thought they probably couldn't really afford to be giving away their money.) At first I responed by telling them that I am blessed above measure and God supplies all my needs, but The Holy Spirit checked me and spoke to me that I should allow the person to do what they had purposed in their heart to do. So I said, No, it wouldn't offend me if that's what you want to do, that I'd be grateful.

I'm not going into the amount except to say it was substantial... and I thankfully take it as a gift from The Lord, and give HIM the praise and honor...

God's deeds are good...and I declare His wondrous works. Amen.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Sat, 24 Apr 2010 14:35:33 GMT
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Wonderful testimony James! Don't hesitate to share because when you do we all are prompted to give glory to God.

Around here we have experienced a whole week full of special blessings. The Lord blessed us with two new (new to us!) vehicles, and a newly rebuilt engine for my own ride.

Jesus be praised!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 29 Apr 2010 15:52:48 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

God's Offer...Salvation to all those who will Believe.

"But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven?(that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

But what saith it? The Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the Word of faith, which we preach;

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." ~Romans 10:6-13

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 01 May 2010 13:35:18 GMT
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Our responsibility...walk out our salvation.

"He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

But whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him.

He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." ~1 John 2:4-6

"For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest He also spare not thee.

Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness,

if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." ~Romans 11:21-22

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 03 May 2010 20:53:42 GMT
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Trials promised...Deliverance promised.

"Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by name; thou art mine.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee:

when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:" ~Isaiah 43:1-3

Notice God didn't say "if" we go through trials; He said "when"...He also didn't say "you're on your own" when they come; He said "I will be with you".

What should our additude be when we go through trials? James 1:2

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;"

Why? Because trials test our faith and teaches us patience, and we know that this is how we're perfected.(v3-4 James 1)

But we have many promises of deliverance...

"...for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 07 May 2010 11:45:23 GMT
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Pleasures...

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are

pleasures for evermore." ~Psalms 16:11

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." ~Phil.2:13

Is serving God a pleasure or a chore? Is obeying Him freedom or bondage? Is there a struggle between the flesh and the spirit as to which pleasures we seek after?

"He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich." ~Proverbs 21:17

"And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection." ~Luke 8:14

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 09 May 2010 16:44:51 GMT
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The Word...has it taken hold ?

Zechariah 1:1-6

"In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the Lord unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,

The Lord hath been sore displeased with your fathers.

Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.

Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the Lord.

Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever?

But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers?..."

Here's a scripture that can be the answer to the question of why things haven't worked out for some former FA camp folks, maybe the Word taught them never took 'hold' in their lives. There are many things that can cause the Word to be taken away, one that I believe I see a lot is doubts creeping in. Many are going back and 'questioning' what they were taught, wavering between what was presented and received with joy and gladness, then; and what is being offered today. One thing is for sure, God has always known what was and is, in our hearts; and just as we were faithfilly warned would happen, those 'words and statutes', which God commanded would one day be either our deliverance...or judgment.

We may have fooled others, but God can not be fooled. What's in our hearts must be revealed. It's not by anything except JESUS that we enter in...it don't matter how many children people had without doctors; or how many years they attended Faith Assembly; how many tapes we have of Hobart Freeman or how many times we've listened to them; it's not how many times we've read the Bible or what we write on a computer...it's The Word IN us, transforming us into the image of Christ....IT won't do that unless we allow it to 'take hold'...obeying, yeilding, hungering, desiring.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 12 May 2010 16:42:58 GMT
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The ROCK...another name for God

Many places in scripture God is called 'The Rock', and Deuteronomy 32 is one of the places.

Verse 3: "Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God."

V 4: "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he."
btw: we used to sing a song with this scripture used in it.

But futher in the chapter we see described what happens when people take their eyes off 'The Rock'(God).

Verse 15: "But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxed fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation."

Does anyone see a paralel between what is described here and what has happened in America today? Let's read futher:

V 16: "They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger."
V 17: "They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not."
V 18: "Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee."

And you can read the judgments of God as the chapter continues,(and I encourage the reading of the whole chapter) including Moses', who couldn't enter Canaan because of disobedience and had to die only being able to 'see' it from afar.

God judges sin; He judged Israel and He'll judge America...He offered them oportunity to repent and they refused. He's been offering America time and opprtunity for years, and this nation has waxed worse and worse. He is a God of mercy, Amen; but He's also a God of justice and requires obedience, unless America turns and repents, the time is soon approaching where God's wrath and judgment will fall upon this land...just as it did with Israel and all other nations that refused to walk in obedience.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 16 May 2010 02:18:53 GMT
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Inspiration from God's Word...

"And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing." ~I Peter 3:13-17

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 20 May 2010 17:19:35 GMT
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Words are so restrictive and inadequate when trying to describe who God is and what all He does, yet that's all we have. He is all these and SO MUCH MORE...

Lion of Judah...Rock of Ages...Prince of Peace...Omnipotent King...Lord God Almighty...King of Kings...Lord of Lords...

He is our...Provider...Protector...Ruling Lord...Reigning King...Helper...Healer...Deliverer...Saviour...

He is ...Alpha and Omega...Creator...First and Last...Father...Friend...Faithful...

God is...HOLY, HOLY, HOLY... God is LOVE...MERCY...GRACE

AND SO MUCH MORE...

The question that should be asked is, is He this to ME?

Subject: The Righteous and the Wicked: promises for both
Posted by sparkles on Tue, 01 Jun 2010 11:41:11 GMT
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Ps 37:1 A Psalm of David. Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.
Ps 37:2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.
Ps 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
Ps 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
Ps 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.
Ps 37:6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Ps 37:7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.
Ps 37:8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.
Ps 37:9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.
Ps 37:10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.
Ps 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.
Ps 37:12 The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.
Ps 37:13 The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.
Ps 37:14 The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.
Ps 37:15 Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.
Ps 37:16 A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.
Ps 37:17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.
Ps 37:18 The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.
Ps 37:19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.
Ps 37:20 But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.
Ps 37:21 The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous showeth mercy, and giveth.
Ps 37:22 For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.
Ps 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.
Ps 37:24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.
Ps 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.
Ps 37:26 He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.
Ps 37:27 Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.

Ps 37:28 For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.
Ps 37:29 The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.
Ps 37:30 The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.
Ps 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.
Ps 37:32 The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.
Ps 37:33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.
Ps 37:34 Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.

Ps 37:35 I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.
Ps 37:36 Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.
Ps 37:37 Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.
Ps 37:38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.
Ps 37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.
Ps 37:40 And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Look at all the promises to us as christian, those who walk with Jesus.

And look at all the promises to the wicked. We are seeing more persecution coming at the christian and the scriptures being fulfilled about the end of time. We have seen those who were once professing christians rising up and persecuting christians, but then, wasn't that what Jesus said would happen?
As we walk with our Lord look to word of God and trust that as hatred for the true believers in Jesus will increase, our God has promised to preserve us and in the end we will receive a crown and spend eternity in heaven. Not so for the wicked.

Subject: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 15 Jun 2010 15:22:07 GMT
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My Goal...to know Him

"That I may know Him, and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this to you. " ~ Philippians 3:10-15

A-men

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 16 Jun 2010 15:31:06 GMT
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Household Salvation...

The Bible teaches that God honors faith, even to the point of extending salvation unto family members of those who will walk in faith. It's shown in the OT where The Lord said unto Noah,

Genesis 7:1 "Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation."

The children of Israel had to apply the blood on the door post in order for their household to escape God's judgment.(It took faith to obey God, and in doing this, their households were exempt from the execution of God's judgment upon the land of Egypt) We see that by the faithful obedience of a few, many were saved.(also see Romans 5:19)

Exodus 12:13 "...and when I see the blood, I will pass over you..."

And in the NT Peter and Paul, under the inspiration of The Holy Spirit, proclaimed the wonderful news that if a man would believe, not only would he be saved, but God would use their faith to bring salvation to their household.

Acts 11:14 "Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved."

Acts 16:31 "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

This is just a reminder of God's promise, with man things often look impossible(some of us have family that 'seem' to be hopelessly lost, and enjoying it.) yet God says with Him ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE...our responsibility? Just BELIEVE, stand in faith, speak and believe what The Word of God says, not what circumstances reflect, and trust The Holy Spirit to bring it into manifestation.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by james on Sat, 19 Jun 2010 14:43:21 GMT
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Who's footsteps are you following?...

I Peter 2:21

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:"

What are those examples that we should follow that reflect we're walking in His steps?

Verse 22: "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth"

V 23: "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously"

Is this a high standard? Absolutely, it's the highest standard to measures oneself against there is...but this is our calling; to be followers of Christ...it entails much more than words, it requires actions; actions that will results in the death of our 'self lives'(v-24,"...that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:")

We can't follow in His steps and live unto righteousness until we make the decision to do as He did and yeild unto the cross.

btw: This in no way negates God's Grace by which we're saved; salvation isn't earned or bought by our actions, but once we're saved we're called to walk as He walked.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 27 Jun 2010 12:00:21 GMT
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Paul's concern...

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty,

so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." ~ II Corinthians 11:3-4

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus...or if ye receive another spirit...or another gospel... "

The message of the Gospel is simple, Paul presented it in simple, plain, easy to be understood terms. Yet he was fearful that believers minds would be corrupted from the simple Gospel he had preached. And he used the words, 'lest by any means'; Satan will use ANY means available unto him to deceive and beguile Christians. The first thing mentioned is another Jesus, do we see that happening today? Another spirit, how about that, do all professing Christians have the same spirit? Another gospel, is christianity united in the common belief of the gospel?

The obivious answer is YES, there are taught in today's religion that there are various ways to eternal life and for a person to insist that Jesus is the ONLY way, is being narrow-minded and causing division, and lacking 'love'. Another spirit? Just look at some of the manifestations in these 'so-called' revivals and charismatic meetings...uncontrolable laughter, falling around and down claiming to be 'drunk' in the spirit(not like as the early believers at Pentecost were charged with being drunk), barking and imitating animals, professing to be prophets and apostles without God's calling, and on and on. Another gospel? Give to get, the false prosperity gospel, Jesus died spiritually and the church was birthed in the pit of hell, God is our mother, Jesus is in the bread and wine, praying to Mary, obeying the OT law and works salvation, shepherdship, Jesus Only(oneness doctrine),and 200+ denominations with each one having their own interpretation of the gospel.

So would it be fair to say that Paul had reason to be concerned? Has Satan beguiled the church, through ANY mean? Not only 'any mean' but by MANY means. Are we bullet proof, do we have to be ever diligent, can we falter? If he goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour,(AND HE DOES), shouldn't we be giving earnest heed to these warnings?

May we be found faithful at His coming... Trust and Obey, keep it simple.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 30 Jun 2010 17:30:16 GMT
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Wisdom, what a treasure...

If man was given the opportunity to ask for and have given unto him anything possibe, how many would put wisdom at the top of their list? How many times in scripture do we find God instructing

us to seek wisdom, yet how many have made it a priority? Godly wisdom can't be gotten without spending time with the source of the wisdom, God. And the revelation of that wisdom is mostly found through the searching of scripture, desiring and allowing The Holy Spirit to place that wisdom from the written Word onto our hearts and minds.

How much time do we spend searching for silver and gold(money, jobs, making a living), when God has told us which is most important.(of course we're to work and provide for ourselves and families, this isn't about neglecting our responsibilities) How much time do we spend in 'down time' or unwinding, or leisure time, entertainment, watching sports, or playing games? When we could be growing in wisdom and understanding of The Lord.

Ecclesiastes says that Solomon gave himself to figuring out everything, he tried it all, and found in the end that all that wasn't from God was folly.

chapter 2 verse 13: "Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness." He's saying that there's not even a comparison between God's Wisdom and all other achievements of man.

This is just a reminder, to encourage us to keep our priorities in order...it's not how big a 401K plan we have, how much money we have in the bank, or how big a house we own, or even the cars we drive...the most important goal we as Christians should have is, seeking the mind of The Lord, to KNOW Him, to allow Him to transform our minds and impart unto us His Wisdom...He knows we have physical needs, and He promises to meet them, when we seek first the things of God; and we can't confidently make any decisions without knowing His will and understanding it...

Wisdom, what an overlooked treasure in today's world, offered freely and desperately needed, yet not sought by many.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 04 Jul 2010 13:11:43 GMT
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He is worthy of our praise...

"Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee:

and let such as love thy salvation say continually,

Let God be magnified."

Psalms 70:4

Praise Jesus

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 09 Jul 2010 19:16:52 GMT
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Ya just never know...

We're told in I Peter 3:15 "...and be ready ALWAYS to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you..."

In the past few weeks The Lord has had me do a limited study on universal salvation/ultimate reconcilation as well as grace vs works(Galatians study). I had stumbled (from my perspective then, obviously now I see God's hand in it, so I'd have the scriptures and different viewpoints fresh in mind) upon a discussion about this and just wanted to refresh my understanding of the teaching error/false doctrine.

Anyway, while at the pool (99 degrees) a person asked if they could get my take on some things in the Bible and I said I'd be happy to share what I knew. Well first question was, did I believe if ALL men would be saved and what did I believe the Bible said about it(I thought right then, OK Lord, take these words and let them bear fruit, I know You're behind this so lead on...) I got to share about the truths concerning predestination and election; salvation by grace alone; baptismal regeneration; the sermon on the mount(nonresistance); divorce and remarriage...and not just to the person who asked(we were in the water and people were all around either floating in the pool or sitting in lounge chairs near the pool reading) so I noticed there were several who had taken an interest in our conversation and were listening, behind their sunglasses<grin>.

I praise The Lord for the opportunity and am believing for even more chances to share what God has so graciously given us. I was thinking to myself after the person had left the pool(we probably talked for an hour or more), it's a good thing my soapbox is made of wood and can float...

Like I said, 'ya just never know'... when The Holy Spirit will lead someone to you for spiritual truths...it was a good lesson and reminder to be sure, reguardless of where we are, to be ready.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by David Coleman on Sat, 10 Jul 2010 02:22:52 GMT
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That is a blessing testimony. I praise God for using you to share and witness. Those are exciting moments when we capture people who want to ask many questions. It also blesses us to see the seeds planted in us just pop out of our mind and mouth.

Sometimes it seems quiet at times , we can pray for God to send hungry hearts our way. We are bursting to just overflowing with good news to pass on. When it seems quiet for a period of time remember that God loves to hear his word quoted back to him in worship.

Today opportunity came to share a little with a lady. She acted excited about it. She was a nice lady in her social atitude. God bless all these hungry souls we pray to come to us and receive the light and love of Jesus.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 14 Jul 2010 12:07:00 GMT
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brodav9 wrote on Fri, 09 July 2010 21:22
Sometimes it seems quiet at times

It really concerns me and is a burden in my heart how those of us here who claim to be Christian, filled with The Holy Spirit, 'overcomers', people who've been given such revelation and light from God...seem to have so little to say, share, testify to. We, who are supposed to be filled with the joy of The Lord, walking in the truth and daily experiencing His wonderful presence...seem to have so little time or willingness to encourage, edify, share, discuss with others the things of God.but we have time for TV, sports, vacations, and all our other self-centered things

I truly hope and pray that it's not a reflection of the state of our hearts, that we've become lukewarm and stale in our walk with The Lord, that the cares of this life has taken priority over what was once a zeal and love for Jesus...as in the days of Noah...

I hope I'm wrong and everyone is on fire for The Lord and just don't view the forum as something important in their lives, if that's the case then praise The Lord. For some of us(maybe only me?) we don't have fellow believers of like faith to fellowship with or share and find the forum likening to an spiritual oasis. But then I ask myself, why do I sense such a burden for my brothers and sisters in this area? I know that I haven't arrived at a place of perfection yet, but with the state of 'the church' today and the warnings given in scripture concerning the last days, and seeing the signs

everywhere amongest Christians of lukewarmness and being caught up in the world and it's affairs...I better understand why Jeremiah was know as the weeping prophet.

Let's not let the Laodicean additude find root in our hearts, if we recognize any symptoms, may we be zealous to purge ourselves from them and return to our first Love, Jesus.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Fri, 16 Jul 2010 08:11:11 GMT
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I know what you mean James. The closeness we experience when we fellowship together cannot be understated.

Of all the things that we know the Church is supposed to be involved in it is interesting that Luke mentions "breaking bread" first in this passage in the book of Acts:

Act 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

He didn't say they came together to evangelize (although an important part of any group of Christians); he didn't mention they came together to worship (again, another important part of our gathering together); he didn't say that they came together to hear the good Word Paul preached (which of course they got a good dose of it!); he says that they came together-- "to break bread".

Now we all know that coming together just to eat is not the primary focus here; it is the coming together for fellowship (koinonia) that results from a common meal that seems to be central purpose of these early disciples.

When a family comes together at mealtime there is a dynamic at work that makes the experience one that has no parallels. It brings us closer than could be achieved by any other experience.

So natural, so common, yet there isn't anything more special, more uplifting, than the koinonia we have at these times.

Luke could have said any number of things we would deem important as to

the reason they came together on the first day of the week... he specifically chooses the phrase "to break bread". Isn't that interesting?

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Sat, 17 Jul 2010 02:16:54 GMT
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OK...so when do we eat?

It would be fun to "break bread together."

I also realize that it would not be very simple to pull off something like this.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 23 Jul 2010 11:14:41 GMT
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Choices...

We know that God is going to use Christians who have overcome to reign and rule the world with Jesus, and many confess this desire, but David said something recorded in Psalms 84 v10 that showed a humble heart, though he was king of Israel. Not that we're to strive for anything less, but David draws the comparison between being 'in' or 'out'...He said he's rather be a doorkeeper in God's kingdom than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

"For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee." Psalms 84:10-12

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 26 Jul 2010 19:11:01 GMT
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Calvary...

Luke 23:33

"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him..."

Each person who enters into heaven must first have had 'come to the place' called Calvary and met Him.
And if Jesus hadn't(come to the place), then we'd be without hope, for it's only by His shed Blood then, there, that we can have life now.
The Lord put this 'old' hymn on my heart today and it came alive, may it minister to your hearts as well.(hope everyone knows the tune)

At Calvary

by: William R. Newell

Years I spent in vanity and pride,

Caring not my Lord was crucified,

Knowing not it was for me He died

At Calvary.

Mercy there was great, and grace was free;

Pardon there was multiplied to me;

There my burdened soul found liberty

At Calvary.

By God's Word at last my sin I learned;

Then I trembled at the Law I'd spurned;

Till my guilty soul imploring turn

To Calvary.

Oh, the love that draws salvation's plan!

Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!

Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span

At Calvary.

Thank You Lord, thank You...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 02 Aug 2010 18:45:14 GMT
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God's response to a king...
but really it's a response to people getting their hearts right before God and seeking Him in FAITH.

Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, was told that the Moabites and the Ammonites where coming to war against them (Judah). Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast throughout all the land of Judah, and set himself to seek The Lord. And Jehoshaphat reminded God of the sanctuary they'd build for His Name and the understanding they had that ...

"IF, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in Thy presence,(for Thy Name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help." II Chronicles 20:9

So after all Judah expectantly came together before The Lord in fastings and King Jehoshaphat had sought Him, The Spirit of The Lord came upon Jahaziel and spoke through him unto the congregation saying...

II Chronicles 20:15&17 "...Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith The Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not your's, but God's."

"Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of The Lord with you..."

How many times do we see in the OT where God responded to Israel favorably after they had rebelled and hardened their hearts time after time. He responded to their cries when they repented and sought Him, why? Because He had promised Solomon that He would back when Solomon had build and dedicated 'the house of God' unto God....In II Chronicles 7 and verse 13 He said:

"If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;"

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; THEN will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

I see a wonderful lesson concerning GRACE and MERCY here; How God responds to those who will humble themselves, pray, repent, fast, and believe Him (faith). He puts the past sins behind and remembers them no more, and restores the humble and shows Himself strong on their behalf.

I love the rest that comes when we 'GET IT', to learn to "set yourselves, stand still..." rest in Him... "Be not afraid nor dismayed"..."and SEE the salvation of The Lord."

Thank You, Lord. May The Holy Spirit minister His Truths to our hearts.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 06 Aug 2010 15:36:41 GMT
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Grace...unmerited favor

Example of grace, or God's favor (salvation) unto man.

Romans 4:3-8 "What saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."

V4 "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of GRACE, but of debt."

David wrote in Psalms 32:2 and Paul quoted him in V7

"Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."

Who is a man to whom God will not impute sin? Any man that will believe...Believe what? John 3:16 And that will repent and receive JESUS CHRIST as his Lord and Saviour.

Why would God do that for me...or YOU?

Grace... "For God SO loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

It's not by our works, prior live, civic charities, church attendance, religious activities, or ANY thing else...it's by HIS Grace.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Sat, 07 Aug 2010 12:45:06 GMT
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Prov 29:11
NLT
Fools vent their anger,
but the wise quietly hold it back.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Sun, 08 Aug 2010 10:49:18 GMT
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Hosea 4 NLT

1 Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel!
The Lord has brought charges against you, saying:
â€œThere is no faithfulness, no kindness,
no knowledge of God in your land.
2 You make vows and break them;
you kill and steal and commit adultery.
There is violence everywhereâ€”
one murder after another.
3 That is why your land is in mourning,
and everyone is wasting away.
Even the wild animals, the birds of the sky,
and the fish of the sea are disappearing.

Sounds like this could be addressed to America.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 09 Aug 2010 20:02:18 GMT
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Amazing Grace...

This little girl's mother had died only a couple of months before this video was made.

...'As little children', comes to mind as I listen.

http://www.vimeo.com/12348372

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by JWBTI on Tue, 10 Aug 2010 00:50:44 GMT
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I Love that Song and I love the video !

Thanks brother for posting it.

(As little children) Amen !

As an infant is totally dependant upon the parents care for its
well being, So shall we be totally dependant upon Jesus for our well being !

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 27 Aug 2010 12:34:29 GMT
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Jeremiah 32:27

"Behold, I am The Lord, The God of all flesh:

is there any thing too hard for me?"

Have faith in GOD...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 17 Sep 2010 16:50:16 GMT
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"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower therefore falleth away:

But the Word of The Lord endureth for ever. And this is the Word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

I Peter 1:24-25

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 17 Sep 2010 23:47:54 GMT
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Tick, Tick, Tick...

This is what The Lord put on my heart, it is an encouragement and reminder to me, I'm sharing it hoping that it will encourage others.

Romans 13:11-14

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

We're running out of time... either way, whether we go by the rapture or by the grave, every day that goes by is one day less we
have to prepare to meet God. Thank God for His mercy and long suffering, He will correct (prune) us if we'll seek and yield to it.
A popular phrase now days is "24/7"; but as I was meditating upon this (and The Lord also put Ephesians 6:11-18 in my heart as
part of the putting on of the armour of light), He reminded me that the enemy is attacking and seeking areas to attack, 24/7. Therefore
we MUST be on alert at all times. If there's ever been a time in history that Christians were asleep(and there have been many) today
is the time. The message to me was this; I've (we've?) not been called to be as everyone else(while the Word of God is to all Christians,
not everyone will be willing to obey); it's easy to fall into a pattern of day to day existence, doing our daily routine (which includes
our Word and prayer time, though many days done as a habit rather than a hearts hungry desire for fellowship with our heavenly Father)
without the awareness that we're running out of time.

I'm reminded of things The Lord has put upon my heart over the years that I believe He wanted to use me for, and that I wasn't as diligent
about seeking for Him to use me in those areas...and when I was, I allowed myself, after time, to fall into the trap of becoming lackadaisical.

I believe The Lord is telling me/us? in these scriptures why spiritual 'sleep' comes so easily...DARKNESS; making provision for the flesh.
I'm not going into each area The Lord ministered to me on as pertaining to making provisions for the flesh and areas of darkness, in my life,
because each of us have different things that need pruning, but the point is that we're running out of time and we've GOT to wake up.

A watchman who is asleep, is not a true watchman...A true watchman is a watchman 24/7, he is clad in God's armour, he is sober minded, diligent, he is willing to lay down his life for his brethren, he's ready at all times to share of the hope that lies within him, and he has
a heart of love...and he makes NO provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

btw: the word watchman can be removed above and the word Christian can be inserted, or 5-fold minister, or Overcomer.

Father, help us to have an attention span that is ever alert, 24/7, aware that time is ticking by and that we'll give account
of each word, thought, and action...may we redeem the time as faithful servants, in Jesus Name...Amen

---

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 21 Sep 2010 02:47:55 GMT
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Good news...God loves you.

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

I John 4:9-11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 27 Sep 2010 23:11:40 GMT

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Ways to walk in victory...24/7

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord."
Ephesians 5:19

"...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure,
whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."
Philippians 4:8

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."
Ephesians 6:11

"Trust in the Lord with ALL thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."
Proverbs 3:5

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 05 Oct 2010 15:28:39 GMT
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More ways to walk in victory...

Live a life of praise, make it a lifestyle.

Praise is a reflection of relationship with God.

"I will bless the LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Ps.34:1

"Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God..." Ps.147:1

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 07 Oct 2010 12:28:54 GMT
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"O GOD, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee,

my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name."

Ps.63:1-4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 11 Oct 2010 19:28:02 GMT
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WHY? Because He alone is worthy of our praise... and He said to!

"O Sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth.

Sing unto the LORD, bless His name; shew forth His salvation from day to day.

Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people.

For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: He is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.

Honor and majesty are before Him: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength.

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come into His courts.

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before Him, all the earth.

Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: He shall judge the people righteously.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.

Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice

Before the LORD: for He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth: He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth."

Psalms 96

Hallelujah...Praise You Jesus.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Fri, 22 Oct 2010 12:23:04 GMT
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UPLIFTING THINGS TO DO TODAY

* Smile at a stranger

* Drop a coin where a child can find it

* Learn something new and teach it to someone

* Tell someone you love them

* Hug someone

* Forgive someone who has wronged you

* Try saying "I'm sorry" when you ought to

* Tell a child how great they are

* Sing a song about Jesus to yourself

* Keep a promise

* Call someone just to say hello

* Try listening more than talking

* Stand up for what you believe in

* Thank God for His beautiful Creation

* Encourage someone who is feeling down

* Cherish today as if it were your last one

* Tell someone about Jesus

-- Author Unknown

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 28 Oct 2010 10:16:07 GMT
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"But that which ye have already hold fast til I come."

Revelation 2:25

"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that NO MAN take thy crown.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."

Revelation 3:11-12

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 01 Nov 2010 16:10:17 GMT
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Praying for the leaders...

We have a responsibility to pray for those in authority, which in America includes the elected officals.
Tomorrow is election day for many public offices, and while we're not of this earthly kingdom, we are exhorted to pray for them that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life.
I believe the time is fast approaching when circumstances here in America are going to change...
As Mark said yesterday, are we ready? Do we have true Biblical faith? Are we ready for the swelling of the Jordan?(Jeremiah 12:5)
Are we doing as we're commanded and exhorted to do? Just because we don't participate in elections through voting,
we should be interceeding for the leaders(not criticizing them, II Peter 2:10) for God's will to be done here in earth even as it is in heaven.(Matt. 6:10)

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour." ~ I Timothy 2:1-3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Mon, 01 Nov 2010 19:53:13 GMT
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"I believe the time is fast approaching when circumstances here in America are going to change..."

I have been receiving a catalog in the mail called The Source for Everything Jewish.

This past Saturday, the front of the catalog was ripped off, crumpled up, and stuffed in my front mail slot. It was not on the ground, it was keeping the slot open. The rest of the mail was between the two doors. Once the mail is slipped inside my front door, nobody can get to it unless you open the security door with a key.

Did a government employee, the mailman, really express his view of the Jew by doing this to my catelog?

I try to think the best...but I know better.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 10 Nov 2010 03:42:40 GMT
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Causes of sickness...

...and how to walk in health.

"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."

For what cause? Partaking of Communion unworthily.

I Corinthians 11:23-32

Would it not also be true to say that partaking of The Lord's Supper with a pure heart before God would promote healing and health?

Could an open door to sickness be because Christians don't regularly celebrate The Lord's death, as instructed?

So many are all over celebrating pagan holidays, yet ignore Communion,

and even when it is observed many are partaking without properly examining their hearts and repenting of sins therein.

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 15 Nov 2010 18:53:55 GMT
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THE Message...

"This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us." ~ I John 1:5-10

So what is the message?

God is light...with NO darkness.

If one says they're walking with Him and are walking in sin, they're liars.

But if one is walking with Him in obedience, there is fellowship.

Anyone saying they have NO sin is deceived and lying.

He is faithful and just to forgive us when we confess our sins.

"...that ye may also have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with The Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."V3

"And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full." V4

Key point of 'THE Message'? Restoration of fellowship with God through the shed Blood of Jesus Christ.

His purpose was and is, to restore us, not condemn. Confession leads us to forgiveness and into relationship and fellowship with our Lord and Saviour and Heavenly Father.

Thank You Father, Thank You Jesus...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 04 Dec 2010 13:15:33 GMT
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Unity...

"And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till we all come in the UNITY of the faith, and of the KNOWLEDGE of The Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

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

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up in Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

Ephesians 4:11-16

I see these scriptures to be proof text that the Body of Christ still needs apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers; that these callings didn't end in the early church(as many groups/denominations believe today). Because if the Lord placed them in the Body for the perfecting of the saints...(look around, see many perfected saints?)and until; "...WE ALL come in the UNITY of THE faith, and the KNOWLEDGE of The Son of God, unto a PERFECT man..."

How much of christianity is being tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine? Running here and there seeking mans' wisdom and signs and wonders? Putting themselves 'under' the covering of

false teachers and self-proclaimed apostles and prophets. The deceptions are popping up at an exponential rate today, almost weekly I hear or read about another group off in the flesh seeking to find/please/obey/experience God through some kooky, new age, Satan inspired 'movement'.(and it seems to be more prevelant in charismatics)

So at a time in history when we, The Body of Christ, need 5-Fold ministers like never before; Satan is sending to the undiscerning Christian, a facsimile/counterfeit to lead them astray into bondage.

I want to encourage those reading this, to make praying for true 5-Fold ministers for The Body of Christ a priority. Prayer is effectual if it is fervent and from a humble righteous believer.

It's not something that can be found by placing adds in the newpaper e.g. WANTED: Christian apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers...Watchmen, Exhortors, Intercessors...No, we need Holy Spirit anointed men, TRUE men of God, to bring The Body of Christ into UNITY.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by sparkles on Sat, 04 Dec 2010 14:40:47 GMT
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James, what a wonderful post to remind us that the best is yet to come: to see functioning apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers. I dare think that some who read this site or post on it fall into one of these categories and are just waiting on the Lord for them to start functioning. We are living in times that christians have looked to for many hundreds, even thousand of years, the promise of the rapture and the return of Christ to set up His millinial kingdom.
There is an exhibit at our museum here in town called Bodies Revealed, although I haven't gone to see it, there have been pictures in newspapers and magazines that show actual human bodies doing various activities, such as riding a bike, and what the muscles are doing and pictures of the different organs in our bodies. There is also a heart, where one can see all the veins and arteries of the heart. When I see how God made the human body and then think of how the body of Christ is to be, I can only be in awe of God and what He has promised us as we walk in obedience to Him. We don't have it yet, the local assembly, but it has been promised and He whom has promised will fulfill that promise. Sure will be wonderful to be able to worship with other saints again!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 06 Dec 2010 15:41:07 GMT
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james wrote on Sun, 04 July 2010 08:11He is worthy of our praise...

"Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee:

and let such as love thy salvation say continually,

Let God be magnified."

Psalms 70:4

Praise Jesus

As I walked this morning in the brisk cold(27) The Lord kept reminding me of Psalms 70:4 and the word CONTINUALLY concerning the magnification of GOD.

He tells us (ALL those that seek Him) to rejoice and be glad IN HIM.

AND...for those who love His Salvation to say, CONTINUALLY...

"Let GOD be Magnified."

My desire is to live a life that is continually magnifying God. I believe as I seek Him to lead and guide me that He'll quicken by His Spirit
to me what brings magnification to Him, and what distracts.

Thought I'd share this, it is something to pray and seek Him about, especially if there are areas in our lives where we aren't seeing His promises fulfilled as we desire...maybe we aren't walking in a CONTINUAL mindset of seeking how we can be MAGNIFYING God.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 16 Dec 2010 19:01:13 GMT
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"And they that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee: for Thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them

that seek Thee." ~Psalms 9:10

Do you know HIM today? Do you know His NAME? Then if you do, you WILL put your TRUST in HIM.

Putting our trust in God is not so much what we confess as it is what we DO. Many people confess to be Christian and that they "trust" in HIM, but their actions prove they don't really KNOW Him. For if they did they'd have the testimony to back it upand the testimony would be comfirmation of the promises made in His Word..."for Thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 25 Dec 2010 13:58:43 GMT
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"And said, IF thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of The LORD thy GOD,

and wilt do that which is right in HIS sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments,

and keep all His statutes, I will put NONE of these diseases upon thee,

which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am The LORD that healeth thee."

~Exodus 15:26

"WHO [Jesus]His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree,

that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:

by whose [Jesus] stripes ye were healed."

~I Peter 2:24

Here are two wonderful promises concerning healing that are received two diffent ways. The first, was made unto the children of Israel and required total obedience to ALL that God spoke, commanded, and His statutes. It was conditional, when they failed to follow Him He allowed them to experience the consequences of their actions.

The second promise of healing, received by FAITH, through GRACE, was first mentioned in Isaiah 53 and repeated by Peter in the above passage. Are there conditions for receiving this promise as well? Yes, be a believer/follower/disciple of Jesus Christ and walk in faith.

Which one do you choose? I think there are over 600 mosaic laws, in case one decides they'd like to place themselves 'under the law'. BTW: No one has been able to keep them so far...Why would a Christian saved by Grace willing place themselves back into a position that is impossible for a man to follow?

Healing is in the Atonement, it is a free gift, not contingent upon your sacrifice, but upon the sacrifice of JESUS at Calvary. It can't be bought or sold, but it is freely available to all believers who will believe. We're saved by FAITH in Jesus and we're healed by FAITH in Jesus. Faith to believe is given by God (lest any man should boast); if you're lacking the faith to believe, get into God's WORD, pray and 'ASK'...God loves us, it's His good pleasure to give us 'good' things. Matthew 7:7-11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Sat, 25 Dec 2010 14:42:51 GMT
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What a wonderful promise to wake up to on this day!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 25 Dec 2010 15:42:58 GMT
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Amen...

And EVERY morning. I was just contemplating how that right now, all over the entire world, people are opening gifts in anticipation of what's inside...and what's wrapped in those packages are temporal, they'll be discarded, broken, lost, worn out, and gone before they know it; and yet we have given unto us,'this day' eternal promises that very, very few people are giving a second thought 'today' to opening God's Word and receiving of His promises...

JESUS, the reason NOT to participate in 'the season'...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by David Coleman on Fri, 31 Dec 2010 14:06:05 GMT
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feeling good about two things today.

The world's holiday is over, and don't feel or have that depressing spirit that goes with it.

While driving in the car, instead of being forced to hear that music, would pop in a praise tape and then hear a good HEF tape or other 5-fold minister. The peace and joy of the Lord flushed out a lot of the negative things going on around me.

The most important thing of all is having only one God and centered on him alone. Heard he was jealous, he won't share his glory with another. Like in a marriage, just one man and one woman, just one God and us, that's enough.

In observation, have seen many people who live miserable lives, who appear to be pretending to be happy. After December, It's back to reality. deception is only temporary, then comes reality. Things will never make happy in themselves. God is not of material, he only created it. True joy and happiness is not in just knowing about Jesus but knowing him personally. His word is wonderful in that it gives life, not just a education.

Giving is a wonderful thing, no strings attached, and desiring the result will be the kingdom of God built.

used to tell a little joke at work to some people. They were Christians to some degree. If anyone comes down my chimney there would be a fire waiting. Don't think he would be red if he comes down rubbing the soot off the chimney as he comes down. He would be black. Just laugh off the thing if it bothers you during the holidays because though it is not a plesant time our atitude can make a difference. Not to mention the fruit of joy will also help strengthen us. God has wonderful things for us this year no need hoping for them, they are freely given us. faith is the substance.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 31 Dec 2010 19:27:26 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

brodav9 wrote on Fri, 31 December 2010 08:06feeling good about two things today.

The world's holiday is over, and don't feel or have that depressing spirit that goes with it.

Not to admonish but encourage, we don't have to experience a depressing spirit during the times

the world is having pagan celebrations. I think the 'seed' is sown by all the secular information that's out there stating how depressed people become around this time of year(and we know that as far as the world goes, it's true...people take their own lives due to the weight of depression) But for Christians who have chosen to walk in the truth of God's Word, it should be a joyous time. Regardless of what the world is doing on December 25th, for us, it is the day that The Lord hath made and we're instructed to rejoice and be glad in it. Once I allowed The Holy Spirit to minister these truths to my heart, the victory over 'feelings' was accomplished. (That's not to say I'm not glad when it's over because I don't care for the advertisements, music, and door greeters, and explaining 'WHY' I don't....)

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My point prezactly...Satan tries to 'turn everything around' on us and make us feel guilty about family gatherings and having to always be explaining what and why we believe what we believe...Our additude makes all the difference in whatever we're going through...I try to remember what Jesus went through, willingly, for me...adjusts my additude pretty quickly.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 12 Jan 2011 21:20:13 GMT
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Comfort and hope while in affliction...

This is something The Lord put in my heart as an encouragement while going through trials.

Psalms 119:49-50

"Remember the word unto thy servant,upon which thou hast caused me to hope.

This IS my comfort in my affliction: for Thy Word hath quickened me."

The promise of health and healing is given unto us from God in His WORD, and in this,(the promise that He will honor His Word) we place our hope/faith. The understanding of this is our comfort during afflictions, because believing THAT Word has made alive our faith so that we can, with assurance, be comforted knowing He will perform His Word unto anyone who will believe Him.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 18 Jan 2011 14:18:26 GMT
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The cross...

What does taking up the cross of Jesus and being crucified mean for His disciples? We're set apart from the world, we're new creatures in Him. Our desires change, our habits change, our reactions to others change...we are humbled by this change and it's reflected in our daily lives.

God's Word tells us how His mercies are new every morning; there's something else that needs to happen every morning, we need to be sure we're on the cross...examine ourselves to see if we be in the faith...there is a rest for God's children, but at the same time scriptures reveal to us that we're in a spiritual battle with the enemy...that battle often involves the fleshly desires that don't want to surrender to The Lordship of Jesus Christ...It MUST, for only those who are walking in the spirit are walking with God...How can we know? The fruit produced in our lives...

The cross is voluntary, but it is essential...and it's personal, each one must decide to willing summit to it daily.

Remember this old hymn? Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for everyone, and there's a cross for me.

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God."

Galatians 6:14-16

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 27 Jan 2011 20:46:27 GMT
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More on The cross...

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

~Philippians 2:5-8

Here in Philippians, we have described by Paul, the mindset of Jesus in humbling Himself and becoming as a servant, obedient even unto death. We're told to have the same mind...servants, obedient, humble, and take up the cross and follow Him. That cross entails death to us just as it did for Him. Here's another scripture from Philippians that reminds us of this... (suffering/death of ourselves/flesh).

"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake."~ Philippians 1:29

There's not a lot of people proclaiming this message, it runs contrary to the 'reign and rule/prosperity/best life now' gospel that is so prevalent today. How can we incorporate and apply these teachings to our daily lives? Only by the direction and guidance of The Holy Spirit; but we must take the initiative, "LET, THIS MIND BE IN YOU..."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 31 Jan 2011 20:50:35 GMT
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Revoked Invitation...

"A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

And they ALL with one consent began to make excuse..."

"For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper."

Luke 14:16-18 & 24

Excuses, Excuses, we hear them every day, many times we make them ourselves; but there will be no excuses acceptable unto Jesus in that day. We're admonished to examine ourselves to see if we be in the faith; the clock is ticking, the time is nearer than when we first believed...it's time to lay aside EVERY weight (excuse) that would keep us from that which is promised to those who build upon THE ROCK, JESUS CHRIST, to sup with Him forever. He is The bread of life and The water of life, what else is there?

It's like comparing McDonald's to a five-star restaurant, only even more extreme.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 03 Feb 2011 18:05:55 GMT
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Self Examination...

"The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

The Lord is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all His works.

All Thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord; and Thy saints shall bless Thee.

They shall speak of the glory of Thy kingdom, and talk of Thy power;

To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom.

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations."

Psalms 145:8-13

This is just for the purpose of self examination, not judging anyone. This forum is an excellent place to share of God's goodness in our lives, to praise Him, to bless Him, to speak and talk of Him, to make known His mighty acts. Do we take advantage of this opportunity? If we're hesitant or fearful to boldly proclaim what He's given us here where most don't know who we are, are we doing it in one on one situations? Just something to think about...He didn't open our eyes and ears unto truth for us to keep it for just ourselves and our families.

David said this..."I will extol Thee, my God, O King; and I will bless Thy name for ever and ever.

Every day will I bless Thee; and I will praise Thy name of ever and ever.

Great is The Lord, and greatly to be praised..." Amen.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 07 Feb 2011 01:37:48 GMT
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I Corinthians 15:58

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable,

always abounding in the work of The Lord,

forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in The Lord."

May He that has called us to walk even as He walked, finish that which He has begun in us, that we not only talk of Him but walk with Him, to the Glory of God through Christ Jesus our Lord.

james

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Mon, 07 Feb 2011 02:51:02 GMT
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"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 09 Feb 2011 21:02:19 GMT
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Confessing and forsaking...

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper:

but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

Proverbs 28:13

The Lord has been prodding and nudging at my heart concerning what is required and desired by

Him of me. I know that I'm not where I should be or even could be and I know the reason is the lack of total commitment 24/7 to the cross. In my heart and with my understanding I grasp the purpose of the cross, yet in times when The Holy Spirit presents me with the opportunity to willingly offer up my flesh unto death, I find myself resisting and making excuses.

The things of this world, the pride of life, and the lusts of the flesh stand as major roadblocks in a christian's life if they aren't dealt with. God is not going to use people in His end-time army who aren't dead to themselves, and we can't be walking in holiness and true righteousness with parts of our lives held back from God. He requires total commitment, it's delusional to think one is an 'overcomer' or is going to be chosen as one, when we haven't taken up our cross and followed Him completely. There's a song that keeps playing in my spirit that goes like this...

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,

Look full in His wonderful face,

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of His glory and grace."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 00:09:31 GMT
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What an awesome blessing and confirmation for me today!

He was seriously dealing with me about being in this world, but not of it. I have and am learning the consequences when you let go of anything that would hold me back. I have lost much in the world's eyes. But, today, my heart has never been so full and excited about what is to come.

Friends, family, people will always forsake you at some point. It is just human. They will always disappoint. "Stuff" never satisfies. I am so glad I know not to walk by feelings or by what people think of me.

I think the more we learn to walk in the spirit, or I call it living in the border state, the stranger we become to people. JMO When I speak the Word we were taught, I am hearing the word wierd more and more as a response. Sadly, I am hearing it even from some who agreed with me when at FA.

"In this world, I'll seek not a home, they can take all I own, but they can't touch what's real to me."

No they can't take Jesus from me for He lives in my heart and He's all I need.

For Jesus has called to my heart, He said follow me, from this world come apart.

And I know eternal life in Jesus is true, in this world I'm just a pilgrim passing through." Carl Seitz

---

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 20:29:41 GMT
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Follow up testimony concerning yesterdays post on confessing and forsaking; I will state the facts as best I understand them and others can make their own conclusions.

As I finished the post I stood up and started to walk into another room, I felt an uncomfortable twinge in my left foot. Within 15-30 minutes my foot was hurting to the point I couldn't put any weight on it. All I could think of was maybe a stress-fracture in the arch of my foot(I play a good bit of tennis, and run a lot); though I couldn't remember having any pain before. There was no swelling, it wasn't in my ankle, yet it felt like an abscessed tooth on steroids.(and I'm not exaggerating) My first thoughts were ' how can I sleep with this?' Then, 'I'll tough it out, I've got appointments tomorrow and can't miss work, even if I stay up all night I'll still show up'.(we also got a couple inches of snow, another good excuse to just prop up my feet and stay home)

I prayed and claimed my healing as I have done for many years, but this time I felt it was more than just a trial of healing, it was more of a sudden attack from Satan and I was being tested as to what I had been dealing with concerning the cross and total commitment that I had written about lately. This morning it was all I could do to put my foot on the floor and hobble around, (all the more reason to give in, the enemy tried telling me). I prayed in The Spirit and determined to prepare for work just are normal, it was something to see, me going down a flight of snow covered stairs trying to keep the weight off my left foot. When I arrived at the office, 47 miles trip, my foot hardly hurt at all, by the time I had walked through the office and got everything ready for the day, there was NO PAIN whatsoever. Now there's no sign that it ever happened, I feel fine.

I believe it was a spiritual test and an opportunity to see if I'd really do what I was confessing and believing, and giving me the chance to make the choice.

You decide for yourselves, some things can be explained away by those unwilling to acknowledge God's power in our lives, I'm not a doctor so I can't say what happened from a natural stand point, but I can attest to the results of prayer...It don't hurt no more...And I choose to give God ALL the glory and praise. Amen!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 17 Feb 2011 19:07:38 GMT
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What happened to that promise?

1970-80's...Ever said this? 'Lord, thank you for saving me, thank you for opening my eyes to the truth, thank you for the revelation of faith, thank you for Your Word taught me by Brother Freeman...Lord, I'll never compromise, I'll never forsake You, I'm an overcomer, I walk by faith, I will follow You wheresoever You lead me.'

"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62

"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for He hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed." Ecclesiastes 5:4

Has lukewarmness crept into your life? Has your zeal for Christ waned? Remember the promise you made unto Him...He is longsuffering and full of mercy, repent and return unto your first love, Jesus.

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." Rev. 3:19

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 04 Mar 2011 16:45:39 GMT
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Responsibility of a Christian...

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of The great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."

Titus 2:11-15

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Sat, 05 Mar 2011 16:53:00 GMT
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Acts 17:11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

If the Breans searched the scriptures daily to see if what Paul and Silas said was true, How much more should we do it today?

_____

Dick

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 11 Mar 2011 15:16:22 GMT
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Signs being fulfilled...

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places,

and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows."

Mark 13:8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 25 Mar 2011 14:11:22 GMT
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"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of The Almighty."

Psalms 91:1

Today I heard a song (Secret Place) and thought the lyrics spoke truth, the songwriter is Clint Brown. I am not promoting Clint Brown (he is the man who Benny Hinn turned over his Orlando, Florida church(FaithWorld) to when he (Hinn) relocated to Texas.)

I could parade my success
And keep the hurt inside
But I've got to tell somebody
The part of me I hide
And since You are my Father
Where else could I go
There's no use in hiding
What You already know

There are no secrets in the secret place
I've been told in Your presence
I don't have to be ashamed
So with trembling hands I'll remove
The mask that's on my face
There are no secrets in the secret place

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by james on Wed, 30 Mar 2011 22:19:11 GMT
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"Having eyes, see ye not?"

Spiritual blindness is far more serious than physical blindness;

and to be unable to see and discern truth from error,

is a handicap many professing christians don't even know they have.

If God has opened your eyes and allowed you to 'SEE', you are blessed above measure.

Real eyes... Realize... Real Lies

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Fri, 01 Apr 2011 14:09:58 GMT
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APRIL FOOLS DAY ?

1 Cor10:4 We are fools for Christs sake.

_____

Dick

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 05 Apr 2011 17:05:34 GMT
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Anonymous quote:

"Sin will take you farther than you wanted to go,

keep you longer than you wanted to stay,

and cost you more than you wanted to pay."

SIN, when left unchecked (repented of/ turned from) will result in DEATH.

James 1:14-15 "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 20 Apr 2011 18:11:52 GMT
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What's your Idol?...

The Oxford American Dictionary defines idol as:

idol

1.image of a diety, ect.,as an object of worship.
2.the object of excessive or supreme adulation (movie idol).

also to 'idolize' means to venerate or love excessively, or to make an idol.

I believe scripture reveals to us that ANYTHING that comes between a man/woman and their relationship with God is an idol. I also believe that the number one idol in most peoples lives is themselves...SELF, that is why the message of The Cross Jesus taught is of utmost importance. We can't walk in obedience(which is walking in The Spirit) when our flesh is in charge, the flesh wars against the things of God and wants to reign supreme. Most freely and willingly yeild to the flesh, allowing it to rule their lives, seeking pleasure and instant gratification, concerned with themselves first and formost, mankind has broken the first commandment by placing themselves before obedience unto God. btw: If you don't think the flesh has at the least, strong influence in your/our ability to obey God's Word? Just determine to set aside a few days to seek God ALONE, time in FASTING, STUDY of His Word, INTERCESSION...this will reveal much as to where a person is in their walk with The Lord and just how dead their flesh really is.

Can Christians have idols? Can we be deceived into believing we're being obedient when we're

not? Can husband/wife/children/family members be idols in our lives? Can job/career/money stand between a person and their relationship with God? Can satisfying our flesh be idolatry? I Corinthians 10:7 "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." v.14 "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry."

"The dearest idol I have known,

What ever that idol may be;

Help me Lord, to tear it from Thy throne,

That I may worship only Thee."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 28 Apr 2011 14:46:32 GMT
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Testimony...Psalms 91...

V5 "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor the arrow that flieth by day;"

V6 "Nor the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor the DESTRUCTION that wasteth at noonday."

V7 "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; BUT it shall not come nigh thee."

Many people are dead(at least 340), many injured, and many more their lives destroyed by tornadoes this morning throughout the south. Here in Alabama at least 236 are confirmed dead, cities are wiped out, homes are gone, businesses destroyed, around 475,000 people are without electricity and some water systems are contaminated. It is the worst outbreak of tornadoes in 85 years(in Alabama alone there were over 60 confirmed tornadoes yesterday) and the second worse tornado death toll in recorded U.S. history. More people died yesterday here than in the last 10 years combined due to storms/tornadoes.

I don't WANT to witness 'a thousand fall at my side' nor do I want to see the 'destruction that wasteth at noonday'...I don't want to believe that all killed and injured and suffered loss of all their

earthly goods are wicked and receiving their reward. Surely there are Godly people who are taken in times of destruction. Are they trusting God? Do they believe His promises? I have no way of knowing, but I know I'm no more deserving of His mercy and protection than they. ANY and ALL of my rightousness is as filthy rags before our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

So while I don't have all the answers, I believe God is altogether righteous, sovereign, and justified in whatever He does or allows to happen to people. I DO offer Him praise and thanksgiving for ALL His ways are perfect and ALL His promises yea and amen.

I believe that Psalms 91 is a promise given to ANY believer who will believe it and apply it to daily life. I believe it is the ultimate 'ASSURANCE' policy, versus 'Insurance' policies offered by man that can't prevent ANYTHING from happening, only offer to pay monetary compensation AFTER the fact. Jesus promises to protect believers from evil things happening...V11 "For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in ALL thy ways."

I am gratiful for these great and precious promies(and the hundreds more throughout God's Word), and I don't want to EVER get to the place where I take ANYTHING from God for granted. So today, I give Him thanks and declare unto anyone who will listen...Have faith in God, trust Him, obey Him, and be quick to give Him thanks and praise.

There is no better place to be than in the secret place of The Most High and under the shadow of The Almighty...may we learn to DWELL there continually...Amen.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Thu, 28 Apr 2011 15:44:26 GMT
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Thanks James.

Many storms around my area as well, Kentuckiana. A lot of flooding. I too believed the promises again and again this week. I did say to Him, "I take nothing for granted" and kept claiming when I heard of another storm. He kept us safe and sound. Praise Him!!!

I don't rejoice in destruction either...like Japan. Who knows what is judgment and what is not? Only He knows for sure.

I would have never guessed that such a great man of God would perish by a car crash. Through his blog, He was ministering through him about his own death it looks like to me.

I agree...Dwell in Him constantly...you never know.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 06 May 2011 14:59:12 GMT
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What is TRUTH...and can it be bought?

Proverbs 23:23

"Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."

I think this is a good scripture to help understand what is meant by studying to show ourselves approved unto God, 'rightly' dividing The Word of TRUTH.(II Tim.2:15) The truth is the WHOLE Word of God as revealed by The Holy Spirit, and not just the written words themselves(the letter) but the life changing understanding of what the words mean.

We know that The Gospel is not for sale, that we can't purchase eternal life with filthy lucre, nor can we offer Him money to obtain spiritual understanding/wisdom/instruction...TRUTH. So what does it mean to 'buy' truth? Because the truth does have a cost, in fact it's cost is the one thing mankind holds most dear, ourselves. Our self life, our self will; it cost removing ourselves from the throne of our hearts and receiving Jesus as both Lord and Saviour, reigning upon that throne. The cost includes death to our flesh, the willing submission to the working of The Cross, daily.

In this day and age, people consider 'wise' counsel advise on financial matters(investments/retirement planning/money management), yet the counsel given by God here to 'buy' the truth (and sell it not) is disregarded by the majority of people.

Why is it that when Charles Schwab speaks, people listen...but when God speaks it's ignored?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Fri, 06 May 2011 17:15:34 GMT
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I think this is a good answer to your question:

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded , lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

II Tim 3:1-5

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Fri, 20 May 2011 11:30:23 GMT
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What a horrible question Jesus asked.

Jn 14:9 Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 21 May 2011 16:55:57 GMT
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After today many people (both professing Christians and unbelievers) are going be tempted to view Christianity as a delusion and possibly give up on any hope they had. They won't be the first people to have been deceived, nor will they be the last. My prayer today is that God's true sheep will repent, refocus on Jesus and learn from the experience. May we all learn to encourage one another rather than point fingers at another's folly. And for the unbelievers who will will use this as a proof to themselves that God isn't in control and watching, that the Rapture is just religious jargon...may His mercies be unto them fresh each day as they were unto many of us when we were yet still walking in the ignorance and vanity of our own minds.

"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." ~Phil. 1:6

"Rejoice in The Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." ~Phil.4:4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Sun, 22 May 2011 12:39:29 GMT
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[quote title=james wrote on Sat, 21 May we all learn to encourage one another rather than point fingers at another's folly.

/quote]
Guess Paul shouldnt have pointed his finger at the Galations for there (folly) foolishness Ga. 3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Sun, 22 May 2011 14:18:50 GMT
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Grandom,

You are always clearly either black or white! I love it!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 05 Jun 2011 11:40:48 GMT
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"But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It is necessary that The Word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

For so hath The Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified The Word of The Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."

Acts 13:45-48

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 03:00:08 GMT
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Something to ponder...

Just pondering and reflecting out loud...If there is a remnant of Christians who have been scattered, who have been 'in the desert for years', being separated from the religious system of man; hopefully being perfected into men and women who will have matured into vessels The Lord can use in the end-times/last days. Then if any of us think we're part of that group, OVERCOMERS, why don't we see and experience more body ministry on the forum? Doesn't The Holy Spirit reveal deeper truths and wisdom as we study His Word to show ourselves approved unto God? How can Christians daily be in God's Word and never have anything to share with others? I mean, if we can't minister by this medium where we're pretty much anonymous, it's hard to believe it's happening in one on one, face to face situations.

Here's what I read today, and I just wonder how or if it applies to 'us'. Actually I believe it does...apply to many of us.

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not strong meat.

For every one that useth milk is unskilful in The Word of Righteousness: for he is a babe.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on into perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith towards God.

Of the doctrine of baptisms, and the laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

And this will we do, if God permit." ~Hebrews 5:12-14 6:1-3

I'm not advocating fleshly works or idle chit-chat about the weather; I am exhorting fellow believers/disciples to seek The Lord and ask Him why He has you here on OO(regardless of whether you're only here as a reader, or vistor, or regular member), and if there is more He desires of you in the way of sharing and ministering to your fellow brothers and sisters.

I don't have all the answers, but this has been upon my heart since I was brought here over three years ago. And I know I've brought it up more than once, but I just can't help but share what is in my heart...if no one else sees this, or agrees, then maybe I'm missing God and need to seek Him for the direction He'd have me go. I want to be ready when He returns; I want Him to find faith in me; I want to have oil in my vessel and my lamp trimmed and burning; I want to hear "Well done"...as I'm sure every one who reads this does.

Love and blessing to all...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 05:03:42 GMT
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Don't apologize James, you raise some good points and I agree with you about the need to use what we've been given.

Our big problem is the singular fact that almost everything we've been taught takes for granted that we would be functioning in a body of believers. The Lord is coming back for His church. It is His church that is making herself ready. Eph 4:11f says that we are to be perfected by each of us--the members of His body--functioning as a whole unit. The same thing is found in 1Cor 12-14.

Of course there are 'individual' blessings that come with the message of faith, and I don't want to minimize that fact, but the truth of the matter is that we have too many problems with others to really function as a group of believers that are moving with one mind and purpose like a real human body working together with its various functions.

We don't know how to deal with error (a sore on the body) or immaturity (weakness in the body) without becoming indignantly irritated. Our method is to cut the whole thing off. We've cut, we've trimmed, and it has come to the point where we (or now is it just me?) say "I alone am left! and they (all of the rest) are seeking my life!" <grin>

Remember the old saying "divide and conquer?" We've been divided about as severely as the woman in Jdg 19:25-30.

Okay, I can't leave on that note so I'll say this--IT'S NOT TOO LATE! We are merely earthen vessels (which accounts for our miserable state) but we've been filled with the Holy Spirit of God with whom NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE! He is more than able to make us to stand upright as a man--a healthy body--and walk into the fulness of our redemption!

Blessings,

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 11:32:53 GMT
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There has been a lot of hate thrown at me lately from various directions. Other believers I have talked to are experiencing the same thing. The greater the jealousy and gossip, the greater the loser. It seems we are being fine tuned and lines are being drawn according to what and who we live for when loyalty or sacrifice is involved. Of course, it is always about them and victim mentality. "In the end, people will be lovers of selves and lovers of money."

Do I care what this world thinks? No. Do I care when blatant lies are spoken to try and tear down my restoration? No. Do I care when people are driving by and I find garbage, eggs, cig. butts, etc.? No. Do I care that I have lost almost my entire family due to Jesus? No. I keep my eyes on the prize. What wonderful testimonies they will have! My family did not like me when I was close to Jesus and went to FA. I backslid and we were all buddies again. Now, I am back with Jesus and you guessed it! The ones who need salvation hates the Jesus in me.

I think the more a person hates, the more they need to be loved. Yes, my flesh rises up at times. However, I am happy to say that it is getting easier because I realize they are the walking dead until they hear the Gospel and believe.

On warm summer days, my father and I would hold hands and walk all over our land. We found the best apples and pears to eat while walking through our orchard. We sat and watched butterflies as he told me what kind they were. He would talk about Jesus and how He loved us so much. We then started counting lightnin' bugs. The conversation always ended when he said, "Do the right thing, Doll, and remember Jesus."

Those were the last words I heard from him hours before his death. Daddy felt very well, considering the disease process he was experiencing. Jesus tried to prepare me for his death with a dream. In the dream, my father and I were walking around just like we did when I was a little girl. God said, "In two months, your Daddy will be with me." Exactly two months to the day one early morning, he went to be with Jesus.

Even though I miss my earthly father, I miss my Heavenly Father too. I want to hold His hand and walk through heavenly orchards while I talk His ear off! However, there is a call deep in my heart to be strong and endure to the end. I feel my heart leaving this world more and more. This world is

all I know, but in my heart, it is not home. I hear this voice from both of my Father's saying, "Do the right thing, Doll, and remember Jesus."

If you fall, get up and try it again. Run the race and don't look back. When I was in gymnastics, I had to get up over and over again. Athletes don't take no for an answer. They concentrate on what needs to be done and does it regardless of feelings. We are almost home so keep getting up!!!

Where ever you are finding yourself today I believe He has these words for us at this time:

Restoration; no condemnation.

I believe that we are in a calm before the storm. Demons are rising up within their victims. They are producing havic on this earth like never before. Storms, earthquakes, and natural disasters everywhere on the planet are raging. The creation is saying, "I have had enough" as it groans with birth pains.

Prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes day to day in the news and headlines. What an exciting time to know Jesus! He has us in the palm of His hand. Not one atom can touch us unless He says, "OK." How sad for those who don't know the Word so they, too, could watch things unfold that was propheside hundreds of years ago.

Wars, division, love has waxed cold as people are "doing their thing." People are hating, serving themselves, and not caring about hurting others. Their heads are haughty and the hearts are full of pride (or themselves.) People feel that they are entitled to do whatever they please. They are shoving their "rights" down our throats and they think they will get away with mocking God. The chips on their shoulders are so big they have to turn sideways to get through a door. What a very, very sad way to live. Thank you Jesus for my blessed life!

These are usually the same people who will save a whale or hug a tree and on the other side of their protest poster they support babies being sucked out limb by limb and thrown into a bucket of blood. I have listened to women dealing with the guilt fifty years later. These murderers will hold a full term baby's head in the canal so it will still be a "fetus." They then take instruments, cut a hole in the baby's neck and suck the brains out. The baby is then allowed to leave the canal because the "fetus will be dead at birth." People are worshiping their household cats and dogs more than caring about what is in the bucket across town, let alone fellow human beings.

They have no use for you unless you line up with their agendas. These are usually the people who can dish it out, but can't take it. I used to be really good at shoving it back. Now He won't allow me to do so. There are times I have to remind myself to handle things His way. I am learning that the worse thing I could do to them is to forgive and had them over to Him. What a fearful thing!

I could go on and on, but you all already know all of this. My main points are this:

1. Do not get weary in well doing. Be sure you are preaning yourselves to get out of the gate at full speed when it all hits the fan.

2. THERE IS WAR IN THE HEAVENS!!! Review Rev. 12 and 13. Time is short and Satan is pulling out all of the stops.

We have great news! We know how it all ends! It ain't over 'til it's over. I am kicking at my gate and I can't wait to charge! Satan...be afraid... Be very, very afraid!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 11:56:33 GMT
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Preach it Sister!!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 18:52:15 GMT
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moulder wrote on Wed, 08 June 2011 00:03

Our big problem is the singular fact that almost everything we've been taught takes for granted that we would be functioning in a body of believers. The Lord is coming back for His church. It is His church that is making herself ready. Eph 4:11f says that we are to be perfected by each of us--the members of His body--functioning as a whole unit. The same thing is found in 1Cor 12-14

You are absolutely correct William. I dont believe we were scattered all over the country and the world for that matter to function as a body on the forum.

To me that kind of smacks of the old universal mystical church of believers concept. No one is accountable to anyone, we have no contact eyeball to eyeball. No one knows what is going on in each others lives so how can there be body ministry?It`s quite plain that the Holy Spirit functions in such a body.

I do believe the body is to be local and functioning in a local assembly of believers. In Pauls letters

he addresses the Chuches of a community which indicates there was not one big church but little bodies comprised of a few believers.

In view of the fact that none of us (or most)of us dont belong to a local body,then I highly doubt that the Holy Spirit is going to especially bless us in that capacity.If we are not going to obey the way the word has laid out the ecclesia then why should he bless our disobedience?

Is that to say we cant share from time to time, absolutely not but the functioning of the body is to the true local body.

That is my "Cranky" opinion.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 19:22:56 GMT
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Your opinions are not "cranky" Grandom. You are just blunt and to the point.

I agree with everything you said if I understand you correctly. However, it was prophesied that FA would be disbursed. That was the reason for the Charasmatic School. Dr. Freeman knew that his purpose was teaching himself out of a job.

I have a small group of believers who I meet with once a week. It does not always function as it should, or like what we were used to at FA. It is always good to be with believers.

My question is this. What do we do now? Do we all believe for small bodies to be raised up in our different areas? Have we fallen short of reaching out and that is the reason for the lack of official bodies of believers. Where is the disobedience on everyone's part? I think the answer is very important for the times we are in right now.

Before moving to FA, I was a part of a small house meeting with about twelve believers. Those were some of the best times of my life.

I know you like to be short and sweet. What do you beleive is the answer to your response?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 19:35:11 GMT
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To me Heb:10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching is What I believe Dr Freeman envisioned happening when he taught us as he did.

This coincides with all the teachings on the body. How can we function if we dont meet.

Thanks to WIlliam I am still absorbing the book "Pagan Christianity". To see how far all Christians have departed from the new testament church it has been most enlightening.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 19:39:06 GMT
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Grandom wrote:

"How can we function if we dont meet."

I agree and I miss worshiping and gathering together.

So, what is the answer? I am guessing for all of us to believe for NT bodies to be raised up?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 20:07:03 GMT
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GWB wrote on Wed, 08 June 2011 14:39
So, what is the answer? I am guessing for all of us to believe for NT bodies to be raised up?

I dont presume to have the answer for you GWB.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father. How did Jesus know the will of His Father. He communed with Him and did only what the Father told Him.

Jas 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. I dont want to just throw out these scriptures for a trite answer but I can only go by what the word says. My conclusion as I have said previously is that I personally have not fullfilled in a body what God has called me to be as a believer for body ministry.

Sorry I cant help beyond that.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 20:12:20 GMT
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Quote:You are absolutely correct William. I dont believe we were scattered all over the country and the world for that matter to function as a body on the forum.

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True, but I don't think anyone is suggesting that we are a 'church' here. We are a fellowship of believers with a common body of experience though. And we ought to be motivated to minister in the sphere of influence that we've been given.

The Holy Spirit is not limited to 'eyeball to eyeball' contact. There is abundant ministry that takes place online, much more than most of us can imagine.

True, it isn't the local body of Christ functioning in the local setting, complete with a group of elders or pastor, but it is Brother James, with his gift of exhortation, and Gillyann with her special gifts, you with yours, and others that have been gifted with various gifts of the Spirit. To say that these gifts are only effective in a local setting would be taking it a bit far, imo. I personally have been edified by each one of you.

I still believe that this isn't what we have been preparing for all of our lives. It falls way short of what we thought the Lord would be doing in and through us but it is an exercise of the individual gifts that the Lord has given to us and while that may be 'a small beginning', it is a start!

In some sort of ironic way, when we had a body of believers that were in hot pursuit of Jesus

Christ, we beat each other up over things that really were small issues (I know that there were some that never did this--I'm making a general observation here!) that could have resulted in edification of the whole body if it were handled differently and now that we don't have a 'body' we still act as standoffish as we did when we had each other.

I'm just saying...

Instead of treating each other as little bits of leaven (that may at any time leaven the whole lump) why don't we treat each other as members of Jesus' Body?

I know for a fact that all of you regulars are TRUE followers of Jesus Christ. You are seeking the same thing I'm seeking--God's Kingdom on this earth. With those facts we ought to be able to give ourselves fully to one another without fear of 'saying something wrong' or 'being misunderstood', etc., and if we do say something or we are misunderstood, then we ought to never fear that our love for each other is going to be withdrawn or with held. We have bible examples that speak to this. We shall be known for our love, one toward another.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 20:17:20 GMT
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grandom wrote on Wed, 08 June 2011 14:35To me Heb:10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching is What I believe Dr Freeman envisioned happening when he taught us as he did.

This coincides with all the teachings on the body. How can we function if we dont meet.

Thanks to WIlliam I am still absorbing the book "Pagan Christianity". To see how far all Christians have departed from the new testament church it has been most enlightening.

I just finished it. I'll let you do the book report though! <grin>

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by grandom on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 20:50:50 GMT
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moulder wrote on Wed, 08 June 2011 15:17
[/quote

I just finished it. I'll let you do the book report though! <grin>

Blessings,
William

Thanks Brother. Your all Heart....

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 08 Jun 2011 21:10:35 GMT
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[quote title=moulder wrote on Wed, 08 June 2011 15:12]Quote:

True, but I don't think anyone is suggesting that we are a 'church' here. We are a fellowship of believers with a common body of experience though. And we ought to be motivated to minister in the sphere of influence that we've been given.

Right, William, I wasn't suggesting that we were an 'online church'. And if The Holy Spirit dwells within us(and I do know that He is in me) I KNOW He can and does use this medium, of this I am sure.

The Holy Spirit is not limited to 'eyeball to eyeball' contact. There is abundant ministry that takes place online, much more than most of us can imagine.

True, it isn't the local body of Christ functioning in the local setting, complete with a group of elders or pastor, but it is Brother James, with his gift of exhortation, and Gillyann with her special gifts, you with yours, and others that have been gifted with various gifts of the Spirit. To say that these gifts are only effective in a local setting would be taking it a bit far, imo. I personally have been edified by each one of you.

This is the point I'm trying to make.

I still believe that this isn't what we have been preparing for all of our lives. It falls way short of what we thought the Lord would be doing in and through us but it is an exercise of the individual gifts that the Lord has given to us and while that may be 'a small beginning', it is a start!

Well I do believe He has been preparing us for ministry (how else are we going to be used, experience has to start somewhere)

In some sort of ironic way, when we had a body of believers that were in hot pursuit of Jesus Christ, we beat each other up over things that really were small issues (I know that there were some that never did this--I'm making a general observation here!) that could have resulted in edification of the whole body if it were handled differently and now that we don't have a 'body' we still act as standoffish as we did when we had each other.

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I used to allow what others thought or said to cause me to withold what God had given me to share, but I've learned, by His Grace, if I am seeking to edify, encourage, exhort, with the right motive, then the criticism is taken as a grain of salt. Though I do remember Bro. Freeman once saying that when he was criticized he would ask himself if there was any truth to it and learn from it.(paraphrasing)

I also know for certain that this forum has been used by The Lord in touching lives...mine is one, and there are others. I am not going to dictate to God how to use me nor limit the way He choses...Good confession, now to walk it out...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 15 Jun 2011 21:14:09 GMT
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Priorities...

So as times become tougher and tougher and people spend more and more time and energy seeking to make ends meet, what are Christians doing? Looking for a second job? Seeking financial advice on investments to hedge against inflation? Refinancing? Borrowing and charging? Caught up in the proverbial rat race ?

OR, are we investing in spiritual riches, the free life giving rivers of living water; storing up riches in heaven, keeping our focus on things above, remembering we're just passing through this world? If we're obedient unto God, totally trusting Him and have embraced His Word as sufficient for all our needs, then inflation (which will get worse and worse), collapsed economies (which is also going to get much worse), global turmoil, and natural disasters like never seen before...will not harm us. Yet our God is, and will continue to be our refuge in time of trouble, our hightower and dwelling place. (This is not saying that we are exempt from any hardships, we will experience times of testing and trials, America's days of spoiled over-indulgence are fast coming to an end, but God will be there for us according to our faith...and His mercy)

"HO, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto Me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness." Isaiah 55:1-2

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or,
What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?"

"But seek ye first The Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and ALL these things shall be added unto you.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Suffucient unto the day is the evil thereof."
Matthew 6:19-21 and 31&33,34

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 23 Jun 2011 12:01:56 GMT
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More on priorities...

The Lord has been reminding me about my priorities in life, last week I posted the above on what I felt like He was showing me. This morning in my scripture reading He lead me to Ecclesiastes chapter 7 and verse 12, which brought further understanding of what He has been revealing. I'll copy the verse here and then comment...

"For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it." ~ Ecc.7:12

So what's important in our lives? Money? We do need it, and it IS a 'defense' against many things, like poverty. In the natural, a man in the world with money has a better chance at life than one without money.(can't say everything at one time, of course we know money can't buy peace, health, love, or salvation...)

But, EXCELLENCY of knowledge tells us that, WISDOM gives life...to them that have it. So I looked up the word 'defence' in the Hebrew, and it means shade, or shadow. Wisdom, as well as money, will 'shade' us, or cast a 'shadow' over us as a protection against what life brings our way. And we know that God is that protection/shield/shade/shadow, and that 'this' wisdom comes from Him, in whom we have LIFE. Some scriptures that shows God as our shade/shadow...

"The LORD is thy keeper: The LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand." [why? to be our defence

against...] "The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night." Ps.121:5-6 btw: when I was in construction work back in the 80's, I claimed this scripture daily while working outdoors. Other scriptures that depict God as our shadow/defence...Ps.17:8, Ps.36:7, Ps.57:1, Ps.91:1

It's not that we're not to have any money; it is useful when used according to Godly principles, but it doesn't give life nor point us to Jesus, as does wisdom from God. The knowledge of God with the wisdom He alone can give, IS INDEED A DEFENCE against...ANYTHING.

It's good to have money when one needs it, but it's only temporal for this life...seek wisdom of God, which gives eternal life.

Priorities...need adjusting when not in the right order.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God..."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 10 Jul 2011 15:00:40 GMT
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Contending or Contentious...

Contend: strive; fight. compete. assert; maintain. (Oxford American Dictionary)

Contentious: quarrelsome. likely to cause an argument. (Oxford American Dictionary)

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." ~Jude 3

"But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath." ~Romans 2:8

Two words that sound similar, but have very different meaning when found in scripture. We're exhorted to CONTEND for the faith; but to not be CONTENTIOUS. I see sometimes when reading internet Christian forums, earnest brethren contending for the faith and gospel of Jesus Christ, instructing with patience and wisdom the truths of God's Word, learning from each other and sharing. Yet, far too often I see contentious people who seem like the only goal they have is to

argue and cause division, just waiting for the opportunity to start controversy and disrupt what is being shared.

Thankfully, we don't have that problem very often here on Overcomers Online, but I thought as I read Romans chapter two this morning, it would be good to be reminded just what happens to the contentious...

V9 "Tribulation and anguish, upon evry soul of man that doeth evil..."

...and a reminder to those who earnestly contend for the faith through patience and well doing...

V10 "But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good..."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 21 Jul 2011 19:01:07 GMT
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Perfected Praise...

When Jesus was entering Jerusalem riding on the ass, the multitude of people were shouting praises to Him, saying, "Hosanna to The Son of David, Blessed is He that cometh in The Name of The LORD, and Hosanna in the highest." Then after Jesus drove out the moneychangers and those who were merchandising in the temple, and healed those that were blind and lame; even the children were giving Him praise, saying, "Hosanna to The Son of David."

This upset the chief priests and scribes[church clergy, leadership, and worship team... in today's church system]

"...and Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings Thou hast perfected praise? " Matthew 21:16

Where is the perfected praise today? God isn't looking for 'praise/worship teams' to entertain the body of Christ; young children just simply worshiping and praising Jesus with all their hearts was exactly what God desired, it was more beautiful to His ears than any orchestrated arrangment ever performed by unanointed men.

What happened to The Body just spending time giving HIM praise and shouts of joy...for the wonderful things He has done.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 26 Jul 2011 16:48:56 GMT
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Conditions for Peace...

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace , whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.

Trust ye in The Lord for ever: for in The Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:"

Isaiah 26:3-4

Many Christians, when atacked or confronted with the temptation to be anxious or fearful, often quote scriptures like the ones above or maybe II Timothy 1:7 (I have, many times). But how often are we reminded that there are conditions that must be met in order for God to honor His Word to us? When our minds are stayed upon Him (walking in The Spirit and by faith) THEN, we will experience His true peace, power, love, and soundness of mind.

God's Word is true whether our experiences always line up with it or not, but Praise Jesus, I have experienced His perfect peace in the midst of anxious, fearful, mental attacks where in and of myself I had no peace or hope thereof; not because I roboticly parroted His Word as my escape, but because I obeyed His Word and drew near unto Him and stayed there, trusting Him alone as my everlasting strength.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Wed, 27 Jul 2011 01:01:59 GMT
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Thanks James!

Yep, I know when He wants me to do something and I put it off or justify it, or flat just don't do it.

Of course, I know nobody else ever does that....

When I line up with what I know He wants me to do in my heart, I get immediate peace and I feel so much better.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 02 Aug 2011 17:14:40 GMT
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Glorify Thy Name...

"Father, glorify Thy name..." John 12:28a

God is going to be glorified, He WILL receive glory, Jesus glorified Him when He walked the earth; the heavens and earth declare the glory of God; there's a song by the above title, 'Glorify Thy Name'.

But we're instructed to 'glorify' God by our lives and actions, How? "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." John 15:8 Also by what we say, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth; that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ..." I Peter 4:11

We glorify God with our testimony, when we share of His mighty deeds. "Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the Most High: And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me." Ps.50:14-15

Saints of God, there's no time like the present, offer Him praise and worship NOW, give Him glory, glorify His Name throughout all the earth...Hallelujah LORD GOD Most High, we glorify Your Name, You, and You alone are worthy O LORD.

"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God." Ps. 50:23

Thank You Father, may our actions and even the meditations of our hearts bring glory unto Your Holy Name...amen

---

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 04 Aug 2011 15:18:37 GMT
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Amazing Grace...

This came to my mind last night, I don't know if I read it somewhere in the past or if it's a famous quote by someone else

or given me by The Lord, but it blessed and humbled me...

"I'm not who I was, before He made me who I am"

God's grace is so amazing...

"I once was lost

But now am found

Was blind, but now I see"

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by JWBTI on Fri, 05 Aug 2011 00:41:02 GMT
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Yes brother James !

Amazing Grace !!!!!!

I was driving around this morning singing that song and pondering the words.....

He saved a wrench like me.....?

I don't know why, but I am soooooo Thankful He did !

Thank you Jesus !!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I am so thankful for all the Brothers & Sister on OO.

Blessings to all !

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 13 Aug 2011 18:06:11 GMT
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Conditions for Peace ...BELIEVE THE WORD of GOD.

All the teaching, explaining, warnings, and prophecies Jesus gave, first to His disciples, and now to us; He gave that we might, through FAITH, have confidence in Him to fulfill His Word.(and that gives us PEACE)

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. " John 16:33

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil.4:6-7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by JWBTI on Sat, 13 Aug 2011 19:08:55 GMT
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Peace For Abraham and us by His Word!

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory

to God;
21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.
22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.
23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;
24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;
25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.
Romans 4:20-25 (KJV)

And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

That Is Peace !

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 13 Aug 2011 19:31:52 GMT
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JWBTI wrote on Sat, 13 August 2011 14:08
And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

That Is Peace !

Amen, yes it certainly is !

May we all be FULLY PERSUADED.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 16 Aug 2011 21:01:18 GMT
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james wrote on Thu, 04 August 2011 10:18Amazing Grace...

This came to my mind last night, I don't know if I read it somewhere in the past or if it's a famous quote by someone else

or given me by The Lord, but it blessed and humbled me...

"I'm not who I was, before He made me who I am"

God's Grace is so amazing...

"I once was lost

But now am found

Was blind, but now I see"

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17

I am continually awed by The Grace of God, as I ponder the wonder of His LOVE for me I can't help but wonder...'where would i be'...if not for Grace.

Here are the lyrics to a song written and performed by the pastor of FaithWorld in Orlando, FL. I love his voice and he has written some awesome songs of praise and worship. I don't endorse his teaching or agree with his lifestyle, but when he sings while playing a Grand piano, the music touches my heart.

To listen to the following song about God's Grace on YouTube just Google... Clint Brown, Where would I be

Where Would I Be

Where would i be

You only know

I'm glad You see

through eyes of love

A hopeless case,

an empty place

If not for Grace

Amazing Grace how sweet the sound

I once was lost but now I'm found

A hopeless case, an empty place

If not for Grace

Precious Lord please take my hand

Lead me on let me stand

A hopeless case, an empty place

If not for Grace

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 24 Aug 2011 11:15:17 GMT
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Why me LORD?...

I find myself quite often in situations where I see people who profess Jesus as Lord and Saviour who seem so disinterested in the things of God. They don't even seem to care about talking about Jesus, but they will talk about their 'church' and all the social programs adnauseam. I was reading in Luke chapter 7 about the 'woman, which was a sinner'(verse37) and how she wept and washed Jesus' feet with those very tears, and dried His feet with the hair of her head and kissed His feet, and anointed His feet with an ointment. The answer Jesus gave the Pharisee who complained reveals SO much about people.

"Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven: for she loveth much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. "

Jesus forgave her sins and sent her on her way in peace...Think upon that! A clean slate, a fresh start, The Messiah received her worship and tears, He changed her life...forever!

I pray I never forget who I was and where I was headed and what He did for me (far too much to name, but most important He saved me) ; I may not know WHY (why me as opposed to someone I grew up with or family members), other than His great Love wherein He saved me, but I can and will show my appreciation by being ready, willing, and desirous to speak of His goodness and grace to all that will listen.

Kris Kristofferson wrote and sang a song called, "Why Me Lord?" it speaks of one who has come to see themself as lost and undone without Jesus and wonders 'why'. (I pray Kris has experienced this great grace given by The Lord unto salvation)

"Why Me Lord"

Why me Lord?

What have I ever done,

to deserve even one,

of the pleasures I've know,

Tell me Lord,

What did I ever do,

that was worth loving you,

for the kindness you've shown.

Lord help me Jesus

I've wasted it so help me Jesus

I know what I am,

but now that I know,

that I needed you so help me Jesus,

my souls in your hands.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 01 Sep 2011 23:31:40 GMT
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Ever missed the mark? Sinned?...Encouragement from Micah...

"...do not my Words do good to him that walketh uprightly?" Micah 2:7c

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth The LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy GOD?" Micah 6:8

"Therefore I will look unto The LORD; I will wait for The God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, The LORD shall be a light unto me.

I will bear the indignation of The LORD, because I have sinned against Him, until He plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: He will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold His righteousness." Micah 7:7-9

"Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger for ever, because He delighteth in MERCY." Micah 7:18

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 06 Sep 2011 18:15:20 GMT
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A Day of Decision...

As I was thinking about 'The Mark of The Beast' and how it will play out in the future, I was wondering if it'll be a gradual thing where people are lulled into it without really knowing it or if it will be a clear and concise decision one must make. I believe it will be a choice that is clear to understand, though very few will chose to refuse it. This got me to thinking about the courage it takes for a person to stand up to the government, peer pressure, and traditional values and to examine my own heart. As I continued thinking along these lines I was reminded of a couple of times in my life where I had to make a decision that would shape and influence the rest of my life. Of course, first and foremost is the day I asked Jesus to grant me repentance, give me a new heart, forgive my sins, and become my Lord and Saviour.(June 1,1978)

Another important day in my life was July 1,1970; the day the United States of America assigned me number 59 for the military draft for Vietnam. This number determined the order men born in 1951 were to report for induction into the military.(#59 placed me in the first call-up group, there were 94,092 young 18-26 yr. old men inducted into the armed forces from that group)...I wasn't one of them.

I was suddenly faced with a huge decision, follow my conscience and go against everything my family and friends stood for and believed in(my dad and 3 uncles served in WWII, and I had 2 cousins already in Vietnam)or go participate in a war that, though I wasn't yet a Christian, I knew was against the teachings of Jesus.(not to mention both cousins who were already in Vietman had written me telling me it was a no win war and I should go to Canada if drafted)

I went to my local draft board and applied for I-O status(Conscientious Objector), with NO support from ANYONE, including my imediate family. The draft board refused my request and allowed me to appeal their decision to the State of Alabama Draft Board in Montgomery, Al. I was questioned repeatedly for quite some time by a bunch of veterans from WWI & WWII (me just a 19 yr.old kid, too afraid to show fear, yet inside very afraid) During the time between being turned down by the local board and the appeals date, I had mapped out a route to Canada (estimates say that there were about 70,000 draft evaders living in Canada by 1972) and was prepared to leave my country, family, and friends without a single clue as to what I would do once I arrived. But to my surprise I was granted I-O.

A few statistics I looked up on Vietman...58,272 Americans were killed in action in Vietnam, 303,644 were wounded, and 1,687 are still MIA. President Johnson said this to his Defense Secretary in 1965 after starting the "Rolling Thunder" bombing campaign, "I don't think anything is going to be as bad as losing, and I don't see any way of winning." Yet, the war continued for 10 more years...

There are people today who still look down upon me for that decision I made 41 years ago, I was challenged to fight over it, called a communist hippie, told I should leave America, and cursed out. Patriotism is a blinding spirit, and the vast majority of professing christians in this nation think that patriotism and christianity are one and the same. As I remember back how so many of my

generation blindly accepted what the government, news media, the general public, and family said and thought...and proudly stepped forward to go serve a cause they thought to be just and godly(those that were mature enough to even think things through). Yet when they returned, if they returned, our nation got a whole generation of men who have spent the rest of their lives (a huge number of them) fighting depression, flashbacks, drug addiction, and guilt; still with questions as to why our leaders sent them into a no win situation and for what?

So anyway, back to the mark of the beast, it won't be an easy decision to make when the mark will be the only way to buy and sell, and survival has become the only thing of real importance, and everyone else is getting it,The Mark.(Rev.13:16-18)

I think that day will also be a very important day of decision...with eternal consequence.

I believe The Holy Spirit is admonishing/reminding/encouraging us to prepare now, while there's still time...We'll only stand by faith, anything counterfeit will be exposed, if you question whether or not your faith is genuine, pray for The Lord to show you now, while there's still time to repent and get it settled in your heart.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by wishing34 on Tue, 06 Sep 2011 19:07:12 GMT
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James I appreciate what you shared reference to Vietnam.
legit choice in my opinion.

I was a few years behind you - graduated high school in '72.

I received a high draft lottery number.

Had I received a low number I was going to enlist in the
navy or air force to avoid the jungles.

==========

w/r the mark of the beast I always thought it would
include worshipping the antichrist so it would be
very obvious that it was denying Jesus - not subtle at all

Rev 14:9-11

To me an interesting side question is how many among us would not
accept a computer chip under the skin or a computer type tatoo (invisible)
in order to buy/sell? Maybe in near future if the economy flops badly enough??

assume that there are no spiritual aspects to it - just a bank
debit card automated into a chip or tatoo

Myself I would have no problem with it since there is no antichrist,
false prophet, nor tribulation period yet - so it is not Rev 14 yet

jman

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 06 Sep 2011 19:55:42 GMT
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wishing34 wrote on Tue, 06 September 2011 14:07

To me an interesting side question is how many among us would not
accept a computer chip under the skin or a computer type tatoo (invisible)
in order to buy/sell? Maybe in near future if the economy flops badly enough??

assume that there are no spiritual aspects to it - just a bank
debit card automated into a chip or tatoo

Myself I would have no problem with it since there is no antichrist,
false prophet, nor tribulation period yet - so it is not Rev 14 yet

jman

I don't know 'how many among us ' would accept a computer chip under our skin or a invisible tatoo in order to buy/sell,

but I do know that I won't.

To make the assumption that there would be no spiritual ramifications just because the Antichrist

and false prophet hasn't been exposed yet seems foolish, in my opinion. Not with the clear warning set forth in Revelation about 'the mark ' that is described so much like what you're speaking of, no way!

Also as an additional thought, 'could' it be that part of worshiping the beast and his image is to 'buy into' his deception? e.g. The solution to our collasped monetary system is the quick and easily swiped computer chip or tatoo, Wow! pure genius.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by wishing34 on Tue, 06 Sep 2011 23:49:03 GMT
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Quote:To make the assumption that there would be no spiritual ramifications just because

the Antichrist and false prophet hasn't been exposed yet seems foolish, in my opinion. Not

with the clear warning set forth in Revelation about 'the mark ' that is described so much

like what you're speaking of, no way!

Hi,
thanks for responding.

James, your response is why I thought it might be interesting.

Does not your response indicate a person could be lost for all
eternity for an innocent act? a deed, a work

Do you think it possible that Christians who
innocently take a bank tatoo on their arm - with no awareness of
any spiritual meaning - could be lost for eternity? - if later on
that tatoo is used by the antichrist monitary system?

That their salvation faith, covenant relationship is negated by an
action, a work (taking a bank tatoo) ?

The believer's security in Christ is much stronger than that.

It would be different if a person renounces Christ and worships the beast.

==========

I would go even further:

Say hypothetically in the trib a Christian is konked on the head
and the false prophet and antichrist personally give him the mark of the beast while he is unconscious.

So he has the real mark of the beast.

He also still has his salvation faith and covenant relationship
with God. - because he did not renounce Christ nor worship the beast.

So which prevails?

His covenant relationship in Christ (ie he is still saved)
or the mark on his arm (a deed, a work).

I say he is still saved because he is still in covenant with God.

The meaty issue here is can salvation be lost by works.

In anticipation . . .

Works are only an indicator of a man's heart.

Hence in I john 1
no one who is born again 'practices' (Greek - repeated or ongoing action) sin
because their born again heart will not allow them to practice sin

works do not earn nor destroy righteous standing before
God - only the imputed righteousness of Jesus matters.

---

a person in the covenant of His blood is the righteousness of God
in God's sight.
<< even if he misses it and sins. But if he has a lifestyle of practicing
sin then that indicates he does not have a born again heart >>>

a person outside the covenant could do any good work - even give body to be burned -
and it profits him absolutely nothing as far as having right standing before God

Jman

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 07 Sep 2011 00:13:19 GMT
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On Tue, 6 Sep 2011, James wrote:

>
> I don't know 'how many among us ' would accept a computer chip under our skin or a invisible tatoo in order to buy/sell,
>
> but I do know that I won't.
>
> To make the assumption that there would be no spiritual ramifications just because the Antichrist and false prophet hasn't been exposed yet seems foolish, in my opinion. Not with the

clear warning set forth in Revelation about 'the mark ' that is described so much like what you're speaking of, no way!
>
>

<grin>

My mind agrees with jman but in practice I think I'd be with James!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Wed, 07 Sep 2011 00:55:18 GMT
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Oh no!!!!

I just had a chip put into my new Yorkie!.

However, I must admit, it did give me the creeps!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 07 Sep 2011 01:03:28 GMT
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Interesting thoughts there Jman but have you taken it to another level?

What about applying what you've just set forth to the other thread on divine healing?

Can one safely rely on God to feed and provide without taking 'the mark'? I don't think there will be a special anointing during tribulation that will be an affirmation that He will provide. Or should such a person just go ahead and refuse to take the mark at the risk of allowing his family to starve to death or worse be martyred.

Not at all trying to be contentious mind you but I'm genuinely interested in seeing how these two positions can co-exist in your thinking.

None of us have a guarantee that we will avert disaster by yielding to the arm of the flesh but we do know that there is ample evidence (you admitted as much in the other thread) that God says

that He is both the healer and deliverer of those who put their trust in Him. Crazy as it may seem, I would rather trust in His Words even if it means that the consequences don't look favorable in the present-natural-realm.

The message that Jesus constantly drummed into His disciples--the message of total trust in God--seems designed to highlight the fact that He is worthy of our trust and confidence.

Is it possible that God has designed all of our trials to be a continuation of the message that Jesus presents in the Gospel?

Maybe He wants us to look at the two alternatives --trusting God or trusting man --and decide who we are going to follow --especially given the fact that this very test is front and center for those unlucky (<grin>) enough to be found in the middle of tribulation.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 07 Sep 2011 01:34:20 GMT
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Quote:a person in the covenant of His blood is the righteousness of God
in God's sight.
<< even if he misses it and sins. But if he has a lifestyle of practicing
sin then that indicates he does not have a born again heart >>>

a person outside the covenant could do any good work - even give body to be burned -
and it profits him absolutely nothing as far as having right standing before God...

Taking the mark is a work... it's just one sin... it may be built on a lifetime of trusting in man's wisdom but the consequences are eternal.

This of course would be an easy argument for those who don't believe that there will be any Christians in tribulation (i.e. all of the covenant people will have already taken flight!) but for someone who believes that this is a real choice that will be faced by real Christians it is a toughie.

Jesus had choices during His time of temptations/trials and unless we believe those temptations were not really real then we must conclude that we too will face choices that will not be accompanied by the goose bumps of an anointing. It is in those times we learn whether or not we

really do believe God or we find out that our 'faith' is not really faith at all.

If our faith is dependent upon some other kind of evidence (i.e. the anointing, the fact that others are getting healed, etc.) then it isn't true faith. Now is the best time to find that out though... while there is still time to 'do' something about it!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 07 Sep 2011 01:56:00 GMT
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moulder wrote on Tue, 06 September 2011 20:34
This of course would be an easy argument for those who don't believe that there will be any Christians in tribulation (i.e. all of the covenant people will have already taken flight!) but for someone who believes that this is a real choice that will be faced by real Christians it is a toughie.

Yes there are many who believe all Christians will be gone during the times of tribulation, and there are many more who believe the church is going through tribulations. I know some very sincere Christians who are preparing for the tribulations through storing up of goods and becoming self-sufficient, others in the harlot church system are in lala land thinking they will be caught up in the rapture. There will be bookoos of Christians who go through the tribulation period as well as those who are saved during that time.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 07 Sep 2011 01:58:43 GMT
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Quote:I would go even further:

Say hypothetically in the trib a Christian is konked on the head
and the false prophet and antichrist personally give him the mark of the
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His covenant relationship in Christ (ie he is still saved)
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I say he is still saved because he is still in covenant with God.

The meaty issue here is can salvation be lost by works.

The point is valid, and I've always argued that a person must make a conscience decision to take the mark but do you not think that there will be situations where people will choose the mark in order to be able to 'buy and sell' while telling themselves that they have no intentions of worshiping the beast? I do, and I believe the end result will be the same as if they had gotten down on their knees and sworn allegiance to the beast.

In other words they are being tested on whether or not they will choose to trust God for their material needs (healing of their bodies included) or whether they will take the easy way out.

Which, by the way, is exactly what was taught 30 years or so ago.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 07 Sep 2011 02:06:38 GMT
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Quote:Yes there are many who believe all Christians will be gone during the times of tribulation, and there are many more who believe the church is going through tribulations. I know some very sincere Christians who are preparing for the tribulations through storing up of goods and becoming self-sufficient, others in the harlot church system are in lala land thinking they will be caught up in the rapture. There will be bookoos of Christians who go through the tribulation period as well as those who are saved during that time.

Right James... I had forgotten about the other group --the ones who think that we all will go through the great tribulation-- that group will no doubt be telling us that we should be working overtime to stock those pantry shelves and leave the development of our faith to a more

convenient time!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 07 Sep 2011 02:20:24 GMT
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My heart goes out to 'that' group (post-trib), many of them that I observe (especially reading their thoughts on their forum) have a deep love for the things of God, truth and holiness, yet show little understanding about walking by faith. Maybe they'll have time to grow in faith and receive some of the truths they reject...walking in total trust in God, divine healing, nonresistance, the rapture of the overcomers, ect. I just pray they receive it before too late, for then they will indeed go through the times of great tribulation, and without faith already present it'll be very hard for them to stand.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 13 Sep 2011 15:56:08 GMT
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Where IS the Good Way?

I don't know much within myself, my only confidence and assurance comes from God and His Word. I know that sounds so pious and humble, but the longer I live I see just how stupid the wisdom of man is. It is SO easy to allow logic and reasoning to influence what Christians 'believe', there IS an easier path that doesn't require faith and it's easily identified, it's the one almost everyone is on. But is it the right way? What does it cost to travel on this pathway?

In Jeremiah 6:16 GOD spoke these words; "Thus saith The LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and WALK therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...But they said, We will not walk therein."

In chapter 17 and verses 14 Jeremiah says; "Heal me O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for Thou art my praise." And in verses 19&20 he says: "Thus said The LORD unto me; Go, and stand in the gate of the children of the people, whereby the kings of Judah

come in, and by the which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem; And say unto them, Hear ye the Word of The LORD, ye kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, that enter in by thesae gates:" Jeremiah 17:14,19&20

IF, one finds themself on the wrong path(remember, broad is the way that leadeth to destruction...and many are on it...Matt.7:13-14 but the 'good' strait gate/way/path is narrow and has a cost to travel on...but it leads to LIFE.) repent, turn back to your/my/ours first LOVE, Jesus Christ...with ALL your heart. He will forgive, restore, and receive you unto Himself, just settle it once and for all that He is who He said He is, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him.

I'm not Jeremiah (I couldn't even truely identify with the burden he carried for God's people, much less have a testimony of the life he lived), yet God's Word remains the same, yesterday, today, and for ever and we ARE in the last days/end-times and Satan is in full attack against the remnant(he has the majority of Christendom right where he wants them, caught up in religion and traditions of man); the only promise of security and entering into HIS rest is for those who OVERCOME ; overcoming requires obedience and faith...

The old paths, the good way...may we remember and seek, get on, and STAY on, that strait and narrow way is my hearts cry.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 16 Sep 2011 17:40:44 GMT
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The Calling, Anointing, Commissioning, and Validation of a TRUE Prophet...

Ezekiel

"And HE said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee." ...Called...

"And The Spirit entered into me when He spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard Him that spake unto me."...Anointed...

"And He said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day."...Commissioned...

"For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith The LORD GOD."

"And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know there hath been a prophet among them." ...Validated...

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 21 Sep 2011 12:37:43 GMT
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The Fear of The LORD...do we really have it?

"The fear of The LORD IS the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7

"The fear of The LORD IS the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of The Holy IS understanding." Proverbs 9:10

"Serve The LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling." Psalms 2:11

"Fear ye not Me? saith The LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?" Jeremiah 5:22

"There is no fear of GOD before their eyes." Romans 3:18

"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve GOD acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our GOD is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:28-29

Modern day Christians have lost (if they ever had it) their fear of The LORD; they've been taught Jesus is our 'buddy', our best friend, some today regard Him as their 'lover'(feel as though I should go wash my hands). He is there for us when we 'need' Him (kind of like a 'get out of jail free card'), His teachings and commandments are optional (after all, cultures and societies change and that

that applied in the OT is under the Blood and what the NT says is subject to personal interpretation).

Even amongest ourselves, can we honestly say we have a Godly fear (that means a healthy, non-tormented, peace in our hearts yet knowing who God is and remembering His Holiness and Righteousness and His intolerance of sin and disobedience)? Looking at my own life there's no way I have always had the proper fear of The LORD, if I had I wouldn't have made some of the decisions I've made. He instructs us that godly fear brings wisdom and knowledge; maybe that's why so many 'sheep' wander around without ever really grasping the full message of The Gospel of Jesus Christ. Could it be that because of disobedience (due to not having the proper FEAR of The LORD) most of the 'church system of man' are just going through the motions of following The Lord, not worried about their actions because they're taught to just say a prayer with good intentions and God understands, all's well? I can't find that mentality found in the Bible in reference to disciples/followers/born again believers of Jesus. Lack of fear of God lead Ananias and Sapphira to lie to The Holy Ghost and cost them their lives.

Does a lack of fear of The LORD result in one putting off obedience to God's commandments? Does a lack of fear of God cause us to think we can pick and chose when and where we will finally start believing His Word with actions proving it? Do we walk around all day carrying a step-ladder so we can climb down from 'our cross' at our chosing(that making the assumption one is on the cross), then scamper back up with it fits our notion?

Peter wrote: "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear GOD. Honor the king." I Peter 2:17

Jude wrote: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 25 Sep 2011 14:05:21 GMT
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The Most Sobering Question...What does it profit?

"And when He had called the people unto Him with His disciples also, He said unto them,

Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? " Mark 8:34-37

There's not a professing Christian alive who wouldn't answer this question by saying there's nothing we can give in exchange for our souls, that there's nothing important enough that we would give up our salvation in order to gain it. Yet, if we're honest, there's not a one of us who hasn't at one time or another been guilty of placing 'something'(the whole world, or something of the world) in front of obedience to Jesus...Then, justified ourselves (to ourselves...which is a form of deception) saying whatever we(our flesh) want to hear to soothe over our consciences(which leads to a hardened heart, unable to any longer to hear The Lord speaking and convicting).

Habitual disobedience leads one to a place of denial and self justification. A person still confesses Jesus as Lord, they still go through the motions of religion, but they are in deception, blinded by hardening their hearts to obedience of what Jesus taught. Justifying our actions to ourselves, under the guise of "I'm free"; or "my heart doesn't bear witness to that as truth"; can only result in one one day finding themselves being told, "I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:23)

What could possibly be more important than our souls? Do our actions reflect that we fully understand the ramifications of not grasping this most important truth?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 29 Sep 2011 11:33:54 GMT
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Rejoice...

rejoice: feel great joy; be glad. ~Oxford American Dictionary

"But let ALL those that put their trust in Thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy,

because Thou defendest them: let them also that love Thy name be joyful in Thee." Psalms 5:11

Do you put your trust in Jesus? REJOICE

Do you love His Name? Be JOYFUL

Need strength? "...for the joy of The LORD is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10

Are you His? " These things have I spoken unto you, that MY JOY might remain in you, and that your JOY might be full." John 15:11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 08 Oct 2011 21:54:02 GMT
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Snares...

"And the servant of The LORD must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." II Timothy 2:24-26

What is a snare? Strong's Concordance defines a snare as a trap; a trick or temptation. Oxford's American Desk Dictionary agrees and adds, ensnare; lure or trap.

These scriptures could easily be made into a series of teachings centering on our responsibilities as SERVANTS of The Lord; or about "those that oppose themselves"; or the responsibility people have in repentance and walking out their OWN salvation ["recover themselves"]; or there could be undertaken the daunting task of making a list of "snares" and how to escape them; as well as answering the question the last verse raises, which is, how are people taken captive by Satan "at his will "?

And while pointing out other's problems is easier than confronting our own, never-the-less we're instructed back a few verses in II Tim.2:15 to 'study to shew ourselves approved unto God...so we won't be ashamed and we will be able to rightly divide[understand/interpret] The WORD of Truth.' And how can one [us,we,i] possibily teach and instruct those that oppose themselves without having spent substantial time before The Lord and in His Word?

And here enters the catch-22, if we who are calling ourselves 'the church' or 'the body' or 'the bride' or 'the called out ones', or 'overcomers' are opposing ourselves due to being caught in Satans SNARES, how can we fullfill our calling to dupilcate the ministry of Jesus Christ? No power? No anointing? No gifts? No joy? No victory? No holiness? No walking in the promises?

I believe that the denominational church system of man (better known as the Harlot Church) is one of the biggest,(if not the biggest) most effective, SNARES Satan has. The world already is in his pocket,(yes, they have been ensnared by him, just in different ways) but where he is concentrating his efforts in the last days is in 'the church '. Yes he's using heresies, false doctrines, false prophets, apostles, teachers, but he's also using the ever so powerful traditions of religious man. And I believe that it's the dogmatic holding on to those made-made doctrines, traditions, and delusions that cause blindness to 'the church', resulting in the opposing of themselves. Snared, powerless, bound for hell; and not even aware of it. Matthew 7:21-23

May those to whom light has been given (and eyes opened) be bold as lions to proclaim the True Gospel of Jesus Christ, to separate ourselves of the Harlot Church System of man-made religion and embrace our calling...to set free the captives.

Some will hear, some will repent and embrace the truth...but not unless they are told. What is the cry of our hearts? I pray it's, "Yes, LORD...Yes, use me!"

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 11 Oct 2011 22:04:26 GMT
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"The Crucified Ones"...

This is the title of another book written by Charles E Newbold Jr. and if I didn't know better I'd have thought Hobart E Freeman wrote most of it. Maybe Charles has read "Deeper Life", or maybe The Holy Spirit inspired both of them to write these books.

Here is an excerpt from the book, "The Crucified Ones".

(Speaking of true born-again followers of Christ who have drank from THE Living Water and have denied themselves, taken up their crosses, and are daily dying to SELF)...

"They do not need to be prompted to praise and worship, to pray, to fast, to give, to respond to all that is demanded by The Spirit.

They do not need to run to this seminar on healing or that workshop on deliverance. They will not

have to buy all those books and tapes on 'How to this' and 'How to that'.

They will not have to try to grasp the promises of God in their lives through endless incantations of faith confessions.

The Kingdom of God is within them. The Word of God is within them.

...The promises of God are within them and cannot be attainted by grasping outwardly for them."

I've not finished the whole book yet, but so far based on what I've read and has been witnessed to in my spirit, the answers to the questions and struggles many seem to be having can be found within the principles and scriptures used and expounded upon in this book. (obviously, just like the book it's based upon <The Bible>, one has to READ it and put into pratice the instructions and teachings...but then, "Deeper Life in The Spirit" was saying the same thing 35 years ago and many have never grasped those truths.)

OR, people can continue to struggle, question, and wrestle with FAITH and obedience to God for the next 20 years, it's a choice one has to make.

If anyone is interested in reading this book, it's free to read and I promise not to ask anyone to discuss it...

http://www.christineboudreau.ca/newbold/or/crucified/crucifi edtoc.html

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Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 13 Oct 2011 14:05:12 GMT
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DYING TO SELF...

"When you are forgotten, or negected, or purposely set at naught,

and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight,

but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF...

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed,

your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed,

and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, or even defend yourself,

but take it all in patient, loving silence,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF...

When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less

stature than yourself and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly,

finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF..."

Part of a poem based on Philippians 3:10

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 21 Oct 2011 16:22:37 GMT
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Wiles of the devil...

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:11

wile: stratagem; trick or cunning procedure. lure or entice.

Something has been heavy on my heart for the last several weeks concerning the conclusion

some here have came to about medical science and drugs as the, or 'a', acceptable solution to sickness and disease. I want to share this not to demean anyone or speak down, but to hopefully cause a re-examination of where their reasoning has taken them, and possibly why and how.

Cancer is probably one of the most widely known and spoken of sickness, just look at all the fund raisers for breast cancer(everywhere you look people wearing something 'pink'), or the theme of the ads during the World Series, "Stand Up 2 Cancer", or all the money being spent on research looking for cures for all the various types of cancer. And the cost of the drugs to the patient once they are put on the market are astronomical, making the drug companies literally Billions of dollars. It's BIG BUSINESS; does it affect millions of people? Absolutely. And it's horrible and devastating, we know that, but cancer is a spirit, how can Christians believe that you can defeat a spirit by cutting it or feeding it drugs?

Because, I believe, Satan has deceived people into believing it. It is one of his MANY wiles, but we're to be wise to his various cunning plans and schemes. That's why we're admonished over and over throughout The Word of God to be prepared at all times because he, Satan, goes about as a roaring lion seeking to devour us. We can't withstand or defeat him by walking in the power of our own reasoning (the flesh), the battle is spiritual and the only way to overcome him is by walking in The Spirit and praying always, in The Spirit...putting on the whole armour of God..."that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day..." Eph.6:13

It's not given unto us the option following after our 'own hearts', or to defend our actions by saying "it's between me and The Lord", with every man doing what seems right in his own eyes,(not if we really are OVERCOMERS). That's how umpteen hundred different denominations came into existence. Yes, we will be judged based on our own actions and decisions, but anything that leads to anything besides total submission and obedience to Jesus and His teachings(which results in FAITH) is another of the devil's wiles. Jesus promised The Comforter(The Holy Spirit)would teach us all things and be with us; but He doesn't contradict Himself by telling one person one thing is truth and another something totally different from that.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Fri, 21 Oct 2011 18:52:06 GMT
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Hi James,

First of all let me say that I agree with your post except for this:
Quote:Something has been heavy on my heart for the last several weeks concerning the conclusion some here have came to about medical science and drugs as the, or 'a', acceptable

solution to sickness and disease.

Nothing has changed concerning the obvious fact that Satan is the author of all sickness -- including cancer.

Next, and I think that I speak for the others in the Medical Science thread, the emphasis has not been to 'approve' medical science so that the Christian now has an alternative to faith in God. As Christians we should trust God for everything including our health.

Hopefully we all have learned to trust in God for our healing without resorting to the arm of the flesh which is a very poor substitute for anyone seeking healing.

The purpose of the thread (at least as far as my participation was concerned) was to explore the single issue of whether or not medical science (including drugs) was always occultic in nature. That was the teaching we heard and while there is no need to re-hash all of the problems associated with that teaching there are good reasons (see the thread) as to why this teaching needed to be re-examined.

You bowed out of the thread (and I respect your reasons) but there is no doubt in my mind that this single issue isn't sacrosanct to the point where an examination of the teaching imperils one's faith.

One could argue that a baby doesn't need to know why they are told never to cross the road. Just obey, they are told, but as that child grows he should be able to comprehend the reasons for the absolute prohibition and adjust his behavior accordingly. Now that analogy breaks down when applied to this particular subject because 'crossing the street' can never be equated to 'bowing down to other gods' as it was presented to us, but the analogy can and does fit when we are talking about legitimate questions about those things we heard.

I suspect that it is the issue of "holding fast the things we were taught" and the dangers involved in anything less than unquestioning obedience that is foremost in your thinking here (correct me if I'm wrong) but I don't see discussing this issue as the 'slippery slope' that will lead to an 'evil heart of unbelief' kind of situation. If it does have that effect it only proves that there is something much more fundamentally wrong with a person's faith and the sooner it is revealed -- whether it is because of this particular subject or something else -- the better. You cannot force one to 'believe' but you can 'force' (in a manner of speaking) a person by using the threat that their behavior is synonymous with apostasy.

A lack of faith can be overcome by teaching the Word of God (Rom 10:17); the one who has, even if it is in his own mind, committed apostasy, doesn't even believe that he has hope. Surely you can see that?

Teach faith in God for healing but don't teach something that will at best keep people from crossing the street but at worse, be a vehicle for the destruction of a persons relationship with the author of their salvation--Jesus..

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 21 Oct 2011 20:58:59 GMT
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moulder wrote on Fri, 21 October 2011 13:52Hi James,

First of all let me say that I agree with your post except for this:
Quote:Something has been heavy on my heart for the last several weeks concerning the conclusion some here have came to about medical science and drugs as the, or 'a', acceptable solution to sickness and disease.

It's no problem that you disagree with that statement, never-the-less, it still saddens and grieves my heart.

Nothing has changed concerning the obvious fact that Satan is the author of all sickness -- including cancer.

Next, and I think that I speak for the others in the Medical Science thread, the emphasis has not been to 'approve' medical science so that the Christian now has an alternative to faith in God. As Christians we should trust God for everything including our health.

Hopefully we all have learned to trust in God for our healing without resorting to the arm of the flesh which is a very poor substitute for anyone seeking healing.

The purpose of the thread (at least as far as my participation was concerned) was to explore the single issue of whether or not medical science (including drugs) was always occultic in nature. That was the teaching we heard and while there is no need to re-hash all of the problems associated with that teaching there are good reasons (see the thread) as to why this teaching needed to be re-examined.

You bowed out of the thread (and I respect your reasons) but there is no doubt in my mind that this single issue isn't sacrosanct to the point where an examination of the teaching imperils one's faith.

I 'bowed out' because I gave my word that if the other participants would continue their discussions I'd withold comments...I sure wouldn't have encouraged the continuation if I thought for one second that it 'imperils one's faith'. I'm not grieved or concerned with people questioning what and why they 'believe' something, I'm grieved with the expressed conclusions.(and NO, not yours.)

One could argue that a baby doesn't need to know why they are told never to cross the road. Just obey, they are told, but as that child grows he should be able to comprehend the reasons for the absolute prohibition and adjust his behavior accordingly. Now that analogy breaks down when applied to this particular subject because 'crossing the street' can never be equated to 'bowing down to other gods' as it was presented to us, but the analogy can and does fit when we are talking about legitimate questions about those things we heard.

I suspect that it is the issue of "holding fast the things we were taught" and the dangers involved in anything less that unquestioning obedience that is foremost in your thinking here (correct me if I'm wrong) but I don't see discussing this issue as the 'slippery slope' that will lead to an 'evil heart of unbelief' kind of situation. If it does have that effect it only proves that there is something much more fundamentally wrong with a person's faith and the sooner it is revealed -- whether it is because of this particular subject or something else -- the better. You cannot force one to 'believe' but you can 'force' (in a manner of speaking) a person by using the threat that their behavior is synonymous with apostasy.

A lack of faith can be overcome by teaching the Word of God (Rom 10:17); the one who has, even if it is in his own mind, committed apostasy, doesn't even believe that he has hope. Surely you can see that?

Teach faith in God for healing but don't teach something that will at best keep people from crossing the street but at worse, be a vehicle for the destruction of a persons relationship with the author of their salvation--Jesus..

IF, by saying what I've said here (or anywhere else for that matter), I'm "teaching something that will at best keep people from crossing the street but at worse, be a vehicle for destruction of a persons relationship with the author of their salvation--Jesus.." would others on this forum PLEASE step forward and voice your concerns by telling me how I'm doing so. <am I misunderstanding your comment?>I want to be teachable and humble, and I'm sure not above correction. Please don't be shy, I really, really want to know what others think.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Fri, 21 Oct 2011 22:11:30 GMT
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Quote:IF, by saying what I've said here (or anywhere else for that matter), I'm "teaching something that will at best keep people from crossing the street but at worse, be a vehicle for destruction of a persons relationship with the author of their salvation--Jesus.." would others on this forum PLEASE step forward and voice your concerns by telling me how I'm doing so. <am I misunderstanding your comment?>I want to be teachable and humble, and I'm sure not above correction. Please don't be shy, I really, really want to know what others think.

No, I don't believe you have, but this is an open forum and many (some?) may still think that way -- I did at one time because I believed that it *was* occultic and choosing that route could indeed have eternal consequences. It is a fact that people have condemned themselves over this issue in the past and I believe that it should be addressed.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Sat, 22 Oct 2011 01:30:12 GMT
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Sorry I was so short in the last note (Fridays are date nights around here and everything else is secondary to that!)<grin>

You should jump back into the thread, we won't consider you as going back on your word since you weren't the reason for the lag anyway. I'm pretty sure we all have obligations elsewhere so when there is a lag in the discussions it doesn't mean we've been offended. (We all are overcomers, right?)

There is more I'd like to say concerning this subject so don't think that all that's been said is all there is to say. Also, just because a couple of us have 'concluded' something doesn't mean the issue is 'concluded'! <grin>

I believe that drugs/medical science are going to play a big part in end-time events, especially as it relates to the enslavement of the people of our nation. Doctoring is no longer --"take two aspirin and see me in the morning", it's "take this $200 dollar prescription for the rest of your life... you can't expect to live without it". You'll either need to pay through the nose for insurance or pay it directly to the druggist... either option will eventually be so costly that the average person will find

that they are nothing more than slaves to the powerful interests that traffic in the souls of men.

Come on back in, James. The water is just now getting warm!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Sat, 22 Oct 2011 16:21:14 GMT
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Amen!!!!

I still ain't mad either!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 22 Oct 2011 23:28:40 GMT
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moulder wrote on Fri, 21 October 2011 20:30
Come on back in, James. The water is just now getting warm!

Blessings,
William

Well I'm kinda concerned about getting into you all's "warm water", what with all the talk about p****** people off and throwing pizza at people.(is that a Indiana thing? Nobody ever threw pizza at me here in Alabama) I started to say something this morning but I couldn't get my 'armour' to fit just right, and I wasn't about to put myself in the middle of all that without proper protection. btw: when I get up 'on the wrong side of the bed', I get back in and start over, on the other side.<grin>

Private tailgate party? Are you serious? 45-10, good thing I didn't eat before the game, I'd probably have lost it. That was a good old fashion beating.

Seriously, if that's possible today, if we're truely concerned with wanting others to participate in these discusions about what-ever-it-is-exactly that's being discussed (divine healing...every

time...no exceptions, are drugs occult, is caffeine bad, ect.) maybe it'd be good if they could see some semblance of love between folks, instead of people wearing their feelings on their sleeves.

Yeah, I am glad to see Sue posting again...I PMed her earlier today. Hopefully she'll find time to more often.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Sun, 23 Oct 2011 20:55:15 GMT
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"...maybe it'd be good if they could see some semblance of love between folks, instead of people wearing their feelings on their sleeves."

James, I honestly have not seen any of that going on here at OO. It is nothing like it used to be, anyway.

It is a serious subject that has touched all of us in very personal ways. I see nothing wrong with keeping it light on occasions in order to keep the thread going.

Overcomers have to have thick skins. I never did understand why you felt like you had to drop out of the conversation, buy that was you and not me. Everyone has their reasons. Personally, I am not going to retreat if someone does not agree with me. I might take time to think and study, but retreat, forget it!

My mentioning throwing pizza was suppose to a joke. I could have responded in other ways. I could have worn a lot on my sleeve, but chose not to. It does not serve a purpose except to divide and hurt those we should love the most. We need to be giving each other more breaks and think the best.

I will not walk on eggshells before my brothers and sisters. I refuse to do that. If you can't love me for who I am, than what good is OO? It destroyed FA.

I love feeling the warm and fuzzies from people, but peoples reactions to me, or my beliefs, will not help me with my own personal 100% beliefs for my faith.

I was shunned for years by FA. It was years of hurt, anger and misunderstanding that vaulted me

into years of confusion. I left family and friends to attend FA for twelve years just to be rejected in the end. Everyone involved in that situation have matured and have gone on to bigger and better things that God has for them. I hold no grudges or bitterness. I slung self-rightousness myself for years. Love is the highest calling in the end. I am so blessed to know so many people who deeply love and who are seeking God. That is all that matters.

I also have people who would love to get their hands on me and murder me and my family as we speak. I practically have no family. They don't even pick up their phone due to what I believe. And yet, I have a peace that passes all understanding. My heart is full and my worship is sweet and full of tears of joy.

Do you really think some comments, that may seem petty without really seeing the person in the flesh for facial expressions, are going to raise my feathers now? Hardly, my friend.

I love you in Jesus, James. Sorry if I ruffled your feathers. However, I ain't going anywhere due to petty misunderstandings. I need OO and I am so grateful for it.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 23 Oct 2011 21:56:42 GMT
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I sometimes just want to.....Praise The Lord.

Gillyann I wuz trying to (in a not so serious way) say to William and Grandom that maybe they should adjust their additudes...without chiding or sounding self-righteous. Don't worry about my feathers being ruffled, this bird is dead to what anyone can say. I absolutely, positively, categorically, unconditionally, give you my word that I DID NOT retreat from that thread...First I gave my word that if ya'll would continue, I'd withold comment...as to now, I've ran out of scriptures and admonishments and I see nothing gained by giving my opinions on if I consider caffeine a drug or if I think vitamins are OK to take.(not making light of what ya'll are discussing, it's just settled in my heart and I don't see where what I've think is revelant to anyone but me.)

I knew the comment about throwing pizza was made in fun...my comment back was made in fun...I just haven't ever heard of throwing pizza...eggs, yes; and even tomatoes. The sleeve

comment was directed to the guys 100%, wasn't even thinking of you in any way...sorry. btw: I don't think I've heard the egg-shells reference either...must be cause I'm from de south. But believe me, we got plenty of saying that don't make sense either.

If I read something that I feel I can contribute to the conversation on, I will jump right in. Considering the volume of posts I make and the content of 'most' of them, I would have thought you would know by now that I'm not shy about giving my thoughts...but that's what I get for 'thinking'.

My convictions about divine healing and health are obviously not shared by everyone(not that I have ALL the answers and see 100% manifestations in this area everytime)...but I'm not a debater by nature, nor do I enjoy arguing.

I'm also sure that there are some inconsistencies in my application of my convictions...I run across them from time to time and have tried to seek The Lord for wisdom and direction when I do. It's easy to draw line in the sand; it's much harder to not cross it.(or paint ones self into a corner)

Just take 2 'chill' pills and see how you feel in the morning...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Sun, 23 Oct 2011 22:39:36 GMT
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That is exactly what I thought, James. A total misunderstanding!

I will certainly "think" about those chill pills and let you know if I feel that they are simple chemical reactions, occult demonic possession, or maybe just allowing others to walk out their salvation with restoration, and no condemnation.

Glad you are up to bat again! What you get for "thinking" is input and communication that will have eternal consequences for a few who participate on OO, and for hundreds who visit this site.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Sun, 23 Oct 2011 23:06:24 GMT
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james wrote on Sun, 23 October 2011 16:56I sometimes just want to.....Praise

The Lord.

Gillyann I wuz trying to (in a not so serious way) say to William and Grandom that maybe they should adjust their additudes...

Adjustment applied!

Quote: btw: I don't think I've heard the egg-shells reference either...must be cause I'm from de south. But believe me, we got plenty of saying that don't make sense either.

Etymology needed because I thought it was a southern phrase... them northerneer's are more of the 'you've-got-to-break-a-few-eggs-to-make-an-omelet' type of folks.

Quote:My convictions about divine healing and health are obviously not shared by everyone(not that I have ALL the answers and see 100% manifestations in this area everytime)...but I'm not a debater by nature, nor do I enjoy arguing.

Convictions and opinions are one thing, I'm interested in finding out God's expressed will in the matter -- that's something we can take to the bank! We might have come close but at this point the issue still seems much too subjective to stamp it a 'Christian doctrine'. Perhaps there isn't a 'one-size-fits-all' answer to the question (Occult or not) but you'd think that if this is something that a Christian Church takes a stand on there would be some clear scriptural evidence to back up the conviction or opinion. A Christian who dabbles in the occult should be subject to excommunication for the offense, to my knowledge this never happened at FA (with the exception that some were ostracized to the point that they had no choice but to excommunicate themselves.)

So far I have not been able to find any evidence in the written material from FA (HEF) where medical science and drugs (with the exception of the mind-altering type -- LSD, etc.) were defined as occult. You'd think there would be a whole chapter devoted to a practice so wide-spread in Christian circles but I can't find anything. I quoted brother Freeman's definition of the occult in one of my notes and nothing in that definition mentioned med-science. That was from a tract dealing with occult oppression and the methods of deliverance but again, nothing was mentioned. There must be a reason for the oversight if it was indeed as important as it became in our circles. Books may contain outdated material -- I understand that -- but a TRACT? A tract can be updated almost immediately and given the importance of the subject an update would be the only responsible thing to do.

This may be because the tract was given as a revelation/prophecy (I think I'm right about that) which, if true, begs the question--Why wasn't this crucial information included?

I'll say it again, I'm not 'approving' medical science but there is a big difference between a lack of

faith for healing and seeking healing from an occult source.

Quote:I'm also sure that there are some inconsistencies in my application of my convictions...I run across them from time to time and have tried to seek The Lord for wisdom and direction when I do. It's easy to draw line in the sand; it's much harder to not cross it.(or paint ones self into a corner)

Just take 2 'chill' pills and see how you feel in the morning...

<grin>

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 00:58:32 GMT
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"I see nothing gained by giving my opinions on if I consider caffeine a drug or if I think vitamins are OK to take."

James, just gotta know. Is ingesting a vitamin OK? Please tell me after all of this that this chemical reaction is not OK with you.

Also, sorry if it seemed that I got carried away. I guess you just had to be there.

---------- ----------

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 01:23:17 GMT
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moulder wrote on Sun, 23 October 2011 18:06

Convictions and opinions are one thing, I'm interested in finding out God's expressed will in the

matter -- that's something we can take to the bank! We might have come close but at this point the issue still seems much too subjective to stamp it a 'Christian doctrine'. Perhaps there isn't a 'one-size-fits-all' answer to the question (Occult or not) but you'd think that if this is something that a Christian Church takes a stand on there would be some clear scriptural evidence to back up the conviction or opinion. A Christian who dabbles in the occult should be subject to excommunication for the offense, to my knowledge this never happened at FA (with the exception that some were ostracized to the point that they had no choice but to excommunicate themselves.)

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This may be because the tract was given as a revelation/prophecy (I think I'm right about that) which, if true, begs the question--Why wasn't this crucial information included?

I'll say it again, I'm not 'approving' medical science but there is a big difference between a lack of faith for healing and seeking healing from an occult source.

I think I basically understand what you're seeking to define or find out, and that is whether or not HEF/FA taught that medical science and/or drugs were of occult origins...or if not that, if they still were considered occult? I would love to research and go back and listen to tape #--- or refer to notes, but I have nothing remaining from those days(1980's) except the little yellow "Faith" book and the "Deeper Life" book, everything else is either stored in my heart/memory or gone.

It may be possible that I have drawn the conclusion that drugs are occult from logic...e.g. Did God make marijuana; the poppy plant; all the various plants in the Amazon that are used for their medicinal properties? Yes! But, did He show man how to make heroin, LSD, Valium, Viagra, Zanex, Oxyicotin, Methadone, amphetamines, barbiturates, ect, ect. I DON'T BELIEVE SO. So if the knowledge for making all these enslaving drugs(I didn't scratch the surface, and it's not just 'street' drugs that are abused...mother's little helpers come from the family physician.) wasn't given from God (and they reek such distruction to millions of people) who would be the source of such evil? Satan. Do demons enter people through this medium, drugs? Yes. Do many of these drugs involve altered states of being, mysticism, lead to addiction? Yes.

Now I have personal knowledge AND experience that the above is true concerning the mind altering powers and addictions associated with drug use, both 'illegal' and that purchased at the local pharmacy. I also Know that drugs are an open door to both demonic oppression as well as possession.

So, while I can not quote scripture per say concerning whether or not drugs equal occult involvement, the end results are the same. Without Jesus Christ to set one free from their cluches, a person ends up where the results of all unforgiven sins leads...death. Under a curse, addicted, possessed...and for sure...not walking in faith or obedience to Jesus Christ and we know that anything that's not of faith is sin. If I believe He saved me, and I do; then I also believe He healed me...all done at Calvary.

Another quick thought...Why would He be behind a pill or shot to give me peace when He has already given me what I need to obtain peace...His Word.(Ps.119:165)

I'll stop with this for now.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 01:40:10 GMT
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GWB wrote on Sun, 23 October 2011 19:58
James, just gotta know. Is ingesting a vitamin OK? Please tell me after all of this that this chemical reaction is not OK with you.

Absolutely NOT. I'd be a hypocrite if I did.

That's why I don't drink milk...eat cereal...or any other foods that are fortified with vitamins.

Thought I wuz serious there for a minute, didn't ya?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 02:25:53 GMT
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Quote:I think I basically understand what you're seeking to define or find out, and that is whether or not HEF/FA taught that medical science and/or drugs were of occult origins...or if not that, if they still were considered occult? I would love to research and go back and listen to tape #--- or refer to notes, but I have nothing remaining from those days(1980's) except the little yellow "Faith" book and the "Deeper Life" book, everything else is either stored in my heart/memory or gone.

No, I'm not seeking to define or find out what brother Freeman taught -- I know what he taught about this matter. I quoted some of it from the tape in the other thread.

I'll send you the tape.

Quote:Another quick thought...Why would He be behind a pill or shot to give me peace when He has already given me what I need to obtain peace...His Word.(Ps.119:165)

I've tried to express the issue in as clear a way as I know how but somehow I'm missing the mark...

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 02:38:56 GMT
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Sorry, maybe you can start a new thread and lay it out in A-B-C form so I can follow.

I keep going back over to the thread Jman started and I'm not sure what he was after, but it seems to me that it (the topic on 'every time-no exceptions') has morphed into different directions questioning everything from A to Z...which is fine, but I just don't get it evidently...again, sorry.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 02:55:18 GMT
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Yes, I know what you mean... there is a lot of stuff jammed into that thread!

What we really need is an editor! <grin>

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 03:09:47 GMT
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moulder wrote on Sun, 23 October 2011 21:55What we really need is an editor! <grin>

Yeah! That and a Cappuccino machine for the Coffee Break room.

Maybe some nice Bose speakers and a couple of leather over-stuffed chairs with ottomans. <smile>

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Mon, 24 Oct 2011 03:24:20 GMT
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I still havta know....James, do you take vitamins (supplements) in pill, powder, or liquid form?

I think this thread got morphed due to James bowing out of the other thread.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Tue, 25 Oct 2011 21:32:25 GMT
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I guess we can throw this one under the rug, but I know of at least one person, via phone last week, who has been reading OO and is still confused about it.

This is an important topic due to the fact that no one at FA would have dared take a vitamin in any form. Anything other than what was on your supper table was not "totally" trusting God due to

vitamins being man made.

My friend, who got the tapes, said that they had been battling the "winter blues" the past few years. I told her to sit in the sun for fifteen minutes a day, and take vitamin D if it was not against her convictions.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 25 Oct 2011 22:23:52 GMT
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GWB wrote on Sun, 23 October 2011 22:24I still havta know....James, do you take vitamins (supplements) in pill, powder, or liquid form?

I'm sorry Gillyann, I thought you were trying to be funny and I thought I'd just drop it.

I don't consider vitamins to be drugs or medicine, they're found naturally in our food,(before chemicals and the preserving process depletes so much of their potency). And like I said in an earlier post, they're added to foods and drinks such as milk, jucies, cereal, and much more. Now in a perfect world (for me) I'd have my own cows, chickens, and grow my own fruits and vegetables...but alas, I live in an apartment community in the suburbs and it's not possible here. I try to buy the freshest stuff available but even then the quality is compromised from field to market.

So I take vitamin supplements(started about 5 yr. ago), I don't know the importance of the question concerning in what form, pill, powder, or liquid, but if it'll help you to know I guess actually I use all three type. I don't follow the instructions of the manufacturer nor take any advice from anyone.

I take 1 vitamin C 500mg tablet every other day
I take 1 vitamin B complex 33mg capsule every other day
I take 1 vitamin E 100iu gellcap every other day
I take 1 tablet of calcium 200mg every other day
I take 1 tablet of magnesium 100mg every other day
I take 1/2 tablet of iron 25mg every other day
I take 1/2 tablet of zinc 25mg every other day

I take 1/2 an iodine 12.5mg supplement tablet called Iodoral every other day
I take 1 1000mg gellcap of cod liver oil evry other day

I exercise daily as well, but as I told you a few years ago when we were discussing diet and exercise...my trust is in Jesus, but I don't think we should sit on the couch all day sucking down cokes and eating potato chips. We reap what we sow, and our bodies are a reflection of that principle.

Again just so on one will misunderstand, I don't drink soft drinks, coffee, or tea with caffiene because it makes me hyper and can be unhealthy; not because I believe it's a sin. Same with certain foods; if I came to your house and was offered fried foods and iced tea, rather than risk offending anyone I'd pray over it and give thanks and eat(probably a modest portion).

Any other questions?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Tue, 25 Oct 2011 23:51:49 GMT
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"Same with certain foods; if I came to your house and was offered fried foods and iced tea, rather than risk offending anyone I'd pray over it and give thanks and eat(probably a modest portion)."

Ouch to steriotyping Southern people. Aren't you one of them too!

I appreciate the honesty and lists!

However.....that was not considered "totally" trusting God at FA. Oh no!!!!.....

BTW...you might be overlapping with some of those supplements. Your local pharmacist could tell you a lot!

It seems that you have butted heads with some of the teaching.

FA people did not "do" vitamins.

Does that mean that you are now not "totally" trusting in God due to the fact that you are not walking in everything that was said and done at FA?

Again, where do we draw the line?

Where Jesus wants us to, that's where.

Let every man be convinced in his own heart....100%

BTW....I'll still fellowship with ya!.....

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 26 Oct 2011 01:33:07 GMT
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GW's right, James... you're always supposed to ask for seconds (thirds if it's fried!).

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 26 Oct 2011 02:30:14 GMT
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GWB wrote on Tue, 25 October 2011 18:51
However.....that was not considered "totally" trusting God at FA. Oh no!!!!.....

It seems that you have butted heads with some of the teaching.

FA people did not "do" vitamins.

Does that mean that you are now not "totally" trusting in God due to the fact that you are not walking in everything that was said and done at FA?

I thought you wanted this information in order to help someone who had called you in confussion...Not to use to attempt to make a point with me. I knew in advance by answering you it would or could be used for this purpose, yet I choose to do so anyway.(not a word of knowledge, just experience in life)

btw: I didn't go to FA ...and YES, FA people DID do vitamins, in their cereal, milk, juices and other off the shelf foods that are fortified with vitamins.

"Does that mean that you are now not "totally" trusting in God due to the fact that you are not walking in everything that was said and done at FA?"

I don't know, does it?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Wed, 26 Oct 2011 05:34:23 GMT
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No, James. We will agree to disagree on many points.

Sorry if I offended you. I took the joking too far.

@ moulder....Hahaha

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 26 Oct 2011 10:39:29 GMT
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"No, James. We will agree to disagree on many points."

So much for Ephesians 4:3&13...No, It's my desire and prayer for the future that those God has brought together here will wholeheartedly seek "the unity of the faith".

"Sorry if I've offended you."

Gillyann, I am not offended at all, maybe a bit saddened because I was hoping for better even though I knew by answering your insistent questioning it would allow for a response similar to yours...but as I said, I was hoping...I Corinthians 13:7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 26 Oct 2011 17:57:31 GMT
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I want to say something as an encouragement(and I'm addressing it to William but it can 'be' for anyone reading).

William, when you mentioned being(possibly, based on what you were taught) a bastard child, it pricked my heart because there are MANY children born after the flesh who are by defination, bastards. BUT, God doesn't have ANY bastard sons or daughters, when we're made anew into The Family of God everything we were in the past is left behind.

Not that I need to tell you because you already know, but God is not like us, we struggle with forgiving ourselves and others, and forgetting the past...He knows everything and remembers everything...EXCEPT our sins He forgives, He says He removes them as far as the east is from the west (that's an infinite distance without end) and remembers them NO MORE.

Don't fret over man's labels, rejoice that you name is written in The Lamb's Book of Life...Amen.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 26 Oct 2011 18:59:15 GMT
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Thanks James,

You are right, I have a completely different linage now, but just so you know -- I wasn't a bastard then either. <grin>

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 30 Oct 2011 22:52:45 GMT
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"...and they loved not their lives unto the death."

"And they overcame him by the Blood of The Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." Revelation 12:11

I've had this scripture come to mind over and over lately while praying about discussions on divine healing. I ask for anyone reading this desiring to be one mentioned as an overcomer, to ask The Holy Spirit for a heart to grasp the real meaning of this scripture and how to walk in it.

If we're desiring and confessing to be the 'THEY' (The man child...overcomer) spoken of in verse 11, then at some point we're going to have to start walking out our confession. I see Jesus telling us to deny ourselves and take up our crosses (to die to self), and read of Paul saying he desired to be with The Lord. Isn't this the KEY to overcoming Satan? Isn't this what is recorded as the way the overcomers are going to overcome?

1.) They overcame him by The Blood of The LAMB...

2.) And the word of their testimony...

3.) And they loved not their lives unto the death...

all 3 require ACTION on our behalf.

I certainly don't have a suicidal wish, and I'm not raising my hand to be martyred, and I'm so sorry for the pain of loss of a loved one by anyone, but brethren if we're His and if we have given up

ourselves unto obedience and total trust in Him...we gotta settle this issue in our hearts. We have eternal life, death has been conquered, we've been bought with a mighty price, Jesus' Blood...whether we live or die, we live unto Him who bought us. I'm not saying we should be looking to die, I'm saying we should have it settled in our hearts that we don't love our lives moreso than obedience to Jesus.

A trial of our faith (in any area, but especially health-sickness) shouldn't strike fear of death in us, we're supposed to be more than conqueriors THROUGH Jesus our LORD. All the foundation that has be laborously laid line up line of scripture has at some point got to produce fruit...and that fruit is FAITH...Faith that regardless of what we face we KNOW He will NEVER leave us or forsake us, if we can find this confidence in HIM (not ourselves, or worked up mentally) then there comes with it a peace, a peace that passes all understanding. We can boldly proclaim, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him..." and "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

We ain't gonna be able to just 'TALK ' our way into The Kingdom, it's going to require the 'WALK '...

Not brougth to condemn, but to exhort and encourage.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 08 Nov 2011 12:44:50 GMT
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JESUS, our focus...

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the LORD, so walk ye in Him:

Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily..

And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power:" Colossians 2:6-10

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

When Christ who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." Col.3:1-4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 10 Nov 2011 13:10:11 GMT
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Conformed, or Transformed...

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be NOT conformed to this world: but BE YE transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:1-2

Word definition:

conform: comply with rules or general custom. To make similar. To be in accordance with.

transform: make a thorough or dramatic change in the form, appearance, character, ect. Undergo change.

People are always changing, adapting to surroundings and the influence of society. When we take on the characteristics of the world and it's ways, we are 'conforming'. And as Christians, when we conform, we compromise; compromise walking in obedience to God and His Word. When we, through searching scripture and prayer, humble ourselves unto obediece by walking in relationship with Jesus and being lead by Him, our minds are renewed, and this results in our being transformed into the image of Christ.

With a renewed mind(no longer walking as other men do, after the vanities of pride and self centerness...)we change, the daily feeding from His Word of Life ministers a renewing, we become transformed, we are able to know and follow The Will of God in our lives. This cannot happen when we walk in conformity to the world and it's wisdom and ways(anything that contradicts God's expressed will as shown us in His Word).

We are called to be a holy people, separate from the ways of this world, a living sacrifice, sober, and not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought...it's what He expects of us, and it's not unreasonable.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 18 Nov 2011 14:08:12 GMT
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Thanksgiving...

In Luke 17 we're told of the ten lepers Jesus healed, how only one returned to thank Him and glorify God.

"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

And fell on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks: and he was a Samaritan." Luke 17:15-16

I would imagine if someone had asked each of the ten men if they were glad they were healed, they'd answer with a YES. But only one took the time to show his graditude by actions. So many times I (we?) tend to take what God has done in my life for granted...Oh, I'd never verbalize it as such, but my actions reflect a heart that has a tendency to fall prey to that mindset.

When I come face to face with realizations such as this, not being thankful as I should, it breaks my heart and I promise myself to be even more vigilant in the future. Jesus has blessed me beyond what I could have ever imagined...

May I never forget or grow complacent, not even for a second.

Thank YOU, LORD Jesus, Thank You.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 20 Nov 2011 12:11:19 GMT
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A Psalm of Thanksgiving...

"O GIVE thanks unto The LORD, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever.

Let the redeemed of The LORD say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.

They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in.

Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.

Then they cried unto The LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses.

And He led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.

Oh that men would praise The LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." ~Psalms 107:1-9

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 22 Nov 2011 23:46:03 GMT
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Confidence...

Word defination from dictionary.

confidence: firm trust. a feeling of reliance or certainty. boldness.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of The Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of The Son of God.

And THIS is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us:

And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." I John 5:13-15 (the whole chapter does nothing but build up the faith/assurance/confidence of all who have believed upon Him, Jesus Christ)

I remember an old Broadman hymnal song that went like this...

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine,

Oh what a foretaste of glory divine,

Heirs of salvation, purchased by God,

Born of His Spirit, Washed in His Blood.

This is my story, This is my song,

Praising my Saviour, all the day long.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 28 Nov 2011 00:40:09 GMT
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"I will fear no evil..."

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." Ps.23

God's Word has many scriptures and passages that offer promises of peace and security, victory over fear and doubt, confidence and hope. He promises that "no weapon formed against us will prosper"; that "He hasn't given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind"; and so many more.

He did not say we'd never walk through the shadow of death...He said He'd be with us; He didn't say we'd never experience hardship, trials, and tribulations...He said it would be through them (much) we'd enter the kingdom; He also said those He loved He chastened...But through what ever may come, He PROMISED to NEVER leave us or forsake us. The only possibility of these promises not working on our behalf? Is if we aren't His sheep, if He isn't our shepherd. The only way to The Father, is through The SON, Jesus Christ; if He is our LORD and Saviour...then we have assurance that ALL the promises of God are yea and amen...to us.

Here is a little article/encouragment from Psalms 23 that if received in faith can encourage and strengthen one going through tough times.

http://bible.org/seriespage/fear-no-evil-psalm-23

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 12 Dec 2011 22:43:39 GMT
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But God...

Ephesians chapter 2 begins by describing the spiritual condition of ALL men without the saving grace, mercy, and great love of God. Then in steps God in verse 4...

"But God..."

Dictionary defination of the conjunction, but:

on the contrary. nevertheless; however. except.

We were all headed for hell, lost and undone, without hope..."BUT GOD..."

God stepped in, "even when we were dead in sins..."

We merit no credit in our salvation...

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and THAT not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Eph. 2:8

What a gift ! What a God ! What LOVE !

Thank YOU, Father...Thank YOU, Jesus...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 27 Dec 2011 15:52:36 GMT
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I was watching a Jewish Rabbi on The Church Channel on TV (without my computer to watch and listen to people like bro Tom and real worship music, I was searching around for something to edify my spirit), and he told of a time in his life where fear and anxiety had crippled him. He had a teenage daughter and she was off to school and he began to worry about her having an accident going to and from school. He said he soon got to the point where he couldn't get the fear and anxiety to leave him, He was so stressed out he went to bed in the middle of the day and had a dream when he asked his congregation to pray for him. When he awoke he had a message on his answering machine from a lady in his church(he is a Christian) saying she had been praying and The Lord had given her a vision of him right before her eyes and she had interceeded for him. That ministered to him and by God's grace and love for him, he overcame the fear and stopped worrying about his daughter after that.

What he said he did was pray a prayer unto God concerning loving God so much there was no room for doubt. This was the prayer.

"O God, Father give me a love for you that is so great that I'll never again listen to another one of Satans lies."

That ministered to me and encouraged me, though simple, it says a lot. And what it also taught and reminded me was that that's the same TV channel I have condemned due to false prophets and teachers. Another additude adjustment and repentance.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 30 Dec 2011 22:13:41 GMT
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"Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in Thy faithfulness answer me, and in Thy righteousness.

And enter not into judgment with Thy servant: for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified.

For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead.

Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Thy works; I muse on the work of Thy hands.

I stretch forth my hands unto Thee: my soul thirsteth after Thee, as a thirsty land. Selah.

Hear me speedily, O LORD: my spirit faileth me: hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.

Cause me to hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in Thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto Thee.

Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto Thee to hide me.

Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my GOD: Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Quicken me, O LORD, for Thy name's sake: for Thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

And of Thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul: for I am Thy servant." ~Psalms 143

Things God is teaching me:

When we pray in faith in HIM, not following a formula, praise and thanksgiving will rise up and flow from our hearts and out our mouths.(and we'll stop begging for the same thing over and over)

He inhabits the praises of His people.

Jesus said in John 15:7 that if we abide in Him and His Words abide in us, we can ask what we will and it will be done...So what am I learning? If fruit isn't being produced, then the problem is in "the abiding"; Psalms 91 tells us that "He that dwelleth in the secret place of The Most High SHALLabide under the shadow of The Almighty. "

The plans He has for me is for good and not destruction, He loves me, and He will NEVER leave or forsake me..."though now for a season, if need be..." and just how valueless 'gold' is in comparison to knowing that Almighty God is perfecting my faith through trials and testings.

Regardless of how 'loud' Satan gets or how often he comes in like a flood...he is a liar, he was defeated at Calvary, and God WILL raise up a standard. Condemnation is his greatest weapon against Christians...but not when we "are IN Christ Jesus, and walking after The Spirit.

We are in a spiritual warfare, and to be less than viglant 24/7 is very foolhardy.

JESUS loves me, and He is teaching me how to love Him.

Yeah!I know...I thought I KNEW it too. In measured distance, it's only a few inches from the human head to where the heart is located, but spiritually, it's miles and miles.

Praise Jesus, Thank you, Lord...

BTW: At 4:22 AM this morning while lying awake thanking and giving praise to God for His great love and longsuffering for me...I heard His lovingkindness. PTL

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by JWBTI on Sat, 31 Dec 2011 12:02:32 GMT
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James,
This song came to mind after reading your last post .
Wish I could find the music to go with it.
Maybe GWB could record it and send us an mp3 fileâ€¦

Oh Hear my cry, O God;â€¦â€¦ attend unto my prayer.
From the end of the earth..... will I cry unto thee,

For when my heart is overwhelmed:
Lead me to the rock that is higher than Iâ€¦.That is higher than I

For thou hast been a shelter for me,
and a strong tower from the enemy.
For when my heart is overwhelmedâ€¦..
lead me to the rock that is higher than Iâ€¦.That is higher than I

As you said: We must abide and trust in Him !

4 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.
5 For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.
6 Thou wilt prolong the king's life: and his years as many generations.
7 He shall abide before God for ever: O prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him.
8 So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows.
Psalms 61:1-8 (KJV)

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Sat, 31 Dec 2011 12:15:41 GMT
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I will see what I can do about that.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by JWBTI on Sat, 31 Dec 2011 12:47:59 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Thank you sister !

I can still remember the first time we sang that song in the New Building.....What a wonderful time of Spirit filled Worship

---

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by JWBTI on Sat, 31 Dec 2011 14:30:18 GMT
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I found this on You Tube

Ps 61

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zg9dUdrBTz8&feature=relat ed

I wonder where he heard the song ?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 31 Dec 2011 15:24:52 GMT
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Thanks Bro Ron, I remembered the song(I think I have it on one of the old FA worship CD's you or Grandom sent me a few years ago, then again maybe it's just 'burned' into my mental hard-drive<SMILE>) , I sang it over and over this morning while walking.

If you read the comment made by guitmartiman(the man singing and playing guitar, Jack Marti) right below the video, he says he first heard it around '85 and it lead him to start seriously seeking out and playing short scriptural songs. Refreshing to hear and his encouragment concerning depression and the lies of Satan rings so true. Reading that comment just brings comformation to what The Lord has been helping me with, in getting knowledge from my head in to my heart.

Praise Jesus.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by JWBTI on Sat, 31 Dec 2011 15:53:46 GMT
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Yes, I saw that !
I was praying that the Holy Spirit would show you also !

He did.....Praise Jesus !

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 07 Jan 2012 21:07:59 GMT

"Howbeit when He, The Spirit of truth, is come, He will GUIDE you into all truth..."John 16:13a

Definition of guide: person who LEADS or shows the way. Adviser. ~The Oxford American Dictionary

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me besides the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me..." Psalms 23:1-4

A theologian may see this as elementary, but when The Holy Spirit starts revealing simple truths, to me they are profound. During a time of trial in my life I've been made aware, over and over, that Jesus will NEVER leave us or forsake us. He promised He would send The Comforter(The Holy Spirit/The Spirit of Truth) to GUIDE (lead) us. David writes that The Lord LEADS us and whatever we're going through(the valley of the shadow of death)He is WITH us.
David, in Psalms139, speaks of God's ever present presence and though he, David, should attempt to flee from God's presence, there's nowhere he can go that God won't be...verse 10 "Even there shall Thy hand LEAD me, and Thy right hand shall hold me."

David prayed this prayer: "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: Thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands."Ps. 138:8

Amen.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 10 Jan 2012 15:27:23 GMT

I received a calendar with faith passages yesterday, the scripture for January was Psalms 31:3

"For Thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for Thy name's sake lead me, and guide me."

I found that comforting based on what The LORD has been encouraging me about that I posted in the last post.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 14 Jan 2012 20:27:27 GMT
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Biblical answer for when Mark 11:24 doesn't work...one of many, reasons.

Jesus said:

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

Jesus also said:

"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

BUT if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."

UNFORGIVENESS...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 17 Jan 2012 16:26:40 GMT
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A few weeks ago William and I were having a phone conversation and I was trying to explain something I had been experiencing in the area of a trial, and as I have struggled (at times) with understanding if I was in a trial/test or under chastisement, he reminded me of just how much God loves us(me). I was allowing Satan to heap condemnation on me for every sin I'd commited, even though I'd repented.

Today I saw a comment he made in the thread on heaven or hell that was a good reminder for us all when the enemy tries to steal our joy and condemn us. "...one doesn't move in and out of salvation each time he/she makes a mistake or sins."

My daily Bible reading has me in the book of Psalms and I read 5 chapters each day, today I was in Psalms 37 and The Lord used these verses to remind and encourage...

V23 "The steps of a good man are ordered by The Lord: and he delighteth in His way.

V24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for The Lord upholdeth him with His hand.

V25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

V26 He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.

V27 Depart from evil, and do good; and DWELL for evermore.

V28 For The Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not His saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off."

It's hard to read more than a few verses in Psalms without having to stop reading and start singing (there must be dozens of songs we learned from this book that are so uplifting and encouraging), or stop and just start thanking and praising God.

Another thing I draw encouragment from, is the life of David. He was a man after God's own heart, hand chosen and anointed to lead God's people Israel...Yet, he took another man's wife and killed (had killed) the man. That's murder and adultery, yet God forgave him, and while I haven't killed anyone or physically commited adultery, I have in my heart...HE forgives us when we repent, we're His, bought with a price, The BLOOD of JESUS, nothing can take us out of His hand. "...though he fall...The Lord upholdeth him with His hand."

What Mercy! What Grace! What love! What an awesome GOD!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Wed, 18 Jan 2012 01:45:58 GMT
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Thanks for sharing all of this!

Yes!!! He is a God of restoration; no condemnation!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 23 Jan 2012 16:15:26 GMT
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"Great is The LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness.

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." Psalms 48:1-2

Just a quick reminder, regardless of how busy life gets at times, The LORD reigneth and is greatly to be praised...He will lead and guide us.

"For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death," Psalms 48:14

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 23 Jan 2012 17:16:00 GMT
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Can you imagine?

I Can Only Imagine (partial lyrics)

by: MercyMe

Surrounded by Your glory,

what will my heart feel?

Will I dance for You Jesus,

or in awe of You be still?

Will I stand in Your presence,

or to my knees will I fall?

Will I sing hallelujah,

will I be able to speak at all?

I can only imagine...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxwzItqYmII&feature=relat ed

If it doesn't go to the link, you can just go to YouTube and enter the song.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Mark on Mon, 23 Jan 2012 19:54:33 GMT
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Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." Psalms 48:1-2

As long as I can remember as a christian the joy of the whole earth has stuck in my heart. Just the thought of being in eternity or the millennium and the whole earth singing and praising. My heart just longs for that day. The entire earth praising and rejoicing. I have long believed that sometimes it moves God to action. Someone (someone being a relative term) starts praising and someone hears and joins in and soon it is a whole bunch then begins to spread until all creation is joining in. I think that is going to happen in the millennium.

I also believe that is how our universe came into being.

Job 38/7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 24 Jan 2012 16:32:45 GMT
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Mark, your post got me thinking about people singing and the influences that produce the desire to sing. We know as believers the joy of The Lord produces a song in our heart; but we also must be aware of Satan's wiles to draw praise unto himself and to destroy lives. I'm thinking of the lyrics to the song I posted yesterday sung by MercyMe, it was written by Bart Millard, a Christian who was imagining what heaven would be like and what he would do once in the presence of Jesus. The motivation was to cause people to think upon the awesome glory of God and a reminder to what we have to look forward to as Christians.

Contrast that with another very popular song about 'imagining' by John Lennon, I believe Satan used John Lennon and the lyrics to that song, Imagine, to put doubt in people's minds about heaven and hell and eternity. The song's lyrics start with this statement:

"Imagine there's no heaven, It's easy if you try.

No hell below us, Above us only sky.

Imagine all the people living for today."

How many souls have gone to hell believing there is no hell due to the influence of this song in their lives? The Bible tells us to be diligent, that Satan uses wiles and has fiery darts, and the only way we can overcome them is by using the discernment given us by The Holy Spirit and walking in the Spirit. Daily arming ourselves with the whole armour of God; we're in a spiritual war and many have been taken captive through 'seemingly' innocent benign things like songs. I believe lyrics matter, I don't think all music glorifies God (as I read on another 'christian' forum). BTW: I have sung along to that song many times over the years before The Lord opened my eyes to see and my ears to hear...Thank You, Jesus.

I don't know what heaven will be like in detail outside what has been revealed in scripture...but I believe and imagine it will be far more than we could ever imagine.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 29 Jan 2012 15:45:00 GMT
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"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." Psalms 19:14

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by william on Mon, 30 Jan 2012 01:59:59 GMT
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Quote:How many souls have gone to hell believing there is no hell due to the influence of this song in their lives? The Bible tells us to be diligent, that Satan uses wiles and has fiery darts, and the only way we can overcome them is by using the discernment given us by The Holy Spirit and walking in the Spirit.

Lately I've been considering the vast contrast between the ways Satan operates. On the one hand, he's like the old snake, bringing in his deceptions very stealth-like, and on the other hand, (presumably when the first method fails) he's like the roaring lion going about in his attempts to devour (complete with all of the fear that accompanies his roar.)

Deception is the characteristic of the first, fear and overwhelming power categorizes the second.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 30 Jan 2012 03:47:49 GMT
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william wrote on Sun, 29 January 2012 19:59
Lately I've been considering the vast contrast between the ways Satan operates. On the one hand, he's like the old snake, bringing in his deceptions very stealth-like, and on the other hand, (presumably when the first method fails) he's like the roaring lion going about in his attempts to devour (complete with all of the fear that accompanies his roar.)

Deception is the characteristic of the first, fear and overwhelming power categorizes the second.

Blessings,
William

I can definitely say amen to that...

But I can also attest to the power of The Blood and Name of JESUS, Praise The Lord.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 10 Feb 2012 17:10:47 GMT
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Ever feel like you're getting too old to be of use unto The Lord? (Of course not, you're overcomers; that's a rhetorical question) Take heart, God promises even older folks can still bear fruit.

"Those that be planted in the house of The LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

To shew the The LORD is upright: He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him." Ps.92:13-15

I believe that the word fat used here means well provided for and prosperous, both in their spiritual walk as well as in the natural; not obesse.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by sparkles on Fri, 10 Feb 2012 18:32:41 GMT
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I really like the first part of that verse, James.

"Those that be planted in the house of The LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God."

Whom of us wouldn't want to flourish in something? We have the promise that because we are planted by the Lord we will flourish! Sometimes while in trials it is hard to imagine flourishing, but God will use each trial to help us flourish according to His will.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 13 Feb 2012 16:38:59 GMT
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"O come, let us sing unto The LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him.

For The LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before The LORD our maker.

For He is our God; and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand..." Psalms 95:1-3&6-7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 21 Feb 2012 16:00:20 GMT
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Discernment...

I can't get out of my mind how SO many people with sincere hearts, that love The Lord, are being deceived today. Discernment comes in different forms or ways; there's the spiritual gift of discernment where The Holy Spirit gives discernment to the believer...obviously the best. Then there is discernment that comes from experience, both in the natural realm as well as spiritual matters(testing whatever against God's Word, having The Word in our hearts that gives us the discernment/wisdom/knowledge to know and recognize when someone is teaching or promoting a false doctrine or attempting to deceive.)

I talk with people who don't have enough grounding in The Word to be able to withstand the fiery darts and wiles of Satan when he is speaking through a man who professes to be a prophet or teacher of God's Word...especially those with headliner ministries that are on TV every day. I've had people become upset with me when I point out these charlatans, they repeatedly argue that they quote The Bible...perfect example: The guy I wrote about over on The Last Days thread, the 'Master Prophet' using II Chronicles 20:20b as proof text that those watching him should listen to him and believe what he said.("...believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.") Yes, that is the Word of God, but it MUST be taken in context as well as one must first establish that the person is in fact a Prophet...not one seeking to profit at the expense of the viewer.

Bible study is crucial, we aren't told in II Timothy 2:15 to STUDY to show ourselves approved unto God for no reason; it's the only way to 'rightly divide the word of truth'. Prayer is needful to discern the wiles of the enemy, especially praying in The Spirit which builds us up and makes us less likely to fall for subtle (and often rather obvious) deceptions being propagated upon believers today. But reading and doing word studies and praying takes time away from what we want to be

doing, which is catering to the flesh, doing it our way. Instant gratification, "heal me NOW! I want prosperity/money NOW! I'm tired of just The Word, I want signs/wonders/miracles NOW!" and so off people go to Lakeland, Mobile, Toronto, Pensacola; and people like Todd Bentley, Peter Popoff, Benny Hinn, and 'Master Prophet' Benard Jordan, and hundreds more, get rich; and the deceived sheep get fleeced (to go along with often picking up demonic spirits and empty wallets). Once the spirit of deception has a person(sometimes just a small error or false teaching that is overlooked to promote 'harmony'), it becomes harder and harder for the deceived to discern righteously and soon they're totally blinded to what is SO obvious to those with discernment.

ENOUGH! It's gone on too long, it's time expose these deceivers and it's time to warn the sheep. Will they listen? That'll be their responsibility, at least they'll be warned.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Tue, 21 Feb 2012 16:44:38 GMT
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2Peter 1:1-3 plainly states that what we've been given comes through knowing Him.

He goes on to remind us that our theological education is a continual process and that our diligence in this pursuit will keep us from falling victim to the false teachers mentioned in the second chapter. Since our faith is based upon our knowledge of Him (all of His attributes, etc.) those who are not diligent in this area will be those whose faith will eventually become worthless. We should want to know Him just like Peter knew Him, in all of His transfigured glory!

Chapter 3 shows that there will be scoffers and doubters but the ones who have pursued this wonderful knowledge will be rewarded handsomely.

I recommend reading 2 Peter through again and after you finish go and read A. W. Tozer's THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY. http://www.heavendwellers.com/hdt_knowledge_of_the_holy.htm

You'll be glad you did!

William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 26 Feb 2012 18:13:30 GMT
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Thank you, William. I'm not finished with the book (I am with II Peter<grin>) but I'm already glad. I would also encourage the reading of this book, too bad we can't make it mandatory reading for the Body of Christ everywhere, especially here in America.

There's nuggets of truth throughout the pages, one thing early on that jumped out at me and hit home was about idolatry and what it really is. He points out that just because Christians don't bow down before pagan statues we generally tell ourselves we aren't involved in idolatry; but, any concept we have of God that isn't a true reflection of who He really is causes us to have created a 'god' that in fact isn't really God, thus resulting in the false worship of something other than The One True GOD. The Holy Spirit can point out to each of us(Christians) areas in our lives where this may be true and lead us to correcting it. Imediately I see how so many have been lead astray with this false prosperity gospel, they have a false image of God in their hearts and minds, viewing Him as more of a 'sugar daddy' waiting to give them everything they 'want', who has revealed to His prophets and teachers(speaking here of the false teachers, preachers, prophets) a neat little formula of 'seed' sowing and harvesting whereby they get to live the life they think God has for them, sowing X amount of money and receiving 100 fold.(Of course we know that there is the Biblical principle of sowing and reaping, I'm speaking of the obivious misapplication for the wrong motive)

Here is a short quote that cuts right to the heart of the problem in modern Christianity.

"A right conception of God is basic not only to systematic theology but to practical Christian living as well. It is to worship (of God) what the foundation is to the temple; where it is inadequate or out of plumb the whole structure must sooner or later collapse. I believe there is scarcely an error in doctrine or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect and ignoble thoughts about God." A.W.Tozer

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Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 29 Feb 2012 17:39:58 GMT
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"Acquaint thyself with God..."

The above quote is the summation of what A W Tozer believed to be the 'secret' that the church needed to rediscover to regain the power and witness that so long has been missing.

He goes on to say; "But the God we must see is not the utilitarian God who is having such a run of popularity today, whose chief claim to men's attention is His ability to bring them success in their various undertakings and who for that reason is being cajoled and flattered by everyone who wants a favor."

Tozer reminds the reader that there are conditions to be met in order to gain knowledge of Our Most Holy God...Humm, I remember another man of God who used to 'harp' on meeting the conditions required in order to walk in right relationship with God; now many find fault and criticize him, I guess this won't go over very well with them regardless of how true it is.

These conditions are NOT a formula where one goes step by step and suddenly all their problems are solved, but these are Biblical instructions laid out and repeatedly shown as requirements for a man/woman to walk in right relationship with Almighty God. First and foremost, WE MUST FORSAKE OUR SINS.("Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.") Second, total committal of our lives to Christ in faith. (there's that word again, F.A.I.T.H...<for further reference see, Deeper Life in The Spirit by Hobart Freeman>)This is where we keep His commandments and pick up our cross daily and follow Him, love Him and our fellow man. Third, Tozer points out that we must reckon ourselves dead unto sin and alive unto Christ, walking in The Spirit and trampling under foot the lust of the flesh. Fourth he writes we must set our affections on things above and detach ourselves this world and it's ways. And lastly, he says we should spend time in meditation upon the majesty of God, and might I add, worship.

I was encouraged greatly by this book, as well reminded of just how Great, Holy, and wonderful GOD is. It reinforces my faith and gives me strength, it causes me to reflect back on my relationship with God and ultimately encourages me to examine my heart to be sure my view of God isn't tainted by the corruption of modern religion. It also reminds me to be thankful for His Holy Word He has so graciously given us, the way we come to know Him, His attributes and character. Praise God.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 29 Feb 2012 17:57:57 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

james wrote on Sun, 26 February 2012 12:13Thank you, William. I'm not finished with the book (I am with II Peter<grin>) but I'm already glad. I would also encourage the reading of this book, too bad we can't make it mandatory reading for the Body of Christ everywhere, especially here in America.

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Him as more of a 'sugar daddy' waiting to give them everything they 'want', who has revealed to His prophets and teachers(speaking here of the false teachers, preachers, prophets) a neat little formula of 'seed' sowing and harvesting whereby they get to live the life they think God has for them, sowing X amount of money and receiving 100 fold.(Of course we know that there is the Biblical principle of sowing and reaping, I'm speaking of the obivious misapplication for the wrong motive)

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It was the quote about idolatry essentially being boiled down to wrong thoughts about who He is, that really struck me. The heart of our religion is our conception of God (i.e. our theology) and if we conceive of Him as anything other than what He has revealed Himself to be then we have a god that isn't the True God.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Thu, 01 Mar 2012 22:30:01 GMT
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Gulp.....

Knowing "basic" theology is not so basic anymore.

It is time for me to continue to review my valuable FA info and know in Whom I believe.

Tozer....isn't that the guy who drug a corpse out of a casket, slammed it into the corner of the room, and commanded it to come to life? The corpse slid down the wall. Tozer picked it up and slammed it again. It came to life.

Isn't Tozer the guy who heard a noise in the other room one night? Upon investigation, it was Satan sitting there. He blew out his candle and said, "Oh, it's only you."

It could have Wigglesworth, I can't recall. In any case, they knew in Whom they believed because they knew their theology.

Good thoughts, guys.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 05 Mar 2012 16:56:52 GMT
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The story of the dead man being removed from a casket and 'slammed' up against the wall and coming back to life is attributed to Smith Wigglesworth I believe. It may be told in a book (which doesn't make it true), but I remember Kenneth Copeland telling it.(His version can be found on YouTube)

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 07 Mar 2012 19:18:04 GMT
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The Knowledge of The LORD...

I was reading an article about how in today's modern world knowledge is on the increase. How daily people are discovering new things and the general population is so much smarter than just a couple generations ago. I believe there is a big difference between being 'smart' and being wise. Unregenerate mankind is filled with such pride in their knowledge and understanding of science and think they have ALL the answers concerning ALL things. And religious mankind is no better, putting words in God's mouth (false prophets/teachers), interpreting His Holy Word to consume upon their own lust(false prosperity gospel); professing to be called to lord over their fellow believers in their grand cathedrals(clergy).

BUT...The Knowledge of The LORD and understanding of Him is decreasing. Even in the 'church world' there is little knowledge of The LORD because if there was it would be reflected in the actions of those professing to be Christian.

God prophesied to Moses in Numbers 14:21 that the earth shall be filled with the glory of The Lord. And in Isaiah 6:3 the seraphim's are crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is The Lord of host: the whole earth is full of His glory." And in Isaiah 11:9b " for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of The Lord, as the waters cover the sea." And Habakkuk 2:14 says, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of The Lord..."

Oh for the day when God's Glory and the Knowledge of Him fills the whole earth...when all pride and arrogance is gone and His sheep are crying, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 17 Mar 2012 15:16:41 GMT
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A Prayer Concerning Faith...A.W.Tozer

"Teach us to know that we cannot know, for the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Let faith support us where reason fails, and we shall think because we believe, not in order that we may believe."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 19 Mar 2012 01:41:28 GMT
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I'll refrain from commenting on "Christian Superstitions"...

And just say this...

The Word of God is infallible, and it's incapable of error.

It boggles my mind that a Christian would suggest anything different.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 19 Mar 2012 15:45:50 GMT
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Concerning Signs and Wonders...

"The unbelieving mind would not be convinced by any proof, and the worshiping heart needs none."

A.W.Tozer

And Yet...

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Jesus Christ, Mark 16:17-18

"And they went forth, and preached everywhere, The LORD working with them, and confirming The Word with signs following." Mk. 16:20

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 02 Apr 2012 16:18:02 GMT
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Encouragement from Isaiah...

This IS God's Word, read it, believe it, stand on it.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea; I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Is.41:10

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of The LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith The LORD." Is.54:17

"So shall they fear the name of The LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of The LORD shall lift up a standard against him." Is.59:19

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by james on Wed, 11 Apr 2012 13:59:03 GMT
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A Reminder...

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence,

work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:3-12

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 13 Apr 2012 13:55:07 GMT
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Affections of the heart...

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of

the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." I John 2:15-17

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 22 Apr 2012 14:08:53 GMT
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james wrote on Fri, 16 October 2009 09:43Overcoming Discouragement...

I was reading in I Kings 18-19 where Elijah had gotten discouraged after he had experienced God's power and anointing when calling down fire from heaven to consume the burnt sacrifice on the altar. After the false prophets of Ba'al were killed Elijah went into the wilderness and stayed in a cave to get away from Jezebel(she didn't like him killing her prophets)

In verse 14 of I Kings 19, Elijah told The Lord; "...I have been very jealous for The Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

God encouraged Elijah by first reminding him that he wasn't alone; verse 18 of chapter 19..."Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Ba'al, and every mouth which hath not kissed him." And second, by providing him with a helper, friend, and companion; Elisha.

I believe there's encouragement to be found in this account of what Elijah went through, for us today. It's easy to become discouraged, but we must remember that discouragement is a snare of the devil. We must focus on Jesus, His faithfulness in our past as well as His promise to keep us unto the end. Maybe things aren't happening like they did 25-30 years ago in our lives(maybe for some they are,if they are you should be giving God the glory and testifying about it to encourage others), maybe some of us feel like we're in that 'cave' in the wilderness...but even if that's true, remember, God sent an angel to feed Elijah. And he used that time to rest and strenghten himself for what lay ahead.

We, most of us, believe we're in the last days; are we using the time given us to prepare for what lies ahead? We can't become discouraged by what goes on around us, that only plays right into

satans hand.

I believe The Lord would have us be encouraged, we're not alone, even though it may at times seem like it, there's an end-time army that God is preparing, who have not bowed their knees to the God of this world. The time is nearer than when we first believed, let us not become weary in well doing. He promised NEVER to leave us or forsake us...Remember our promise to Him? We said we'd never forsake Him, we promised to never let go of that plow handle, we said not our wills, but thine, O Lord. Stir up that which has been placed within us, it doesn't matter what's happening to the 'left' or the 'right', if we're dwelling in the secret place of The Most High...SURELY He shall deliver thee...

Remember the song we used to sing? 'Thou hast turn my mourning into dancing'.
Remember how it ends? 'To the end that my glory may sing praise to Thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto Thee for ever.'
In the middle it says, 'Thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness'...This song was written by David and is found in Psalms 30:11-12

We can't be discouraged while singing unto The Lord, while praying in The Spirit, while giving thanks unto God, while sharing The Word of God with others, or while focusing on Jesus. What is the victory that overcometh the world? Even our faith.

More on overcoming discouragement...

"Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy GOD is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11

Be encouraged, you're not alone...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Sun, 22 Apr 2012 14:23:56 GMT
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Watch out, James, or you'll find yourself behind a pulpit on Sunday mornings... that was an excellent message. We all need reminders to reflect on His continued faithfulness whether we find ourselves on the mountain or in the desert.

Thanks!

William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 22 Apr 2012 15:27:39 GMT
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This testimony isn't to elevate me in any way, shape, or fashion but to show the way The Holy Spirit is working in peoples lives. This morning I was impressed to repost that word of encouragement from 2009 and He gave me the scripture from Joshua 1:9 to add at the end. I wrote a small commentary to go with it and then I believe The Lord had me delete it(the commentary). I just decided it was to encourage someone and that He would do the work and I was just to post the scripture.

An hour or so later as I tuned in to Brother Tom Hamilton he IS teaching on what God told Moses to say unto Joshua..."And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed." Deuteronomy 31:8 The whole point of what The Holy Spirit is ministering today through whatever vessel He is using is that we are to be encouraged, that we aren't alone, and that He will do that which He has promised.

The message today by Brother Tom is/was very editifying and encouraging...I'd highly recommend it.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by sparkles on Sun, 22 Apr 2012 15:32:05 GMT
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Hi James,
Thanks for the encouragement! When so many are scattered and we don't at this point have the opportunity to fellowship
together, a word of encouragement that we aren't alone is much appreciated. It is a blessing to know there are still those out there who strive to be conformed to the image of Christ, as this is what people here desire.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by william on Sun, 22 Apr 2012 16:00:58 GMT
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james wrote on Sun, 22 April 2012 10:27This testimony isn't to elevate me in any way, shape, or fashion but to show the way The Holy Spirit is working in peoples lives. This morning I was impressed to repost that word of encouragement from 2009 and He gave me the scripture from Jushua 1:9 to add at the end. I wrote a small commentary to go with it and then I believe The Lord had me delete it(the commentary). I just decided it was to encourage someone and that He would do the work and I was just to post the scripture.

An hour or so later as I tuned in to Brother Tom Hamilton he IS teaching on what God told Moses to say unto Joshua..."And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed." Deuteronomy 31:8 The whole point of what The Holy Spirit is ministering today through whatever vessel He is using is that we are to be encouraged, that we aren't alone, and that He will do that which He has promised.

I understand the humility part, it goes without saying BUT my point is that I'm excited whenever I see someone using the gifts that the Lord gives to them and while you probably don't need the encouragement --I love giving it anyway! <grin>

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 01 May 2012 19:36:37 GMT
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This post just sunk in with me...duh?

We ALL need encouragement, thanks. It was encouraging to me to know that I was on the same page with what The Holy Spirit was directing others to share in different parts of the country.

In hindsight, I think of the old Abbot and Costelo(I think) joke about 'who's on first'...The Lord was encouraging Joshua, The Holy Spirit was encouraging me as I read the scriptures, I was encouraging others by posting it, and you were encouraging me for encouraging others...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

"But exhort one another daily..."

This is a reminder and encouragement first to myself and then to anyone whom The Lord would have it for...

Hebrews 3:6,12-14

"But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end."

Satan is going about as a roaring lion, seeking souls to devour. The Word tells us that the just will live by faith...that without faith it's impossible to please Him. Doubt and unbelief is sin...what's not of faith is sin.

I think that's why the 'faith message' is so important, everything in our Christian walk works by faith and if the foundation isn't founded on faith(the rock of Christ Jesus) then all built will eventually fall when the test of time comes.

The encouragement today is this...don't grow weary, the race isn't over until the finish line is crossed; it is important how we started and the foundation that was laid 30+ years ago, but it's vital that we be diligent to hold firm and stedfast our confidence unto the end. Guarding 24/7 our hearts against unbelief creeping in. It's gardening time of year, the anology that comes to mind is like our mind is a garden and we must keep it free from 'weeds' and anything that would choke out what has been planted there. The quality of what is produced is based on how we keep it free of 'weeds' (negative thoughts, doubts, and the cares of this life.) Nurturing 'it' by the daily watering and feeding only that which nutures it.(The Word of God, praying in The Spirit, abiding in Him, ect)

God is full of mercy and He is patient to remind us and call us back to Him when we stray in any area of our lives, the time is drawing to a close and Jesus wants His Bride ready. Today if you

hear His voice, hearden not your hearts, repent and seek His face. God LOVES you(and me), that love is manifest in His calling us to repentance in areas of our lives where He sees sin/doubt/unbelief. Thank God, He doesn't discard us as we so often do each other when we disagree, He lovingly corrects and restores... GLORY to GOD, thank You Jesus. May the day come soon when all men WILL know we're His disciples, by our love one for another.

Like I said, this was first to me...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 08 Jun 2012 12:21:49 GMT
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"Let every thing that hath breath praise The LORD. Praise ye The LORD."

Psalms 150:6

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 15 Jun 2012 15:58:35 GMT
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Some thoughts on the wilderness...

We often speak of our 'wilderness experience' in relation to not being involved in a book of Acts type local, visible assembly and how we miss what we once shared in. As I was thinking about it I was reminded that Biblically speaking there was always a purpose for the wilderness/desert. Jesus was lead there by The Spirit to be tempted/tested. (Matt. 4:1) John the Baptist was in the wilderness being prepared. (Luke 3:2) In the OT Elijah spent time in the wilderness. (I Kings 19:4) These are positive examples where those sent into the wilderness were obedient to their calling and used the time there to fast and pray, learn God's will for the ministry set before them; and get ready.

Now we go to the example of Israel (Deut. 29:5) whom God kept there for 40 years due to disobedience and rebellion. They didn't redeem their time there, they rather continued in their unbelief and rebellion; complaining, murmuring, constantly forgetting what God did for them on a daily basis. Sinning at every turn, going after idols, refusing to listen to the only voice that could deliver them from their exile. And even though the opportunity was there for all of them(millions of people), only Joshua and Caleb (and those who were born later) were allow to enter into the land of promise that God had promised.

So I have to ask myself, what is my additude concerning the 'wilderness' I find myself in? Am I yeilding myself to the working of The Holy Spirit, seeking God's direct and wisdom while here? Am I following in the example of Jesus, John the Baptist, Elijah and other men of God, or is the testimony of my journey more like that of Israel?

Something to think about next time we start squirming around and wanting to get off the cross we're called to crucify our flesh on daily. It's got to be more than just a confession of being an overcomer, there must be actions that line up with God's Word...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 19 Jun 2012 15:50:10 GMT
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"Amazing Love! How can it be

That Thou, my God,

Shouldst die for me?"

Charles Wesley

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 29 Jun 2012 19:14:47 GMT
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"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 04 Jul 2012 20:11:43 GMT
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"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." Galatians 5:6

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Thu, 05 Jul 2012 22:29:00 GMT
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These recent posts have been such a blessing to me.

I really believe that when we are experiencing His love for us, and our love for each other, we will then carry the burdens necessary for the masses.

I have felt that we have had the power, but no burden.

I love being loved by Jesus and by those who have His open arms, as well. I really want so many who are lost to know this kind of mercy and love.

Let the floodgates of love open, then we will see the greater works. I believe that day is very soon.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 13 Jul 2012 13:57:38 GMT
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"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us,

by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of The Holy Ghost." Titus 3:5

"What can wash away my sin?

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus;

What can make me whole again?

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus."

"Then sings my soul,

my Saviour God, to Thee,

How great Thou art,

How great Thou art."

Have you taken time today, my friends, to thank Him, to praise Him, to think upon the Mercy and Grace of God? He inhabits the praises of His people, He is worthy of ALL our praise.

Praise YOU Jesus! Thank You Father! May Your name be exalted in all the earth.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 17 Jul 2012 20:30:34 GMT
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Weathering life's storms...

First let me say, I haven't perfected what I'm about to write, but I'm growing and learning in the ways of God.(as we all are) Also, it's not a 'negative confession' to say storms will come, The Word promises them.

In Matt.7:24-27 and Luke 6:48&49 Jesus speaks of the wise man and the foolish man, one builds on the rock and the other builds on sand. It doesn't say that because the wise man was a Christian nothing would ever test his faith, in fact scripture teaches us that it's through many trials and tribulations that we enter into The Kingdom of God. James 1:2-5&12 says this,"when" a man is tried. Isaiah 43:2 says "when" it happens, He is with us. So it's a given that storms will come to both the righteous as well as the unrighteous, it's our preparation before hand that will determine wheather or not we are judged wise or foolish.

So what is the key to becoming a wise man? Verse 24 of Matthew chapter 7; "Therefore whosoever heareth these saying of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him to a wise man..." Ok, one might ask, just what are these 'sayings'? Well Jesus had just finished speaking to them on a whole list of 'sayings' that's known as the B'Additudes, that'd be a good place to start. He said one would be blessed in fact if they would apply these 'saying' into actions.

Jesus said: Be poor in spirit; hunger and thirst for righteousness; be merciful; be pure of heart; be meek and humble; be a peacemaker; turn the other cheek; love God with ALL your heart; love your enemies; love your neighbor; forgive others; give to them that ask of you; pray in secret; fast unto The Lord; don't judge critically; take no thought for tomorrow; bear fruits unto righteousness; don't swear; be holy as He is Holy; lay up treasures in heaven; let your light shine before men...

Yes, the storms of life will surely come, it's our choice as to how we'll weather them; if we've been wise and obedient the winds and waves won't move us because Jesus is The Rock we've build upon, as He has instructed us to do.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 21 Jul 2012 21:26:32 GMT
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Fight or Flight...

Throughout scripture we're instructed to "fight" the good fight, that we're in a spiritual warfare, that we're to put on armour, to war in the spirit. Yet at the same time we're instructed to "flee" certain things as well. We must know what to fight and what to flee from.

Charles Spurgeon said this:

"The devil I am to resist and he will flee from me; but the lust of the flesh, I must flee, or they will surely overcome me."

The first example of fleeing that comes to mind is Joseph in Genesis 39:7-12 when Joseph's master's wife tried to seduce him, Joseph fled. In the NT we're told to flee fornication in I Corinthians 6:18 and in chapter 10 verse 14 we're told to flee idolatry. II Timothy 2:22 says flee youthful lust.

But there's times and situations where we're instructed to fight, we're to put on the whole armour of God daily, Ephesians 6:11. James tells us to resist the devil and he will "flee" from us, James 4:7. There's times to take the offensive, that's what the sword (Word of God) is for. We're told that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. But we're to take the shield of faith to use to deflect firey darts of Satan, more defensive.

We as followers of Christ must learn to discern what we're up against in whatever situation,

whether or not it's a battle with the devil and his demons or if it's a fleshly lust. The demonic we fight, take authority over in Jesus's Name, cast out in Jesus's Name; lust of the flesh must be fled from and the flesh crucified. I heard this saying many years ago and it certainly is true; "You can't cast out the flesh, and you sure can't crucify the devil."

How many times do Christians spend all their energy and time seeking deliverance and rebuking Satan when the problem is the flesh isn't dead and keep rising up in pride, lust, anger, lying, glutony, uncleaness, self-righteousness, and various other fleshy sins. Yes, a demon can be behind this as well, we know there are spirits of lust, pride, lying, religious spirits, ect.ect.; but often people haven't willing dealt with their flesh to bring it into subjection to the will of GOD, the daily summiting to the Cross. If the sin/problem doesn't go away with deliverance then there's a good chance the problem/sin lies with the uncrucified flesh(self-will, self-centered, self-absorbed, me, me, me...FLESH.) The Word tells us to walk in the Spirit and we won't fulfill the lust of the Flesh.

We're in a battle daily, we're to be diligent 24/7, yet there's times where we're to exercise wisdom and flee a sitution...why stand and fight when it's not something we can defeat through that means, especially when there's a door of escape waiting...Joseph left his garment in her hand and 'hit the door', ran, fled, turned his back on the situation and removed any opportunity for to sin against his master or his God.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 10 Aug 2012 14:19:43 GMT
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FOCUS...

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be SINGLE, thy whole body shall be full of light." Matthew 6:22

I've been going over the Sermon on the Mount and also listening to a 40 message(yep, I said 40, smile) teaching on the Sermon on the Mount by Brother Tom Hamilton; you can listen to his messages online at http://www.sermon.net/SCA
and this scripture kept ministering to me, especially as it speaks of our eyes being 'single'. I believe that to mean focused, looking only to Jesus, The Kingdom, the ways of God, ect.

There's a saying that says 'we are what we eat', there's a lot of truth in that from a physical standpoint; but this statement by Jesus is 100% THE Truth. And Jesus goes on to explain in the next couple verses what happens when one's eyes are evil, they're filled with darkness...He also says Christians can't serve two masters, we'll be divided, holding to one and despising the other.

I see daily the importance of what we focus on, if Christians expect to reflect the light of Christ in our lives we've got to learn (if one hasn't already, probably preaching to the choir here) to guard what we allow ourselves to 'see'.

There's good light and there's 'bad' light; for me I am seeing the light of this world growing dimmer and dimmer; as The Light of God grows brighter and brighter in my life, causing my whole body to be full of Light.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 22 Aug 2012 21:21:34 GMT
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"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Matthew 16:27

"Behold He comes! Riding on the clouds!

Shining like the sun! At the trumpet call lift your voice!

It's the year of jubile! Out of Zion's hill salvation comes!"

Lyrics from song:
"Days of Elijah" (Behold He Comes)

Don't anyone grow weary from looking up, He's coming, He promised!

"...but faith which worketh by love."

Have you showed God's LOVE to someone today? It's not too late...Matthew 22:39. "...Thou shalt love thy neighbor AS THYSELF."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 24 Aug 2012 00:17:40 GMT
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Psalms of encouragement...

Ps. 62

V1 "Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation."
V2 "He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved."

V7 "In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God."
V8 "Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 28 Aug 2012 12:49:53 GMT
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"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life." John 12:24-25

I remember reading these scriptures as a new Christian and they always made me wonder how much I really understood them; I see now that I didn't, we(i) don't understand the deeper/hidden truths until we start walking in and applying them...I understand much more so today; I look forward to tomorrow, as I learn to walk in obedience today.

"To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus...all I ask, is to be like You, LORD."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 11 Sep 2012 12:57:03 GMT
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How to avoid enticing or beguiling words, or be lead astray...

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus The Lord, so walk ye in Him:

Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

Colossians 2:6-9

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 19 Sep 2012 13:16:42 GMT
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FOCUS...

As the end of time on this earth as we know it draws nearer,(or should I say, as the 'beginning' draws nearer, because that's what followers of Christ are looking to; the beginning of God's eternal Kingdom.) the distractions of this world mount. Even the things we consider necessary and mundane can become a snare if we aren't ever mindful of where our focus should be, on Jesus and His Kingdom. It makes absolutely no sense to non-believers for a man to base his life around faith in a BOOK, promises written thousands of yeara ago...but Oh if only they could come to know the author of that Book, then they'd 'see', it's not what is seen with the natural eye that is of true value; but what is seen with the spiritual 'eye' of faith that is of eternal priceless value.

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."
II Corinthians 4:18

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 19 Sep 2012 14:26:42 GMT
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So true.

It is especially relevant this morning as I'm reflecting on 1Cor 12-14. Most of us focus on the gifts mentioned in this passage (and that's not a bad thing!) but in the light of your post, which highlights the fact that we all should be focused upon Jesus and the manifestation of His kingdom, my understanding is being broadened to consider how those gifts relate to the ultimate healing of the body of Christ.

The second part of 1Cor12 forces us to put those wonderful gifts into the context of the larger picture--the body of Christ.

We all know that the gifts are given for the edification of the body. (Eph 4:11f) And I think most of us can agree that we need edification more than ever but we struggle when we try to figure out how our present circumstances will ever fit into the ideal picture we see presented for us in Scripture.

We are probably not that much different than the Corinthians. They were given a map showing both the purpose, and the pathway to Church "Nirvana." Whether or not they actually realized the fruit of Paul's instruction, I'm not sure, but I do know that we, like them, have that map spread before us. At some point (probably around the 13 chapter!) we are going to get it right.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 19 Sep 2012 20:15:30 GMT
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One thing's for certain, if we don't 'get' chapter 13 right(we, being the Body of Christ), none of the plan is going to come into maturity as is outlined in The Word. Without LOVE there'll be no unity, and without unity the gifts aren't going to manifest for the edification of the Body...The Bride, to be without spot or blemish is in desperate need of the power and presence of Jesus Christ in our life's and when it is the world will KNOW it..."By this, shall all men know that ye are My disciples, by your LOVE one for another."

Yeah, we do see through a glass darkly now, and our knowlwdge is limited at this time and we learn more daily as we walk with and abide 'in' Him...But the LOVE part is up to us(imo).

So how does a person love someone whom they've never seen, who's only contact is through a computer or phone? May I suggest by praying for one another, by encouraging one another, by sharing testimonies of God's working in our lives to edify and build each others faith. Hey, it's possible to love someone you've not seen; God tells us to love Him with ALL our hearts...anyone ever seen Him? Jesus said blessed are those whom having NOT seen yet believe...In HIM, Jesus. We're told if we can't love those around us who we can see (our brothers and sisters), how can we love God who we haven't seen.

We got a good foundation in FAITH and Biblical theology, but we might could use a little work in the LOVE department...'we' being those with ties to FA.

"Though I...though I... though I...AND HAVE NOT LOVE...I am nothing."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 24 Sep 2012 18:53:33 GMT
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"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:16-17

Therefore...

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 06 Oct 2012 16:08:58 GMT
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"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virture, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philippians 4:6-8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 25 Oct 2012 19:38:09 GMT
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"Who also has made us able ministers of the new covenant; not of the leter, but of the spirit; for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life." II Corinthians 3:6

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 05 Nov 2012 22:19:07 GMT
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I hope these scriptures encourage others as much as they do me, if or when we sin the Light of God will expose the sin (darkness) if we'll humble ourselves and seek to walk in His Light. His Love continues to amaze me daily, He Loves us, brothers and sisters, and how humbling is it to know that The God of All, will restore us unto fellowship with Him when we return unto Him with our whole hearts. I encourage anyone reading to examine themselves to see if they be in the Light, and if you discover an area of darkness in your life, then SEEK after The Light with you entire being. He is full of Grace and Mercy, not willing that any should perish...WHAT LOVE! Thank You, Father...Thank You, Jesus. Praise His Holy Name forever more.

"This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." I John 1:5-10

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

And He is the propitation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." I John 2:1-2

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 11 Nov 2012 15:18:10 GMT
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The Daily Exercise of Christianity...

Exercise is something that I think is important, especially as we grow older. Recently I haven't been able to follow my usual routine due to a physical trial and it didn't take long to notice the deteriation of the conditioning of my muscles and endurance. The Lord is helping me in learning what it means to walk in the Spirit and nor fullfil the lusts of the flesh, how to willing submit my flesh to the cross daily. We're instructed throughout The Word of God to continualy and daily do certain things in order to grow stronger as Christians and overcome the adversary.

I was reading this morning in II Corinthians 7:1 where Paul writes: "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." I see a couple of important keys to growing in Christ here, one is that the responsibility is upon the individual(us/we/I) to cleanse/depart/overcome/die to ALL filthiness of the flesh...AND...spirit. And secondly to be 'perfecting' holiness. I believe, without doing an indepth study of the word that 'perfecting' means an onging, daily practice(exercise of) learning holiness. Putting off the old man and putting on the new man made after the image of Christ Jesus.

The point of this encouragement is that while bodily physical exercise may only profit a 'little', spiritual exercise is vital to our development in our Christian walk. And it's a daily exercise of

impleminting into our lives what Jesus has provided(through these PROMISES) such as the whole armour of God, faith, empowering by The Holy Spirit, the gifts and fruit of The Spirit(which must be developed and matured through exercise and experience).

Hope this blesses those reading as much as it has me in grasping it. Yes it is simple and not so deep, yet it is needful to understand and 'get' into our hearts if this is an area that we're growing in.

Just want to say hi to Sue, Ron, Mark, Dick and Muriel...though we may not hear from you brothers and sisters as often as we'd like I wanted you to know that I daily think of ya'll and pray for you.

Love in Christ,

james

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 13 Nov 2012 16:53:26 GMT
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"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 27 Nov 2012 14:57:52 GMT
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Are You A Sheep?...John 10

Do you?

Hear His voice...v3

Follow Him...v4

Know His voice...v4

A stranger will they not follow...v5

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:" John 10:27

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 06 Dec 2012 14:20:12 GMT
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God's Will...

"And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:40

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess. 5:18

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 17 Dec 2012 14:40:44 GMT
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He's coming! Every day is important. while we're patiently waiting we're to make sure our hearts are stablished, grounded in The Word, walking in fellowship with Him...24/7

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of The Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of The Lord draweth nigh." James 5:7-8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 31 Dec 2012 15:36:13 GMT
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Encouragement from Isaiah...

"Hearken unto Me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek The LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged."

"Hearken unto Me, My people; and give ear unto Me, O My nation: for a law shall proceed from Me, and I will make My judgment to rest for a light of the people."

"Hearken unto Me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings."

"Therefore the redeemed of The LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and mourning shall flee away."

Isaiah 51:1,4,7,11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 01 Jan 2013 15:07:35 GMT
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Exhortation from Isaiah...

"Seek ye The LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near."

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto

The LORD,

and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."

Isaiah 55:6-7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 11 Jan 2013 16:23:10 GMT
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The Importance of Humility...

God throughout scripture points out the importance of humility; in fact He states that without a humble heart we can't be in fellowship with Him.

"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."Isaiah 57:15

"...Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."James 4:6

"By humility and the fear of The LORD are riches, and honor, and life."Proverbs 22:4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 16 Jan 2013 17:06:30 GMT
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More on humility...

"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 26 Jan 2013 14:46:36 GMT
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In reading through Jeremiah, we see a man of God(a true prophet) who endured much grief and sorrow to obey The Lord. He became so exasperated with Israel and Judah that he cursed the day he was born. He even determined that he wouldn't mention the name of The Lord or speak in His name again.(That's a true prophet of God coming to a place where he wanted to give up, to die, to just escape the shame and ridicule of the rebellious children of God, Israel.)

BUT....he couldn't!

"Then I said, I will not make mention of Him, nor speak any more in His name. But His Word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forebearing, and I could not stay." Jeremiah 20:9

The message of encouragement here? Don't let anything discourage you from obedience to what God has called you to; a relationship that even though within yourself you grow weary and faint, become exasperated at times, want to chunk it all and curse the day you put your hand to the plow, don't. Allow The Word of God to rise up within as a burning consuming fire. If you're called to be a watchman upon the wall, warning of coming dangers, then get on the wall and warn. If you're called to encourage the Body of Christ, then open your mouth and encourage; if you're called to be a prophet, then speak forth The Words of The Lord. Don't rob the sheep of what God has for them through you by falling prey to self-pity or self-centeredness.

We need Body ministry today like never before, the time is short, pray/interceed, share, encourage, exhort, warn, edify one another, walk in love...speak The Word, follow the leading of The Holy Spirit.

I John 4:7-8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Sat, 26 Jan 2013 16:16:35 GMT
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That's good stuff, James... just what I needed this morning.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Sun, 27 Jan 2013 02:42:56 GMT
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Thanks, James. It does get hard.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Sun, 27 Jan 2013 11:06:21 GMT
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James,

It does seem overwhelming at times. Thanks for the encouragement, I need it as well.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 31 Jan 2013 14:55:47 GMT
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JESUS, Our Hope...

"But what saith it? The Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom.10:8-10

"For we are saved by HOPE: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." Rom. 8:24-25

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 09 Feb 2013 20:33:37 GMT
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More encouragement to have HOPE...

"But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more." Ps.71:14

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope , through the power of the Holy Ghost." Rom.15:13

Hope in Jesus brings light even on the darkest of days.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 12 Feb 2013 14:25:45 GMT
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God's Faithfulness...Our HOPE...

In reading through Jeremiah and now Lamentations we see a nation (Israel/Judah) who was going through God's judgment (captivity into Babylon) for their rebellion/disobedience. In Lamentations Jeremiah is crying out from a place of misery, pain, and sorrow; it is a reminder and warning to all who will listen. Yet in the midst of the anguish and humility, Jeremiah ENCOURAGES himself by reminding himself of the HOPE he has in God.

"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I HOPE in Him.

The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him.

It is good that a man should both HOPE and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."Lamentations 3:21-26

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have HOPE." Romans 15:4

This is our inheritance, God's Word; forever settled in heaven, just as valid today as when Jeremiah was living. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever...HOPE YE IN THE LORD

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 18 Feb 2013 15:38:52 GMT
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Offenses...

As Christians we are to follow the pattern Jesus set by His life and the instructions He gave as to how we deal with one another. The promises are given unto those who OVERCOME, not to those who turn back having been offended by either The Word of God (obedience) or by the actions of others. I would encourage anyone reading this to determine within their hearts to submit to The Cross DAILY, if we're on the Cross (what's a cross for? Dying!) Dead to 'self' Christians aren't offended by others words or actions, they've crucified the flesh(pride, self-centeredness, the desire to always 'be right'). It's a daily choice, both dying to self and chosing to LOVE one another. I Corinthians 13...Tells us: Though I DO all these wonderful things(sacrifice my body, give to the poor, have great faith, have all knowledge, can quote scripture, ect.), without LOVE...it profits me nothing.

Remember the little song from I John 4:7-8? Beloved, let us LOVE one another...

"Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them."Psalms 119:165

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Sat, 23 Feb 2013 13:10:54 GMT
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Jeremiah 23:16 Thus says the Lord of hosts:

â€œDo not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you.
They make you worthless;
They speak a vision of their own heart,
Not from the mouth of the Lord.

Jeremiah 23:22
But if they had stood in My counsel,
And had caused My people to hear My words,

Then they would have turned them from their evil way
And from the evil of their doings.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 26 Feb 2013 15:27:35 GMT
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Even Paul needed encouragement and comfort...

Reading in the second Epistle written unto the Corinthian assembly (II Corinthians 7:4-13), Paul tells how tribulation was all around him: trouble on every side, without were fightings and within were fears.(Yes, he DID say that there were fears within.)But verse 6 says this..."Nevertheless GOD, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus." And the following verse show how he was encouraged and comforted even moreso when finding out from Titus just how much he was loved by the Corinthian believers. Both he and Titus were refreshed in spirit due to their love of God and Paul as well. They displayed this love through obedience in following Paul's instructions to disipline the member who was living in sin (I Corinthians 5); Paul seemed concerned and heavy of heart for having to write unto them such a stern letter. But after getting the report from Titus of their obedience and love shown through their actions, he was encouraged and comforted.

There's none of us who have chosen to follow Jesus that doesn't need encouragement and comfort from time to time...we can find it by communion with God, study of Scripture; but also we are to get it from one another, praying for each other, sharing and edifying, showing love and kindness by our actions. Jesus lay down His life for us...so are we to do as well for the brethren.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 11 Mar 2013 14:46:37 GMT
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Feeling down, discouraged, depressed? Take heart in God's Word, draw strenght from His promises, give Him praise and thanks, worship Him.

"The righteous cry, and The LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but The LORD delivereth him out of them all."Psalms 34:17-19

"O come, let us sing unto The LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.

For The LORD is a great God, and a great King, above all gods.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before The LORD our maker."Psalms 95:1-3&6

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 13 Mar 2013 16:56:59 GMT
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FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD...

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."John 3:16

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."Rom. 5:8

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us,
Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved;)"
Eph.2:4-5

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.
Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." I John 4:9-10

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."Rom.8:38-39

Next time Satan tries to defeat, steal your joy, or comes with condemning accusations...resist him with The Words of God (it is written/the sword) and he must flee. And wrap your heart around scriptures that tell us just how much JESUS/GOD loves us, meditate upon them and STAND on God's promises.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Wed, 13 Mar 2013 17:42:05 GMT
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Your stuff is better than Spurgeon's Daily Devotional!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Fri, 15 Mar 2013 05:12:37 GMT
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Yep. Like. Thumbs up. Right on! Agree!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 20 Mar 2013 18:39:04 GMT
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Tell us...

The disciples came to Jesus privately and said to Him, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world." Matt.24:3

Jesus went on to tell them (as recorded in the 24th and 25th chapters of Matthew) of the many signs that would unfold as the end came. The verse that I'm sharing on today is Matt.24:12.

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

There are numerous directions one could go with a 'message' from this passage, but I want to stress the obvious admonition, iniquity abounding and allowing our love to wax cold. We're practically surrounded by iniquity, it's on display and glorified in books, movies, TV, internet, news programs, and in the conversations and actions of many of the people we encounter daily. Do we become desensitized by what we're exposed to? (not willingly, but just by living life.) Does our hearts grow indifferent? Maybe take on the 'foxhole' mentality...hunker down and worry about only our own survival? Get caught up in what has become the norm? (Maybe using language as the world uses, being disrespectful to others, speaking against those we are commanded to pray for)

Just a few things that I see around me that could effect my own walk with Jesus and my LOVE. Taking heed is a full time job, Satan would love nothing better than to entice a long time follower of Christ to lose their grip on the plough handle and fall right when the end is almost in sight.

May we never get to a place where sin/iniquity doesn't vex our hearts, may we gird up our minds and hope unto the end for GRACE...I Peter 1:13-16

shared in love

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Wed, 20 Mar 2013 19:30:50 GMT
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I know one thing. I looked at the events and things of this world differently when attending FA. I believe it is because we were full of the Word and only thought on His plans and purposes. We centered our mind on Grace (thanks, James) and His ways.

I am so close to not reading newspapers or listening to the news. It is biased, negative, and not Godly most of the time.

I wonder if anyone else has ever thought of doing that? Lol

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 25 Mar 2013 21:51:09 GMT
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Sin, Transgression, Iniquity...

I read and hear so many people say "sin is sin", and have said it myself, but is it really? Yes, we all have sinned and all need/needed to be forgiven and cleansed by The Blood of Jesus(Rom.3:23), but does The Word of God distinguish between sin, transgressions, and iniquity?

First let's look at the definitions of each word:

SIN, a missing of the mark (noun); to miss the mark (verb); An act of disobedience to divine law. Sin is a positive act in which a known divine law is violated. (1 John 3:4)

TRANSGRESSION, rebellion; a going aside; an overstepping; a breach of law (noun); to go beyond, to go aside (verb); violation of law. A willful deviation from, and therefore rebellion against, the path of godly living.(Eph. 2:1)

INIQUITY, perverseness, lawlessness, unrighteousness, law breaking. Iniquity signifies not merely that which is wrong, but the tendency to do wrong. They are second nature sins, which drive people to repeatedly, continually commit sin.(Ezekiel 28:15&18)

Scriptures that include all three: Daniel 9:24...Exodus 34:7...Lev. 16:21

There is a progression of sin that leads to death(without repentance)... James 1:13-15 shows this, the lust/enticement starts(is conceived) in the mind because the temptation isn't resisted, the thought turns to disobedience(rebellion/sin), and when the sin/transgression moves beyond the mind/thoughts into actions (iniquity/perverseness) and this leads to death apart from the reversal through Jesus Christ's shed Blood unto life eternal.

Bottom line? We all needed ALL our sins/transgressions/iniquities removed, we needed forgiveness (Heb. 8:12), we needed pardoning (Ps. 25:11), we needed our sins blotted out

(Ps.51:1).

Sins, transgressions, iniquities...Thanks be to God for His Mercy and Grace demonstrated through Jesus Christ our Lord...They're ALL wiped away, forgotten, removed as far as the east is from the west...Praise Jesus!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 29 Mar 2013 18:56:11 GMT
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"...but such as I have give I thee..."

Every time I read this verse (Acts 3:6) I'm stirred in my heart. Peter didn't have any money to give the man, that's not to imply he was always broke, nor that he didn't prosper...but I'd imagine that in those early days of The Church with all the excitment of the power of God being poured out on them daily, he, Andrew, James, and John didn't spend a lot of time out fishing.

But he did have something to give the lame man, the love of God displayed through the power and name of JESUS CHRIST. Peter was no longer the man he was before, he had the annointing of The Holy Spirit, The Power of God to both heal the sick as well as to proclaim the Gospel with power. No longer was he the same man who sank into the sea due to a lack of faith; no longer was he the cowardly man who denied knowing Jesus three times. No, Peter was a new man, he was doing what Jesus had told him to do, feeding the sheep.

What stirs in my spirit when I read this account of the healing of the lame man at the gate of the temple is this: what am I doing about what has been given me? Rather that focus on what I don't seem to have, at this time...(gift of healing, silver and gold, ect) what about what I do have to offer to any man who would ask me of the hope that lieth within me? I have The Love of God shed abroad in my heart(I can show love, mercy, kindness); I have God's Word in my heart(I can share and encourage others with it); I have hope where so many has none (I can share my testimony of God's Grace unto me that's also available to anyone who will believe).

We have been given much, are we giving it out as it was given unto us for? Are we 'hoarders' selfishly caring only of ourselves?

The question was raised on another thread concerning why 'we' (those influenced and taught by FA/HEF) aren't out opening the eyes of the blind and doing great exploits...there could be many reasons, but one that comes to my mind is this, what am I doing with ...such as I have... Luke 16:10 Shows us that a steward must learn to be faithful with little before given stewardship over much.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Sat, 30 Mar 2013 00:54:20 GMT
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Uhhhh.....I will say it the way many people would in today's jargon: Like SO convicted!!!

..... and that is a good thing.

I am still reading Steve's book. You have to know you are loved in order to share love. It is so exciting to me!!!

I need my first love back.....and I am getting it!!!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 04 Apr 2013 15:43:55 GMT
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Praise HIS Holy Name...

"I will bless The LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Ps.34:1

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto The LORD, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O most High."Ps.92:1

"Who is like unto Thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?"Exodus 15:11

"...and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."Rev.4:8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by james on Tue, 09 Apr 2013 17:08:24 GMT
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"Nevertheless WE, according to HIS promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of HIM in peace, without spot, and blameless."II Peter3:13-14

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 12 Apr 2013 17:23:52 GMT
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The Fallacy of Philosophy...

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Col.2:8

Definitions of philosophy:

"love and pursuit of wisdom by intellectual means."

"principles of human knowledge."

"a search of a general understanding of values and reality by chiefly speculative rather than observational means."

So what's the harm in seeking wisdom and understanding, one may ask, doesn't God tell us to in Proverbs? Yes He does, from Him, by His Spirit, through His Word...Not by our own intellectual reasoning. Man's philosophy has resulted in humanistic reasoning that is contrary to The Word of God. Through philosophy and not having The Word as the standard of righteousness, man has strayed from God to the point that he is no longer able to discern good from evil, right from wrong.

Philosophy has sowed seeds of doubt and unbelief concerning the validity of The Bible in the hearts and minds of many people. It's opened the door to the belief in evolution; the 'right' to abortion; the justification of sexual immorality; it has resulted in children being raised without any moral compass...and so much more.

I'd would venture to say that many people have indeed been spoiled through philosophy. So the warning to BEWARE has fallen on deaf ears, even to those in the 'church' to whom it was written. God help us to keep the right standard before us at all times, His WORD.

"...When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of The LORD shall lift up a standard against him." Isaiah 59:19

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 18 Apr 2013 12:43:45 GMT
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"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifer of him which believeth in Jesus.

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." Romans 3:20-28

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 27 Apr 2013 15:13:25 GMT
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"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:1-2

I would like to share some of what The Lord has been showing me from Romans concerning salvation, grace, mercy, renewing of my mind,taking up my cross daily, and being a living sacrifice unto God. For several months I've been going over and over several books of the NT that really deal with these subjects, and The Lord has been deepening my understanding and opening my eyes more and more to the wonderful truth of His great Love for man.

In chapters 9-11 Paul reveals the plan of redemption for the Jews and Gentiles. God's sovereign Mercy and Grace and plan of salvation are shown and plainly explained. Mercy is mentioned 10 times(by my count) in chapters 9-11 and Paul explains how we are "vessels of mercy" on whom God chose to bestow the grace and favor of salvation. We deserved judgment because of our sins, Yet GOD, chose to have mercy and saved us by giving Jesus Christ to pay the penalty of death we deserved. Bringing us to chapter 12 of Romans.

First I want to give some word definitions from 'Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words'...

Therefore: Therefore is "there for" the purpose of connecting what immediately preceedes it with what follows.

Sacrifice: The act offering, or "that which is offered".

Conform: "to fashion or shape one thing like another." "to give the same figure or appearance as..."

Transform: "to change into another form". "The obligation being to undergo a complete change which, under the power of God, will find expression in character and conduct...inward change."

So after reading (hearing) and understanding(believing & receiving) the awesome news[Gospel] of the Mercy and Grace given (not earned) us, we come to chapter 12.

"Therefore"...Because of what He has done, not in order to obtain our salvation by works we perform, we should present our bodies (whole selves) a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God...which IS our reasonable service. Let's examine the word "reasonable", it implies rational,

logical; makes perfect sense. So in knowing what God's mercy has done for us, it only stand to reason for us to live our lives wholly holy for Him who has bestowed upon us this wonderful mercy and grace.

How do we do that? By not being conformed to this world, but being transformed by the renewing of our minds by the working of The Holy Spirit as His Word changes how we think, act, and live our daily lives. We establish in our hearts, by His grace, His Word as the Standard by which we measure everything. Not contemporary, humanistic reasoning; not by the way the post-modern society we live in defines righteousness and morality. Not drawn in (conformed) to that which appeases the flesh and "feels good", but as living sacrifices...offering up unto God daily, our complete will to know and do His...which is to love and obey Him...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Sat, 27 Apr 2013 17:04:52 GMT
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Great post, James!

I too have been thinking along the same lines at least with reference to salvation and works.

Somewhere I heard this:

Our religion (in the good sense) is a religion of GRACE and our ethic, or what we do, is GRATITUDE.

In other words, we ARE saved by grace and what we do from that point is an expression of gratitude for that grace.

I said that in another context using different words:

Quote:
1. Right now I'm a redeemed person... and that redemption is not IN ANY WAY dependent upon what I've done in my past or will do in my future. Anything that I am able to do in the realm of the crucified life or works is only a reflection of my feeble attempts to express my love back to Jesus. I might be able to achieve more, or less, than the next person but it will never change God's love for me. I know this can be interpreted as some kind of easy believism but to me it is foundational.

2. That's it... I don't have a second point. If I find myself one day not living the way I ought, the change is not in His love for me but the change is in my expression of love to Him.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 28 Apr 2013 18:38:53 GMT
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william wrote on Sat, 27 April 2013 12:04

Our religion (in the good sense) is a religion of GRACE and our ethic, or what we do, is GRATITUDE.

In other words, we ARE saved by grace and what we do from that point is an expression of gratitude for that grace.

Amen!

Today I was lead to I Peter 1 and "low and behold" (I hope that is an acceptable expression, my mother and grandmother used to use it often) I find a very similar message, just a different writer, Peter. He starts by addressing the letter to the scattered christians(I can relate...)building them up and reminding them of their(our) election, God's mercy, their hope in Jesus, their inheritance, the faith given them/us, the value of trials, and how blessed they/we are in that the prophets longed for the day of salvation.

Then there's another word used that ties what has been said with what needs to be done... Wherefore: which means "on account of" or "on account of this" or "because of this".

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

But as He which hath called you is Holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am Holy."I Peter 1:13-16

He goes on to tell us how privileged we are to be able to go direct unto God The Father in prayer,

and what our additude should be, knowing the price that was paid for by The precious Blood of Jesus. Also we're reminded to love one another, then Peter calls to the readers rememberance the power of God's Word which lives and abides forever.

The Bible does not teach works salvation...That is a man made doctrine and sought by so many due to lack of understanding of who God is and what Jesus did, who we are and how hopeless we are apart from His saving Grace. Because of salvation we start to bear fruit, good fruit, and do 'works' of righteousness. It doesn't work when man tries to do it his way, earning salvation by works...that would mean that Jesus came, suffered, died, and rose again for nothing...and we KNOW that's completely false.

Yes, it's graditude and a privilege to take up our cross daily and follow Him, to see His work in our lives as The Holy Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ, yes, to even be holy as He is Holy. But all this only comes 'after' salvation, because of salvation; not to gain salvation...there isn't enough 'works' that any man can do to earn salvation...it's a FREE gift to ALL who will believe and receive Jesus Christ as LORD and Saviour.

Hallelujah!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 02 May 2013 13:11:50 GMT
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"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Cronicles 7:14

Today has been declared National Day of Prayer; we know of the desperate needs of this nation, the wickedness going on all around us. We also know The Word of The Lord says judgment begins at the house of The Lord. The above call for repentance is unto my people who are called by 'My Name', that's us, Christians.

It begins with us...

http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/05/02/on-national-day-pr
ayer-america-needs-prayer-like-never-before/

"That's why the only hope is not merely a return to conservative values; it is a return to the biblical

truth that we find only in the pages of scripture." ~Greg Laurie

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 07 May 2013 15:14:32 GMT
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I've been thinking more on Romans 12:1-2, especially concerning being a living sacrifice and the transforming of our minds. I believe scripture teaches that transformation is an ongoing or continuing process. I was looking at different translations and found several used the word changed instead of transformed. The 1599 Geneva Bible uses changed...

"I Beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye give up your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable serving of God.

And fashion not yourselves like unto this world, but be ye changed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God is." 1599 Geneva Bible

Some spiritual things happen instantly, such as forgiveness and our salvation; others take more time, such as the fruits of the spirit and gifts; others are a life long process, like the transformation of our minds and becoming like Jesus, as well as the daily offering of ourselves as living sacrifices(taking up our crosses daily and following Him). Each day as we seek The Lord and yeild to the teaching of The Holy Spirit, we are renewed/transformed more and more in our minds. It is a continuing process...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 16 May 2013 16:08:10 GMT
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God, throughtout His Word tells us to love Him and to love one another; it's never a sugestion, it's a commandment. Commandments that aren't only found in the OT, and comandments that aren't done away with due to a new covenant. Being under 'grace' doesn't give anyone a free pass on obedience to this commandment. Jesus, John, and Paul, all stress the importance of love, first to God and also to one another.

This is written as a reminder and an encouragement to us all to press in to both 'will' and 'to do' of that which we're instructed to do, love one another.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye LOVE one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:34-35

commandment: "an injunction, charge, precept"; "to enjoin upon, to charge with."

love: "Love can be known only from actions it prompts." God's love is seen in the gift of His Son.(I John 4:9~ John 3:16)

"Love describes the additude of God toward the human race, generally, and to such as believe on Jesus Christ, and His will to His children concerning their additude one toward another."

"God's love is not due to the excellency of it's objects, or worthiness.(Romans 5:8) It is an exercise of Divine Will, a deliberate choice, made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself."(Deuteronomy 7:7-8)

Having God's love as our example,(giving and forgiving, non-arbitrary, not based on the merit of the recipient.) and being commanded by Jesus to have this "love/actions" one for another, let us do so. (John 14:21 John 15:12 Rom. 15:2 Gal.6:10)

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 24 May 2013 17:14:43 GMT
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I came across this poem the other day and it blessed me...(Please don't let the word Jehovah being used instead of Yahweh distract from the meaning of the words)

" In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His Name by which He will be call: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." Jeremiah 23:6[which is translated by some as JEHOVAH TSIDKENU in Hebrew]

" I once was a stranger to Grace and to God,

I knew not my danger, and felt not my load,

Though friends spoke in rapture of Christ on the tree,

Jehovah Tsidkenu was nothing to me.

I oft read with pleasure to soothe or engage,

Isaiah's wild measure and John's simple page;

But e'en when they pictured the blood-sprinkled tree,

Jehovah Tsidkenu seemed nothing to me.

Like tears from the daughters of Zion that roll,

I wept when the waters went over His soul,

Yet thought not that my sins had nailed to the tree

Jehovah Tsidkenu-'t was nothing to me.

When free grace awoke me by light from on high,

Then legal fear shook me; I trembled to die;

No refuge, no safety in self could I see,-

Jehovah Tsidkenu my Savior must be.

My terrors all vanished before the sweet name,

My guilty fear banished, with boldness I came

To drink at the Fountain, life-giving and free:

Jehovah Tsidkenu is all things to me.

Jehovah Tsidkenu! my tresure and boast;

Jehovah Tsidkenu! I ne'er can be lost:

In thee shall I conquer by flood and by field,

My cable, my anchor, my breastplate and shield!

Even treading the valley, the shadow of death!

This "watchword" shall rally my faltering breath;

For while from life's fever my God sets me free,

"Jehovah Tsidkenu!" my death-song shall be."

~Robert M. McCheyne (1813-1843)

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 04 Jun 2013 15:29:52 GMT
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"THE NEVER-FAILING GOD..."

"...For He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5

"What line does my thought take? Does it turn to what God says or to what I fear? Am I learning to say not what God says, but to say something after I have heard what He says? "He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

"I will in no wise fail thee"___not for all my sin and selfishness and stubbornness and waywardness. Have I really let God say to me that He will never fail me? If I have listened to this say-so of God's, then let me listen again.

"Neither will I in any wise forsake thee." Sometimes it is not difficulty that makes me think God will forsake me, but drudgery. There is no Hill Difficulty to climb, no vision given, nothing wonderful or beautiful, just the commonplace day in and day out___can I hear God's say-so in these things?

We have the idea that God is going to do some exceptional thing, that He is preparing and fitting us for some extraordinary thing by and by, but as we go on in grace we find that God is glorifying Himself here and now, in the present minute. If we have God's say-so behind us, the most

amazing strength comes, and we learn to sing in the ordinary days and ways."

~taken from the June 4th entry of the daily devotional book, "My Utmost For His Highest", by Oswald Chambers

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Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 05 Jun 2013 23:30:58 GMT
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" By Him [Jesus] therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually,

that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His [Jesus] name." Hebrews 13:15

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 10 Jun 2013 17:16:42 GMT
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BIBICAL EXAMPLE OF FAITH...

In John 4 we find an interesting and revealing example of faith; the nobleman who came to Jesus in Cana of Galilee concerning his son who was sick unto death. According to John the only miracle Jesus has done in His ministry, at this point, was turning the water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. Yet this nobleman came to Jesus seeking healing for his son. Notice he didn't go to the doctors, he came unto Jesus.

"Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

The nobleman saith unto Him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. "John 4:48-50

Later in verse 53 we see that after the man returned home and found that his son had been healed the hour Jesus had told him, he believed along with his whole house. Now we see that he 'believed ' Jesus' Word concerning the healing(also keep in mind that Jesus hadn't been crucified to redeem man unto God yet..."by His stripes ye were healed", so the man didn't have this promise to place in faith in. No, he just had the Word of Jesus that his son liveth and by 'believing'

He who made that promise, he received that which he asked; which led to his and his family's salvation.[Or was that really what happened?]

It seems to me that there were two 'faith/believing' going on here; first Jesus said that unless the man see signs and wonders he wouldn't believe[unto salvation?], yet when Jesus told him that his son liveth...he believed Him and went on his way.

So was it the man's faith that healed his son, or Jesus' spoken Word? I believe it was Jesus...in order to encourage the man and his family to 'believe ' unto salvation, based upon the miracle Jesus had done. Jesus knew that was the only way the man would believe who He was, The Messiah.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 11 Jun 2013 13:28:35 GMT
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ANOTHER BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF FAITH...

In Matthew 8 we find the account of the centurion who came to Jesus seeking healing for his servant who had palsy and was tormented. Jesus offered to come to his house and heal the servant; but the centurion felt unworthy for Jesus to even enter under his roof. Yet he believed that Jesus had the power to just speak the word and he would be healed. This prompted Jesus to say:

"...Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." Matt. 8:10

"And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour." Matt. 8:13

So here we find an example of where faith was present in the life and heart of a man without the display of signs and wonders(though it's possible he had witnessed them at an eariler time). Jesus marvelled at the man's understanding of authority and belief that Jesus could and would heal the servant without even having to be there in person.

The centurion obviously was persuaded/convienced/assured that Jesus had the power to speak a Word and healing would occur.

Two examples, both Jesus used to teach and encourage his followers [us] in faith. Which lesson do you think he'd like to see displayed in us? Waiting until we've seen signs and wonders to

believe and be converted; or receiving His Words spoken as promises we can totally rely upon?

In both cases we know that the faith to believe was a gift from God, not for either of them to boast of[or us].

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 17 Jun 2013 12:37:05 GMT
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This old hymn came to mind this morning as I was praising and thanking God for His Love and Mercy...Is He not worthy of our praise ALL THE DAY LONG? Doesn't knowing Him as Lord and Saviour give us assurance? What a story, Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us...Let's share that story so that others may have that blessed assurance in Him. Amen?

Blessed Assurance

"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, What a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

Born of His Spirit, washed in His Blood.

This is my story, this is my song,

Praising my Saviour all the day long;

This is my story, this is my song,

Praising my Saviour all the day long."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Mark L on Sun, 23 Jun 2013 14:14:59 GMT
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Did you know we are going to the glory and splendor of New Jerusalem? Of course you do. I was just thinking about it. Actually the song was going through my head.

The entrance requirements of course is the salvation experience and a walk with the Lord.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 23 Jun 2013 17:59:39 GMT
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Yes sir! The New Jerusalem, now that's going to be something. There's a song about the New Jerusalem but I can't think of it right now. But this one does rise up in my spirit...

What a Day That Will Be...

"What a day that will be

When my Jesus I shall see

And I look upon his face

The One who saved me by his Grace

When He takes me by the hand

And leads me through the promised land

What a day, glorious day that will be."

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed

away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. Rev. 21:1-5

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Mon, 24 Jun 2013 09:23:54 GMT
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Psalm 54:4
Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is with those who uphold my life.

Hebrews 13:6
So we may boldly say: â€œThe Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?â€•

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 26 Jun 2013 13:28:13 GMT
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ENCOURAGEMENT FROM GOD'S WORD...

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but GOD is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."1 Corinthians 10:13

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."James 1:2-5

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 30 Jun 2013 18:35:51 GMT
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CONTENDING, DEFENDING, OR PRETENDING?

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 1:3

The question I'm asking myself is this, am I (you can examine your own hearts) really contending for the faith that has been delivered unto me? Am I defending the faith, or am I just pretending? Another question that comes to my mind is this, does "The Faith Message"(the true Biblical message of faith taught from cover to cover in God's Word) need 'defending' by me or anyone else?

I conclude that while I/we should earnestly contend (as encouraged to do in God's Word, which by the way, doesn't mean to be contentious), and not allow Satan to steal what I've received, The

Word of God doesn't need my defense. It has stood true since God spoke It, and will continue in It's power to save, deliver, and heal forever. The faith that has been delivered unto me has resulted in me being delivered from death unto life, from darkness into light, from a life dominated by sin and rebellion into the righteousness of Christ, from hopelesssness unto assurance. The One who gave Himself for me has given me a heart to believe and trust in Him.

I'm gratiful for "The Faith Message", I'm gratiful for the messenger who delivered it unto me, but I'm most gratiful for knowing Him, Jesus, whom the message is about, and His Love and Mercy. And to argue/defend that message with anyone who refuses to receive it only makes me feel as though I'm just pretending.

Share it, present it as instructed? Absolutely. But argue and debate word definitions without understanding that the letter killeth without The Holy Spirit to open eyes and hearts to what God is communicating to His people? No, I don't see any positive fruit coming from that.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 02 Jul 2013 12:34:12 GMT
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"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." Zechariah 13:1

There Is a Fountain

There is a fountain filled with blood,

Drawn from Immanuel's veins,

And sinners plunged beneath that flood,

Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see

That fountain in his day;

And there have I, though vile as he,

Washed all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious Blood

Shall never lose its pow'r,

Til all the ransomed church of God

Are safe, to sin no more.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream

Thy flowing wounds supply,

Redeeming love has been my theme,

And shall be til I die.

When this poor, lisping, stamm'ring tongue

Lies silent in the grave,

Then in a nobler, sweeter song,

I'll sing Thy pow'r to save.

~William Cowper~ 1772

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Wed, 03 Jul 2013 01:29:53 GMT
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There was a young man who continually condemned himself for a particular sin that he had committed years ago.

At his church, there was an elderly woman who claimed to have dreams, visions, and to even hear from God audibly.

The young man was leary, and approached the woman. "If you hear from God, ask Him what the

sin was that I committed long ago."

At the next church meeting, the young man asked the woman if she had heard from God and what was the sin.

She replied, "Yes, I asked Him. He said that He did not remember."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Wed, 03 Jul 2013 09:22:00 GMT
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Very Good testimony!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Thu, 04 Jul 2013 10:30:11 GMT
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This event took place in Europe:

A minister was driving down the highway and saw a man standing along the road hitchhiking. He pulled over and the man climbed into his vehicle and introduced himself. The minister noticed the hitchhiker was wearing a cross and he asked him, Do you know Jesus as your personal Lord and savior?

The Hitchhiker spoke up and said, my philosophy in life is that I am going to live it anyway I want and then on my deathbed I will turn to God and ask for His forgiveness and mercy.

The minister who was going about 60 or 65 miles per hour, slammed on the brakes as hard as he could and swerved the car over to the berm on the right of the road. The hitchhiker was thrown up to the dash bracing himself and he was yelling: What's going on? What are you doing?

The minister then turned and asked the hitchhiker; Did you have time to repent and ask the Lord for forgiveness? The hitchhiker got out of the car, slammed the door and walked off.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Thu, 04 Jul 2013 12:49:56 GMT
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That one was good, too!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 05 Jul 2013 12:42:29 GMT
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A Song of Trust in The LORD's Protection...

"In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; we have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.

Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.

Trust ye in The LORD for ever: for in The LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:" Isaiah 26:1-4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 07 Jul 2013 18:20:57 GMT
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Influencing the World, or Being Influenced by the World...

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and GLORIFY your

FATHER which is in heaven."Matthew 5:16

A light is used to 'show the way' or 'light the way'. "The Way", is the way of Jesus; love, holiness, kindness, mercy, doing acts of goodness, and helping others. Good works performed with the additude of loving one another is what Jesus did and expects of His followers. Him in us is our light; doing unto others as we'd have done unto us is contrary to the ways of this world. If all of us who are followers of Jesus would be more diligent in our commitment to be DOERS of The Word and not just hearers or readers, we would start seeing our world change...for the better, godly influence.

The purpose of shinning our light and doing good works? To draw men unto God, that they too will love Him and glorify Him. Jesus came as a servant and we are called to have the same mindset, esteeming others above ourselves.

Figuring out the problems of this world isn't that hard; being part of the solution requires a lot more than "Monday morning quarterbacking". This message was for me, but if it speaks to your heart then I'm sure The Lord won't object if you start applying it in your lives.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Sun, 07 Jul 2013 20:10:00 GMT
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Yes, for me too!

The other day it dawned on me that much can be discerned about a person by finding out how they view other people.

Here is an example: Let's say that you are sitting on a park bench observing people. Over to your right you see a couple making-out on a blanket. Across the way you see a poorly dressed wrinkled old man chugging wine from a bottle. Over to the left you see a pimp all blinged-up with a girl on each arm and standing by a very fancy car.

Now all of us have the ability to quickly size-up people; here is what I see -- a couple of fornicators, a bum, and some pride-filled lovers-of-pleasure.

As I sit there, smug in my self-righteousness, I can thank God I'm not like them.

Or...

I can mourn this display of fallen humanity and think about all of the hopelessness that these lives

represent BECAUSE they don't know Jesus.

The first thought gives me all of the self-satisfaction that categorized the pharisee in the parable of the Pharisee and Publican:

Luk 18:10-14 KJV - Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men [are], extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as [his] eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

This perspective will never motivate me to do anything. I'll continue to just sit and judge.

But the second perspective has the ability to motivate me to action... having pity and compassion helps us to move beyond the attitude that says "good riddance! you people will just continue to reap what you sow and eventually will end up in hell," to actually DOING something.

The reason for the messed up state of humanity is their lack of knowledge about God. Knowledge that I've been granted, in a small measure, to know. Knowledge that can deliver and set free!

So if my perspective on fallen humanity is one of compassion then it becomes my duty to help those people... not condemn them, which is, if I understand it, the point of your message.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 08 Jul 2013 00:32:57 GMT
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william wrote on Sun, 07 July 2013 15:10
So if my perspective on fallen humanity is one of compassion then it becomes my duty to help those people... not condemn them, which is, if I understand it, the point of your message.

Blessings,
William

YEP!

That is the point, God's love/light flowing through us. We should be compelled to 'good works'/deeds of kindness, to ALL men, not just our brothers and sisters in Christ. I'm ashamed to say that too often I've reflected the additude of the judging pharisee rather than loving servant of God.

Just today I heard a pastor bring up the quote we've all heard but seem to so easily forget...We as Christians should "Preach the gospel always, and if necessary, use words."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 21 Jul 2013 19:02:23 GMT
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james wrote on Sun, 07 July 2013 13:20Influencing the World, or Being Influenced by the World...

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and GLORIFY your FATHER which is in heaven."Matthew 5:16

A light is used to 'show the way' or 'light the way'. "The Way", is the way of Jesus; love, holiness, kindness, mercy, doing acts of goodness, and helping others. Good works performed with the additude of loving one another is what Jesus did and expects of His followers. Him in us is our light; doing unto others as we'd have done unto us is contrary to the ways of this world. If all of us who are followers of Jesus would be more diligent in our commitment to be DOERS of The Word and not just hearers or readers, we would start seeing our world change...for the better, godly influence.

The purpose of shinning our light and doing good works? To draw men unto God, that they too will love Him and glorify Him. Jesus came as a servant and we are called to have the same mindset, esteeming others above ourselves.

Figuring out the problems of this world isn't that hard; being part of the solution requires a lot more than "Monday morning quarterbacking". This message was for me, but if it speaks to your heart then I'm sure The Lord won't object if you start applying it in your lives.

"People don't care what you KNOW...

until they KNOW that you CARE."

I've heard it said more than once in reference to drawing people into the 'church', "what you use to draw them in with, you'll have to continue to use in order to keep them." Usually refered to in a negative context such as puppet shows, feel-good cotton candy messages, christian rock concerts for the youth, ect...BUT, if people are draw to 'The Church' by experiencing the Love of Christ through the loving/caring actions of believers without strings attached, then the odds of winning them to Jesus and making disciples of them increase tremendously.

We all know the scriptures on loving one another (I John 4:7-8) and loving God but we're also told to love our enemies. So if we're to love God, each other, and our enemies; that about covers everyone, right?

The point? Before we start pounding people with doctrine and 'deeper truths', maybe we could offer them what they obviously need; food, gas, cut their grass, wash their car, buy them some clothes, give them a hug and ask if there's anything we can do for them, pray for them...

Again this word is for me; I'm being led back to the basics of Christianity because the inventory of fruit I've produced seems so poor in relation to the time and tools I've been given for the job. Maybe [I/we/some of us?] have omitted an intergral component...LOVE.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Mon, 22 Jul 2013 10:38:38 GMT
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James,

A lot of what you are saying has some truth here. But I have been going back through the gospels and I intend to reread them again to see what is Jesus saying to us His disciples.

I have noticed in the Book of Luke, Jesus was invited on a number of occasions into different Pharisees homes on the Sabbath, and they had their scribe and lawyer friends present at these meals.

In quite a few places Jesus who is the guest in their homes knowing their thoughts would come right out and call them hypocrites, vipers, and other names. Then shared some truth in a parable denouncing their practices.

Can you imagine going into someones home for a meal in todays economy and calling them a brood of vipers, hypocrites, etc..

Jesus who is Love and our example as such, did not mince words as the Gospels show.

What I am saying is it depends on the circumstance your involved in. The world is trying to silence Christianity when it comes to mentioning anything about sin or truth, the next step will be just don't mention the Bible at all but have Love and we will follow.

Love is bringing them the harsh reality that hey your going to hell if you do not repent of your sin. As watchman on the towers of life we "will not be easily" accepted by today's crowd if we follow the Bible and will be seen as outcasts of society if we keep telling everyone what this Book called the Bible is saying.

Truth is these last days will not be received by the world because they love their sin and hate that which is good. Even in many churches they will turn their ears from the truth.

I guess this is the other side of the coin. Are we concerned about their souls or hurting someone's feelings out there? The truth is, the world does not hold back why then should the Christian hold back. God told Jeremiah not to fear their faces and what they might think about us.

Jesus at these gatherings is coming right to the point and not beating around the bush. The world wants Christianity to become a humanistic group that remains silent.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Mon, 22 Jul 2013 14:59:37 GMT
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I think you are right Gary, as far as it goes, but the key difference in the gospel accounts is that Jesus was dealing with the religious leaders --THOSE WHO SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER!

The common people seem to have been bestowed with an abundance of patience and understanding.

The religious leaders today are in the same perilous position as the scribes and pharisees and oftentimes should be rebuked just as forcefully.

Another thing that I've noticed is that many of these leaders present themselves as backers of the republican party when in reality they operate the church like democrats. They want to present themselves as the party that knows what is best for everyone and then go about implementing and forcing their policies on the rest of the herd (i.e. those who must pay for everything!)

I'm not commenting on politics per se... I'm only commenting on the comparison between what they say --"we're republican" and then what they do --"we are clergy and we know what's best for everyone else, so forget this idea of individual freedom... we are going to keep implementing these policies regardless of whether or not they work!"

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Mon, 22 Jul 2013 17:47:21 GMT
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Quote: William wrote: The religious leaders today are in the same perilous position as the scribes and pharisees and oftentimes should be rebuked just as forcefully.

Another thing that I've noticed is that many of these leaders present themselves as backers of the republican party when in reality they operate the church like democrats.

LOLOL

Did you know that Billy Graham admits to being a democrat?

That's true what your saying it was always the religious leaders of His day and time, I have been trying to pay attention to this while reading.

The problem I see today is that many churches (leaders and the congregation)are going to a social/humanitarian gospel and bypassing the preaching of the cross and repentance. Most Christians accept this as being normal Christianity.

If you have noticed many are saying we are an "inclusive" church.

Quote:I'm not commenting on politics per se... I'm only commenting on the comparison between what they say --"we're republican" and then what they do --"we are clergy and we know what's best for everyone else, so forget this idea of individual freedom... we are going to keep

implementing these policies regardless of whether or not they work!"

I think sometimes the people in the church vote these guys in so they have ministers who say what they want to hear, and of course no one wants to make waves.

I guess the point I was thinking in the back of my mind is you can help people till your blue in the face but its no guarantee they'll start attending church and turn their lives over to the Lord. Washing peoples cars, mowing their grass, hugging them and slobbering over them with compliments does not mean they will see the love of God in fact it can be perceived as a future handout. LOL

But I do understand what James was saying in relation to helping the poor and widows.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 22 Jul 2013 19:36:36 GMT
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Quote:Again this word is for me; I'm being led back to the basics of Christianity because the inventory of fruit I've produced seems so poor in relation to the time and tools I've been given for the job. Maybe [I/we/some of us?] have omitted an intergral component...LOVE.

Love you guys, like I said, it was for me. Don't worry too much about me slobbering on people...[BIG grin]

Hopefully, The Holy Spirit will give wisdom and discernment concerning how to apply what He is showing. And should it be that my actions reflect any political party's values (or lack thereof), it would only be coincidence cause I do not associate myself with either; I'm seeking to reflect Jesus Christ in more than just words.

*afterthought: Don't be too hard on me, I'm already walking on eggshells, I'm afraid I've gotten into Tom's doghouse and he might ask me to relinquish the 'star' he awarded me earlier.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Tue, 23 Jul 2013 19:50:02 GMT
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Quote: James wrote: *afterthought: Don't be too hard on me, I'm already walking on eggshells, I'm afraid I've gotten into Tom's doghouse and he might ask me to relinquish the 'star' he awarded me earlier.

I don't think I would put much "substance" in that happening.

Quote: I'm seeking to reflect Jesus Christ in more than just words.

The problem is you have to discern who has a real need and whose is a moocher. Living off the government is a choice that many are making to get out of working.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Sat, 17 Aug 2013 10:57:49 GMT
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Matthew 13:24-43 NKJV Another parable He put forth to them, saying: â€œThe kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, â€˜Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?â€™ 28 He said to them, â€˜An enemy has done this.â€™ The servants said to him, â€˜Do you want us then to go and gather them up?â€™ 29 But he said, â€˜No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, â€œFirst gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, â€œExplain to us the parable of the tares of the field.â€•

37 He answered and said to them: â€œHe who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and

the reapers are the angels. 40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

This is very interesting, Its those who "practice" lawlessness.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 17 Aug 2013 12:12:53 GMT
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"This is very interesting, Its those who "practice" lawlessness."

1 John 3:4 NKJV"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."

1 John 3:4 ESV"Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness."

From this scripture we see that sin is lawlessness, so since we know we all have sinned the question we should ask is, what does the word "practice " mean? Opps! Looks like another word study...

practice: Webster dictionary defines practice as "actively engaged in a specified way of life." So according to this definition practicing lawlessness means, actively engaged in sinning as a way of life.

It's the heart God is looking at; does a man, born again, when he sins (misses the mark), come before The Father seeking mercy with a repentant heart (1 John 2:1-2) with Jesus as our advocate, or continue to commit the sin due to fleshly lusts or a hardened heart? I think that's the difference between 'practicing lawlessness/sin' and 'missing the mark' from time to time. A lifestyle vs occasionally; a heart that grieves over sin vs a heart that winks at and excuses sin.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Sat, 17 Aug 2013 18:43:23 GMT

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Very good explanation here.

Sounds like your very close to the Kingdom of God here. I like the word studies it helps clarify things.

Gary

BTW my birthday's Monday I cannot remember if were the same age, I thought it was close. I still don't feel or act my age though.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 18 Aug 2013 21:36:54 GMT
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Jeremiah's Statement of Faith...

"Ah LORD GOD! behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee:"Jeremiah 32:17

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Tue, 20 Aug 2013 19:10:53 GMT
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Isaiah 55:

6 Seek the Lord while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.
7 Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the Lord,

And He will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Wed, 21 Aug 2013 21:15:22 GMT
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The new reality show coming out in the future is called:

The preachers from LA.

Most are living lavish lifestyles, million dollar homes, etc, a couple of the ministers are divorced and have live in girlfriends and children by them. But they have large congregations supporting all this prosperity.

http://www.eurweb.com/2013/08/pastors-torn-over-new-oxygen-reality-show-preachers-of-la-watch/

What an abomination!!

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 22 Aug 2013 12:21:38 GMT
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It's a shame and disgrace what goes on in the name of 'religion' and the way the Gospel is twisted and distorted, both in the pulpits as well as through the media.

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ.

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." Gal. 1:6-9

There's another sad story developing here in Birmingham, Alabama that centers around the young man (google Matt Pitt, the basement) who started 'The Basement' movement here about 10 years ago. He has been arrested for the second time for impersonating an officer of the law. Last year he was given a two year probation and now he was arrested the other day for doing it again. His probation has been revoked and he must serve his original one year sentence plus what ever comes from this recent charge. My heart grieves for those kids who looked up to him and was under his influence.

While I am thankful that false ministers and ministries are exposed, hopefully opening the eyes of those being deceived and following them, still it's sad to see. This man is only 30 years old himself, and has been thrust into the national lime-light at such an early age and told how wonderful he is...hopefully he can aee the error of his ways and repent and come unto Jesus.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Fri, 23 Aug 2013 05:36:18 GMT
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I watched the interview with Matt Pitt and this scripture comes to mind:

1 Timothy 3:5-7

5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

I think with anything we are seeing a distortion of the abundant life message. The new prosperity gospel is not what Jesus was preaching to His disciples.

The abundant life is a life in Christ, serving and following the Son of God.

I don't believe God is against us having material things but it is when the deceitfulness of riches

start to choke out the Word of God. Then comes the cares of this life.

Jesus said, A man who has forsaken all will receive lands and houses a hundredfold in this life, with persecutions.

At what point does material things start crowding out the Word?

On the one hand we have to realize we do have a lot of toys in this country. Many distractions, that easily crowd out our time with God. The message of the gospels is not "how to get rich quick scheme".

Sometimes I wondered if we were not crossing over into this thinking with all the talk of Cadillac faith, abundant living, etc. etc.. Obtaining material things became the goals of many. What does it matter if you have a Cadillac versus an old Ford truck they both get you to your destination.

I don't see Paul believing for the newest Chariot to get him to Rome quicker so he could spread the gospel. He didn't even believe for a ship to get across the sea to minister either. Sounds like Paul was preaching a little different message here.

This new message seems to be the gospel (prosperity), that everyone is preaching these days.

With anything its the matter of attitude and where are a man's affections.

I better quit here before I hit the wrong button and erase this.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 23 Aug 2013 12:33:18 GMT
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My understanding of Biblical prosperity has changed through the years as has the desire for possessions. I remember a lot of people in the 'faith camp' claiming various material items such as Lincoln's and Cadillac's. I 'think' I recall it being said that if you claimed [by faith] a '82 car and got a '81 that is wasn't faith.

Maybe when Jesus told us to take no thought for tomorrow and to seek first His Kingdom [Matthew 6:25-34]some didn't take it literally. If He said He'd provide, and He did, then our focus

should be on eternal things and leave it up to Him when to manifest our daily needs. He promised to do it if we'd trust and obey...as I've gotten this into my heart and put it into practice(not to imply I'm perfected or without ever having any worries) I have NEVER missed a meal or failed to have my material needs met, I own very little compared to most Americans(house or land) yet I KNOW what I have is priceless. A fire can't destroy it, a tornado can't blow it away, no man can steal it, and it'll never rust and decay, no depreciation or bankruptcy is possible...I have a Saviour, Jesus Christ; a Father, The Almighty God; and The Holy Spirit within me that loves me and has delivered me from death, fear, and corruption unto Life eternal with Him...Praise His Holy Name, Thank You, Jesus.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Sat, 24 Aug 2013 00:54:43 GMT
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james wrote on Fri, 23 August 2013 07:33My understanding of Biblical prosperity has changed through the years as has the desire for possessions.

If He said He'd provide, and He did, then our focus should be on eternal things and leave it up to Him when to manifest our daily needs. He promised to do it if we'd trust and obey.

I have wrestled with this in my own life.

While I know God said He would bless us, I realize its not about things. What was that teaching, A man could have ten cents to his name and still be covetous.

We are blessed with faithful Abraham, I can see were people put all the scriptures together and come up with this mindset, that leads to the prosperity gospel.

Remember the old song, "the things of the earth grow strangely dim". I think the more you grow in the Lord material items just become a means to an end, or at least the reality of it all finally sinks in.

If you think about it we can take nothing with us, who wants to have all this rusted, corroded junk anyway, when you have heaven where moth and rust cannot enter.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Sat, 24 Aug 2013 10:49:14 GMT
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The problem exists in America that we have more people living off of government benefits supplied by the tax payers.

Just read an article that people on welfare are making more money a year then those who only make minimum wage. The problem is that if they continue having children which they cannot afford their benefits keep increasing.

http://www.wthitv.com/news/local/welfare-recipients-are-maki
ng-more-than-people-working-minimum-wage-jobs

In the comment section one person tells us he knows people who get welfare have three cars and a camper. Why work?

You always have to mention that there are people who need help. But there are many who know how to milk the system.

The problem is that the American dream is just that "a dream".
It's only a matter of time before the whole system collapses. The working class are the backbone of this country, they are the ones more at risk if the system collapses.

This is probably the other side of the coin here. Most Christians are good workers, diligent, and generally apply themselves to their jobs as unto the Lord. God does bless His people and takes care of them. Those who work will see an increase in material things.

In a lot of the foreign lands we see much poverty. But as in the case of India "as an example" there are over nine million gods and most of the people are in extreme poverty.

James from what you shared on your view of Biblical prosperity changing I agree but we must also recognize that Jesus said He would give us lands and houses, if we forsake all and follow Him. God said He would prosper us as our souls prosper.

The Lord does take care of His people in spite of the extremes we see in this country. It all goes back to the attitude of ones heart towards this world.

Have a great weekend in the Lord,
Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 24 Aug 2013 12:03:46 GMT
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Alanbook wrote on Sat, 24 August 2013 05:49

James from what you shared on your view of Biblical prosperity changing I agree but we must also recognize that Jesus said He would give us lands and houses, if we forsake all and follow Him. God said He would prosper us as our souls prosper.

Yes, Mark 10:29-30 does say that, and I've certainly no problem with people owning homes and property, I started to include that statement in the above post but didn't. But I have wondered before if the interpretation we've come to is correct. I know it's used a bunch by the 'prosperity gospel' preachers. I've also wondered just how many people are 'believing God' for the promised persecutions that come along with the restoration of those things forsaken for Jesus and the Gospel. Something to think upon and pray about...imo

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 29 Aug 2013 11:38:40 GMT
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"Sing unto The LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day His salvation.

Declare His glory among the heathen, His marvellous works among all nations.

For great is The LORD, and greatly to be praised: He also is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the people are idols: but The LORD made the heavens.

Glory and honor are in His presence; strength and gladness are in His place.

Give unto The LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto The LORD glory and strength.

Give unto The LORD the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come before Him, worship The LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Fear before Him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say amonf the nations, The LORD reigneth.

Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof: let the fields rejoice, and all that is therein.

Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of The LORD, because He cometh to judge the earth.

O give thanks unto The LORD, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever." I Chronicles 16:23-34

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 04 Sep 2013 15:43:21 GMT
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"I will praise Thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto Thee.

I will worship toward Thy holy temple, and praise Thy name for Thy lovingkindness and for Thy truth:
for Thou hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy Name.

In the day when I cried Thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise Thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of Thy mouth.

Yea, they shall sing in the ways of The LORD: for great is the glory of The LORD.

Though The LORD be high, yet hath He respect unto the lowly: but the proud He knoweth afar off.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, Thou wilt revive me: Thou shalt stretch forth Thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and Thy right hand shall save me.

The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: Thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of Thine own hands." Psalms 138

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 07 Sep 2013 15:04:12 GMT
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Fountains of Blessings...

"...The water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."John 4:14 NKJV

"The picture our Lord described here is not that of a simple stream of water, but an overflowing fountain. Continue to "be filled" (Ephesians 5:18) and the sweetness of your vital relationship to Jesus will flow as generously out of you as it has been given to you. If you find that His life is not springing up as it should, you are to blame-something is obstructing the flow. Was Jesus saying to stay focused on the Source so that you may be blessed personally? No, you are to focus on the Source so that out of you "will flow rivers of living water"-irrepressible life.(John 7:39)"

taken from today's, Sept.7, daily devotional by Oswald Chambers titled, "My Utmost for His Highest".

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 14 Sep 2013 15:46:43 GMT
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Our Hidden Treasure...The Light of Jesus

"For GOD, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of GOD in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of GOD, and not of us." II Corinthians 4:6-7

What an encouraging part of Paul's letter to the Corinthians is chapter four. We're reminded of the additude we should strive for when adversity comes our way and why we have this seemingly foolish mindset(by the world's standards).

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."II Corinthians 4:18

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 16 Sep 2013 21:07:12 GMT
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OUR HOPE...

"Behold, what manner of love The Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." I John 3:1-3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by GWB on Tue, 17 Sep 2013 00:23:37 GMT
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Thanks, James.

Nailed it again.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 17 Sep 2013 12:52:28 GMT
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Overcoming Temptations...

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for OUR admonition, upon who the ends of the world are come.

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but GOD is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that which ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." I Corinthians 10:1-14

Temptations are part of life; we're given choices daily and our choices reflect what's in our heart, yeilded and obedient unto God or led by our 'self' desires and old nature(btw: a form of idolatry). But the good news is this: God WILL make a way of escape...IF we will look to Him with our WHOLE heart, truely seeking to overcome our selfish flesh and follow Him and Him alone.

We are given example after example of Israel's rebellion and sins; yet how many times have we fallen into the same fleshly, self-centered, traps as they did? We can walk in victory, we can overcome, by taking heed to God's Word and using their examples to teach us to flee idolatry...draw near unto God, abide in Him, and repent if and when we fall to a temptation. Re-focus on Jesus and press on in Him, putting the pass behind and looking to Him to perfect that which He started.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

james wrote on Wed, 19 September 2012 15:15One thing's for certain, if we don't 'get' chapter 13 right(we, being the Body of Christ), none of the plan is going to come into maturity as is outlined in The Word. Without LOVE there'll be no unity, and without unity the gifts aren't going to manifest for the edification of the Body...The Bride, to be without spot or blemish is in desperate need of the power and presence of Jesus Christ in our life's and when it is the world will KNOW it..."By this, shall all men know that ye are My disciples, by your LOVE one for another."

Yeah, we do see through a glass darkly now, and our knowlwdge is limited at this time and we learn more daily as we walk with and abide 'in' Him...But the LOVE part is up to us(imo).

So how does a person love someone whom they've never seen, who's only contact is through a computer or phone? May I suggest by praying for one another, by encouraging one another, by sharing testimonies of God's working in our lives to edify and build each others faith. Hey, it's possible to love someone you've not seen; God tells us to love Him with ALL our hearts...anyone ever seen Him? Jesus said blessed are those whom having NOT seen yet believe...In HIM, Jesus. We're told if we can't love those around us who we can see (our brothers and sisters), how can we love God who we haven't seen.

We got a good foundation in FAITH and Biblical theology, but we might could use a little work in the LOVE department...'we' being those with ties to FA.

"Though I...though I... though I...AND HAVE NOT LOVE...I am nothing."

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not LOVE, I have become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, amd though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not LOVE, I AM NOTHING.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not LOVE, IT PROFITS ME NOTHING.

LOVE suffers long and is kind; LOVE does not envy; LOVE does not parade itself; is not puffed up;

Does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil.

Does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

LOVE never fails...

And now abide faith, hope, LOVE, these three; but the greatest of these is LOVE."
I Corinthians 13: 1-8&13 NKJV

Just re-examining my own heart reading this post I wrote a year ago; today someone taught from the text of chapter 13 and it was good. I 'want' to believe I've grown in the way I show love to others over the last year,I'm reminded that while it's nice to hear "I love you", only our actions prove if we do or not.

The world won't know we're Jesus' disciples by our many words, but by our LOVE one for another through godly, loving actions...as well as our love for them displayed by sharing what we've been given...the hope of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, the Gospel message of reconciliation unto God by The shed Blood of Christ. All possible because of God's great LOVE...John 3:16

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Sat, 28 Sep 2013 08:51:49 GMT
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There are a number of scriptures that I appreciate what they are saying in a very real sense. One of these passages is found in Luke's Gospel:

Jesus tells Peter that he is going to deny him before the night is over:

31 And the Lord said, â€œSimon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.â€•

33 But he said to Him, â€œLord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.â€•

34 Then He said, â€œI tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.â€•

Peter in Marks gospel argues with the Lord stating he would never deny the Lord:

31 But he spoke more vehemently, â€œIf I have to die with You, I will not deny You!â€•

Later everything changes, men come with weapons, a small mob has come to take Jesus away.

Peter follows at a distance to see what is going to happen.

This is the part that I wanted to share, I have always been moved by this scripture feeling the emotions that Peter surely felt:

55 Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. 56 And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, â€œThis man was also with Him.â€•

57 But he denied Him, saying, â€œWoman, I do not know Him.â€•

58 And after a little while another saw him and said, â€œYou also are of them.â€•

But Peter said, â€œMan, I am not!â€•

59 Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, â€œSurely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean.â€•

60 But Peter said, â€œMan, I do not know what you are saying!â€•

Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, â€œBefore the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.â€• 62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

To be there and have the Lord to turn, and look at you, as you "remember", that He said; this is going to take place, must of been totally heart rending for Peter. Can you picture this in your heart and mind?

We must remember the Words of the Lord as well because all that He has said, will take place. I believe Jesus is praying for us as we go forth in these end times.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 28 Sep 2013 12:20:09 GMT

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I CAN picture this in my heart and mind, and I too have felt the same shame and heart rending due to failing to keep my word unto The Lord. I promised to follow Him wheresoever He lead and I grabed hold of the plow determined to NEVER let go...yet I did!

Amazing Grace, Amazing Love, that God would look into time and see our sins and failing and yet love us and offer life through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus on our behalf and that Love goes even to granting repentance and restoration if/when we sin even after coming unto salvation.

One way I encourage myself is to remember that even after Peter had denied Jesus, he still was used by GOD. Forgiveness is when He remembers our sins no more and and restores us to fellowship (reconciliation) to Him...This too is a reminder to myself, how can I not be forgiving of others when I've received such great mercy...Peter told a man, "silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee..." He passed on what had been given him, another chance to demonstrate he DID know Him and point others unto Him, Jesus Christ, his Lord and his Saviour.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 29 Sep 2013 19:38:23 GMT
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The Freedom Found in Forgiveness...

Over the last year The Lord has been dealing with me concerning forgiveness, both what He's done for me, as well as what He expects from me. Recently I had a edifying discussion with a couple of Christian friends about how we are to deal with offenses, hurt feeling, and preceived ill intentions by others. I don't claim to be perfected in this area of forgiveness, yet; nor am I 'preaching' to anyone; I am offering encouragement and support.

These are some thoughts and lessons I've learned concerning forgiveness, I'm sure there are many more but these are what I believe The Lord has put on my heart to share today.

First, scripturally we're told that if we aren't forgiving of others we can't expect forgiveness ourselves from God. (Matt.6:14-15) When we fail to forgive others there are things that build up within us and robs us of being able to love the offending party as God commands us.("By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, by your love one for another.") Unforgiveness builds distance in relationship; it builds walls; it leads one to a place of hostility and bitterness.

Also, we were freely forgiven(and continue daily to be)(Matt.10:8); we should be just as ready and willing to forgive freely, without being told to. We should not only be willing to forgive but we

should be the first to seek reconciliation.(Matt.5:9) Remembering again what Jesus did for us.(Romans 5:8)

Some truths I've learned the hard way:

*When we try to earn God's approval; we tend to try to make others earn our approval.

*Forgiveness and mercy doesn't keep score.

*Compassion received, results in compassion given.

*The cross we're instructed to take up daily is for the death of our self will and flesh. Dead people aren't offended.

*It's our ministry/commission given from God...reconciliation.(II Corinthians 5:18)

I had the opportunity last year to practice what I was 'preaching', when I freely and willingly from the heart forgave a situation in my life, the freedom and joy that came was something I hope I never forget.btw: It's NOT about who is right or justified...it's about "what would Jesus do?" and what did Jesus TELL us to do.

Is it hard? It's as hard as we want it to be; it's hard as long as we hang on to our 'self justifying' pride, hurts, or hang on to our position of wanting to be 'right'. The key, in my experience, is meditation upon what God our Father did for us throught His Son Jesus Christ; and just how unworthy we were to receive of that Love, Mercy, and Grace...then it's not near as 'hard' to offer the same to others...especially when we're told if we don't then don't expect it for ourselves. That'll sober a person up quick and help one to dismount from their 'high-horse'.

May we all grow in grace and love daily through the Love and Grace we've received, being forgiving frees us to do just that.
Praise Jesus.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Mon, 30 Sep 2013 10:04:42 GMT
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Quote: Some truths I've learned the hard way:

*When we try to earn God's approval; we tend to try to make others earn our approval.

*Forgiveness and mercy doesn't keep score.

*Compassion received, results in compassion given.

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*It's our ministry/commission given from God...reconciliation.(II Corinthians 5:18)

It sure is a learning process. I have mentioned several times that I am watching in the NT whenever I see the phrase concerning "hearing and seeing", I am finding out it takes some discipline to hear and then pay attention to what the Lord is saying.

Good post James enjoyed it and need to keep improving in my life as well.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Thu, 03 Oct 2013 09:59:40 GMT
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Another good scripture that is very moving:

John 20:12-14

12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 Then they said to her, â€œWoman, why are you weeping?â€•

She said to them, â€œBecause they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.â€•

14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not

know that it was Jesus.

They have taken away my Lord. How sad she did not know He had risen at that moment in time.

He is alive, Praise God!

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 11 Oct 2013 13:29:01 GMT
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"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 15 Oct 2013 14:02:24 GMT
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Childlike Faith vs Being Naive...

I was thinking about how hard it is for those who rely upon their own intellect and wisdom to receive the revelation of God and to believe His Word. I've had a tendency before coming to Christ to be naive in certain areas or just assuming the 'best' of people and situations. I had to learn the hard way to be discerning and apply wisdom.

Having gained, through experience, discernment and wisdom (not so much godly wisdom and discernment, I'm speaking here in general) it's easy to see how being 'trusting' as a little child is contrary to human experience and nature. Yet that is exactly how God tells us to become as, little children, in receiving The Kingdom of God. "Verily, I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive The Kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." Mark 10:15

But there's a difference between having childlike faith and being naive. Concerning The Word of God, we're to believe without reservation, totally trusting Him...yet concerning all else we're told to be wise, to exercise prudence. "The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going." Proverbs 14:15"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished."Proverbs 27:12

So the point of this is to encourage and remind us that regarding spiritual matters and God's Word, we're to embrace and receive with childlike faith; but matters of dealing with this world and it's ways we're to not be naive, but to apply the wisdom, understanding, and discernment God has given us through His Word by His Spirit.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 17 Oct 2013 15:50:08 GMT
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The Mind of Christ, The Heart of a Servant...

I was reading Luke chapter 14 this morning and in verses 12-14 Jesus was teaching and instructing on humility and the heart of a true servant. A true servant [with the mind of Christ] will look for opportunities to bless without expecting a blessing in return, just the joy of helping someone who can't help themselves. So often we [in times past] do only for family or friends because we love them, yes, but also we know more than likely they'll include us at a later date.(a meal, a gift, a favor, helps, at least love us.) But what Jesus is teaching us here is that a follower of Him, with His mind and heart(servants), we will look to bless those who are not in a position to help, feed, cloth, themselves without expecting or hoping for anything in return, even thanks and returned love. It's part of the crucified life, dying to ourselves and esteeming others above us...without seeking or expecting thanks or praise, all for the opportunity to walk even as He walked, and died...Because of His LOVE. "Let this Mind be in you..." This mind or mindset won't just overtake us automatically, we must seek it...daily.

"Then said He also to him that bade Him, When thou makest a dinner or supper, call not thy friends, or thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:

And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." Luke 14:12-14

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made Himself of no reputation, and took on Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of The Cross." Philippians 2:5-8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 22 Oct 2013 14:30:56 GMT
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Jesus is still speaking...are we being attentive to hear?

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 19 after Jesus was come into Jerusalem (riding on the colt), He went into the temple and cast out the vendors and those making profit from the people.

"And He taught daily in the temple. But the chief priest and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy Him,

And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear Him." Luke 19:47-48

His Words are still speaking life to those who will listen, who will believe His Words. Are we attentively listening?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Wed, 23 Oct 2013 10:17:18 GMT
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16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; 17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.Matt. 13:16-17NKJV

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 26 Oct 2013 16:12:32 GMT
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In reading Luke 22 there are several important lessons taught as well as the establishing of communion. A turblent day in the life of Peter is laid out as well. We see Peter experiencing the last supper with Jesus, then the argument over who was greatest amongest the disciples, then the promise that they would judge the twelve tribes of Israel.

Then Jesus informed Peter that Satan wanted to sift him as wheat, but that He, Jesus, had prayed for him, Peter, that when he was converted, he was to strengthen his brethren. Next Peter is proclaiming how he was 'ready' to go to prison and die with Jesus. Jesus, in His love and longsuffering(knowing that before the day ended he would deny Jesus three times) told Peter the truth of his denial.

Soon after that Jesus went to pray and Peter couldn't stay awake and pray. Then as the mob took Jesus to the high priest's house; Peter followed from afar off. After that we have to account of Peter's denial, three times, and the cock crowing and Peter's rememberance of Jesus' words spoken just a short time earlier...and he went out, and wept bitterly.

Imagine the condemnation and shame Peter felt that day, he had no idea of what lay ahead for his life after Pentecost and the receiving of The Holy Spirit. He did strengthen his brethren, he did proclaim The Gospel, healing the sick and growing The Body of Christ.

Before receiving The Holy Spirit (and being converted) Peter was a man relying on his flesh and own willpower and failing time and time again(remember walking on water?)...Yet, when The Holy Spirit empowered him and he started walking in The Spirit, he was a powerful man of God, used mightily as witnessed in the book of Acts as well as the two espistles he wrote.

Isn't it an encouragement to see what God can do with a marred piece of clay? Jesus is at the righthand of God today, praying for us.....may we too learn to walk in The Spirit and strengthen

our brethren.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 04 Nov 2013 16:01:09 GMT
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Obedience or Independence?

"If you love Me, keep My commandments"John 14:15

"Our Lord never insists on our obedience. He stresses very definitely what we ought to do, but He never forces us to do it. We have to obey Him out of a oneness of spirit with Him. That is why whenever our Lord talked about discipleship, He prefaced it with an "If"..."If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself..." Luke 9:23

"The Lord does not give me rules, but He makes His standard very clear. If my relationship to Him is that of love, I will do what He says without hesitation. If I hesitate, it is because I love someone I have placed in competition with Him, namely, myself."

Taken from: "My Utmost for His Highest"~ Oswald Chambers

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Wed, 06 Nov 2013 06:33:44 GMT
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james wrote on Mon, 04 November 2013 10:01Obedience or Independence?

"If you love Me, keep My commandments"John 14:15

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have placed in competition with Him, namely, myself."

Taken from: "My Utmost for His Highest"~ Oswald Chambers

I was thinking there is only two commandments.

I think we have to choose to walk with the Lord and then make the effort.

I woke up early this morning and was thinking about Jesus in the Garden, here He was in His early thirties facing death and no one was there for Him, the disciples were sleeping not realizing what was about to take place.

That must of been very hard to go through, He went alone and made the effort trusting the Father would take care of Him.

Now we have to make the effort as well to choose to press into the Spirit. No one will do it for us, its an individual decision that we all face.

May God give us the grace to carry on.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 06 Nov 2013 15:00:42 GMT
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CORNERSTONE~"Hillsong"

My hope is built on nothing less

than Jesus' Blood and righteousness

I dare not trust the sweetest frame

but wholly trust in Jesus' name

When darkness seems to hide His face

I rest on His unchanging Grace

In every high and stormy gale

My anchor hold within the veil

Then He shall come with trumpets sound

Oh, may I then in Him be found

Dressed in his righteousness alone

faultless, stand before the Throne

chorus:

Christ alone, Cornerstone

Weak made strong, in The Savior's Love

Through the storm

He is Lord, Lord of All

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 07 Nov 2013 14:12:35 GMT
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Over in the Eschatology section Marilyn and Gary are discussing the stars, their vast numbers and places in the heavens. This morning I was reading in Psalms and a scripture stood out to me...before I had seen and read this they were discussing.

A Psalm speaking of the wonder of God:

"He telleth the number of the stars; He calleth them ALL by [their] names." Psalms 147:4

'They' say, whoever 'they' are, that there are millions, billions, of stars...however many there are; God made them, He knows their exact location, He has them named, and He knows those names.

"Who is like unto Thee O LORD, who is like unto Thee..."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 18 Nov 2013 18:00:44 GMT
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"The LORD reigneth, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith He hath girded Himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.

Thy throne is established of old: Thou art from everlasting." Psalms 93:1-2

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith The LORD, which is, and which was, and which is to come, The Almighty."Revelation 1:8

A couple of scriptures to meditate upon, Jesus the same yesterday, today, and forever. He always was, He always is, and He always will be. From everlasting until everlasting, the beginning and the end. For us He suffered, died and rose again; reconciling us unto God. Restoring the relationship that our sins had destroyed. In Him, by Him, and through Him we now live. Our sins had made us enemies of God; through Christ Jesus we have been made to be friends, adopted into the household of God, as sons and daughters, made clean by His Blood.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 20 Nov 2013 14:18:31 GMT
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"Blessed [be] the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [places] in Christ.

According as He hath chosen is in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the

good pleasure of His will.

To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved.

In whom we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."Ephesians 1:3-7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Wed, 20 Nov 2013 20:30:58 GMT
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James,

I am so blessed by meditating on the scriptures you highlight every so often. If we didn`t believe God it would all be too much too take in or believe.

Thank you very much.

Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 20 Nov 2013 23:24:36 GMT
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Praise The Lord, any and ALL glory to Him. Yes, it blesses me as well, The Lord revealing His Word to our hearts is different than just 'reading' or copying some scriptures from The Bible. They bring life, hope, faith, joy, understanding, wisdom, direction, comfort, peace....they lead us to repentance, to the Cross, to Jesus Christ our LORD and Saviour.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 21 Nov 2013 20:49:41 GMT
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Encouragement and Comfort from God's Word...

"Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee; be not dismayed; for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10

"When thou passest through the waters, I [will be] with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Isaiah 43:2

"Blessed [be] God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."II Corinthians 1:3-4

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."Rev.21:4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 25 Nov 2013 14:44:10 GMT
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"...LORD, teach us to pray..."

Luke 11:1-13

I had some things I planned to share concerning this text, but as I was preparing my thoughts 'I believe' The Lord directed me to just write those five words and leave it to The Holy Spirit to minister to each heart what He desires us to learn and grow in concerning humble, effectual, fervent, godly prayers. I know my desire is to pray unto my Father as He desires.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 27 Nov 2013 15:54:51 GMT
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I'm most thankful for...

Jesus Christ

"In whom we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His Grace."Ephesians 1:7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 02 Dec 2013 14:24:11 GMT
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"Bless The LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name.Ps. 103:1

"O give thanks unto The LORD, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever.

Let the redeemed of The LORD say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

Oh that men would praise The LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!"Ps. 107:1-2,8

Praise and thanksgiving aren't for Sunday worship and Thanksgiving Day only; as Christians every day should be days of praise and thanksgiving, every minute of every hour our hearts should be filled with thanksgiving and praise. Our lives should reflect our thankfulness by taking every opportunity to give praise to God and to share with others what wonderful works He hath done in our lives, and what He wants to do in theirs if they will receive Him as Lord and Saviour. (btw: the testimony of our lives do reflect what our hearts are filled with)

As obedient children of God, are we seeking ways to put scripture into practice? "Let the redeemed of The LORD say so..." .....I've been redeemed, by The Blood of The Lamb...Glory, glory..." song, remember?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Thu, 05 Dec 2013 10:27:43 GMT
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Luke 17:9-11
9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.

10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, â€˜We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.â€™â€•

Luke 16:15
And He said to them, â€œYou are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Romans 6:22
But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

Matthew 20: 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slaveâ€”

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 09 Dec 2013 15:29:02 GMT
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"And Samuel said, Hath The LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of The LORD? Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams." 1 Samuel 15:22

"The fear of The LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of The Holy [is] understanding."Proverbs 9:10

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 11 Dec 2013 14:37:43 GMT
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"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth The LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 12 Dec 2013 14:38:45 GMT
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Fruit...

I'm not sharing this to appear 'super spiritual' (cause I'm not!), nor is it a thus sayeth The Lord (although it comes from His Word, and He DID say it).

Please take the time to prayerfully read Galatians 5 and meditate upon verse 15 "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." and then think about the command to walk in the Spirit and not the flesh. Look at the fruit produced by the flesh, then see the fruit of the Spirit. As I've tried to share before, if someone came to this forum seeking to see how Christians conduct themselves, what would their impression be? Can they see the fruits that reflect lives that have died out to 'self', that don't have to justify themselves and willingly die to anything that could be perceived as 'offensive'? How can they see Jesus if they can't see love...Jesus said that by "this" shall all men know that ye are My disciples...by your love one for another.

This is not written from a perfected standpoint(speaking of myself), but it's written from a place of desiring to be perfected, and wanting to see others built up and encouraged in our walk with The Lord. We can't build one another up if we spend much of our time attacking each other and devouring one another.

It really shouldn't be so, my brethren. Please don't assume this doesn't apply to YOU...God's Word always applies to us, if we'll pray and honestly seek The Lord about this He will open eyes to see and give grace to repent. It applies to me just as much as anyone else...are we serious enough about God to humble ourselves and pray, to examine ourselves against Scripture, to surrender our selves fully to obedience? If not, then our religion is in vain.

He is returning for a bride that is without spot or blemish...may we examine ourselves(II Corinthians 13:5) what fruit is our lives producing...(Matthew 7:20-22) please, take an honest look.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 17 Dec 2013 19:34:24 GMT
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"One thing have I desired of The LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of The LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of The LORD, and to enquire in His temple." Psalms 27:4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 22 Dec 2013 17:06:46 GMT
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The Importance of Believing The Bible to be God's Word...

It reveals the Love of God to us:

"Jesus loves me, this I know, for The Bible tells me so."

"For God so LOVED the world, that He GAVE His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

The Bible is our standard, It is God's revelation of Himself to mankind, it is life changing to those whom will receive it as such. It is to be cherished, studied, and obeyed.

Thank You Father for loving us with a love that is so awesome; thank You Jesus for such a loving sacrifice of Yourself; thank You Holy Spirit for leading us to this great LOVE.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 23 Dec 2013 18:25:16 GMT
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The Importance of Having the Right Foundation...

"Therefore thus saith The LORD GOD: Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a precious corner [stone], a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."Isaiah 28:16

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?" Matt.21:42 (found in Psalms 118:22)

As Gary can attest to, being a builder, in Biblical times the cornerstone as used in the construction of buildings was extremely important. Everything was made of stone/rock and in order for the buildings to be sound they had to rest upon a sure, solid, stable foundation. The first stone placed in the corner of the first two walls at the bottom was called the "CORNERSTONE". It was vital that the first stone was square and level because all the other stones,(hundreds, if not thousands) were lined up off this first stone. As the masonry work continued upward a plumbline was used to

keep the corner straight, thus resulting in a well built building.

In scripture we are admonished to be sure our foundation is secure, built upon the 'Rock' (Jesus, the chief Cornerstone Ephesians 2:20). Any mistake in our fundamental understanding of the gospel message and it's centering around Jesus Christ and His remdeeming work at Calvary, will results in cracks in the foundation of our spiritual buildings. JDS, false grace, works salvation, ect. gives a person a false sense of security that their 'spiritual house' is sound and safe against whatever may come against it. But we know from scripture (Matt. 7:20-27)that those people are decieved, because they didn't make Jesus the cornerstone of their spiritual building [life].

How important is our spiritual foundation? Very, it's a life and death decission.

I love the song "Cornerstone" by Hillsong...I love much more He of whom they sing, Jesus Christ our Cornerstone.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 24 Dec 2013 17:10:30 GMT
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The Importance of True Repentance...

In reading Luke's account of Peter denying Jesus and his realization of it, which brought bitter tears; I thought of Esau and how he was described in Hebrews with tears as well.

First let's look at Peter: He had just finished denying Jesus for the third time and the cock had just crowed...

"And The LORD turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of The LORD, how He had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice.
And Peter went out, and wept bitterly." Luke 22:61-62

We know that Peter truely repented and found forgiveness as is witnessed by how he was used by God after receiving The Baptism of The Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Now let's look at Esau: He sold his natural birthright to Jacob for a meal(Genesis 25), then later he

was robbed of his blessing by his brother Jacob and his mother through their deceiving Isaac.(Genesis 27) Yet we also see in scripture that God said that He had loved Jacob and hated Esau (Romans 9:13) I'm not certain as to why Esau couldn't find repentance (some commentaries say that he was weeping over the lost blessings and betrayal and not repenting before God as seeking salvation???) but as best I understand it, he didn't.

"Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears." Hebrews 12:16-17

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 30 Dec 2013 00:12:33 GMT
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The Importance of Remaining Stedfast...

Definition of stedfast:
resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering. committed, devoted. fixed and unchanging.

In Peter's second epistle (chapter 3) he is encouraging and admonishing believers to be diligent in guarding against allowing the mindset of the world [scoffers] to infiltrate our thoughts. The temptation is to fall into the day by day routine and start thinking as the world does...'today is as yesterday, and tomorow will be as today, all things remain status quo'. He reminds us to remember that a day with The Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as one day. We're told to remember that His longsuffering is salvation and we're to be ever mindful of living blamelessly and in peace, looking for Him at all times. God has promised Jesus' return from the OT Prophets to the NT Apostles, and by Jesus Himself...We're to live expectantly, sharing this Good News and diligently guarding against complacency.

"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being lead away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness." II Peter 3:17

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by james on Wed, 01 Jan 2014 16:07:36 GMT
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The Importance of Walking in LOVE...

We can't be effective witnesses for Jesus without godly love being present in us and it'll be evident by our love one for another. (John 13:35)

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Forebearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye.

And above all these things [put on] charity (love), which is the bond of perfectness.

And let the peace of God rule your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to The LORD.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the Name of The LORD Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." Colossians 3:12-17

Jesus told us to love one another eleven different times in the NT and to forgive if we want forgiveness. If I've offended anyone by my words or attitude please contact me and let's talk it out. We know offenses will come but they shouldn't come from each other. I pray each of us will prayerfully seek The Lord and examine our hearts before Him and see if there be anything He would have us do differently in relating to others. I encourage anyone with any question of offense, either taken or given, let's humble ourselves and seek reconcilation with our brothers and sisters in Christ...We 'can' be right, and still be wrong.

As I've read concerning The Apostle John, in his latter years when gathering together with the saints, he would constantly remind them to "love one another". May we too be diligent to do the same.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Fri, 03 Jan 2014 17:57:17 GMT

james wrote on Wed, 01 January 2014 11:07The Importance of Walking in LOVE...

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As I've read concerning The Apostle John, in his latter years when gathering together with the saints, he would constantly remind them to "love one another". May we too be diligent to do the same.

I think its possible for people to fall into a mind sync that we only "Love" those who believe like us. If a person has a different view on the Bible, Can we say we love them if were suspicious and think they are coming with doctrinal error?

Love thinks no evil!

When a discussion turns to a heated debate with accusations towards an individual and its not grounded on scriptural facts it makes you wonder. You know trying to pull out words and making an issue of it. Everyone has been guilty of this at one time or another.

I don't know if we can classify a different view of some event in the Bible as error if its different then what we hold to in scripture, especially if we cannot prove our view on the subject.

I'm just saying I think its better if we can reach out to others in the body of Christ with a Christ like attitude not expecting the worst.

I realize great deception is coming on the earth but erecting walls concerning different doctrines is a body divided against itself.

But I see what you mean and I'm not implying your saying anything wrong either. We wrestle not against flesh and blood but principalities, powers, and the rulers of darkness of this world.

Hope that's understandable.

Yesterday I read a tract on Divine Healing by A.B.Simpson. This brother had a lot of light on trusting the Lord for healing, I was blessed to see a man who totally looked to the Lord in this area and was very encouraged after reading it. He made it so clear.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 09 Jan 2014 01:08:04 GMT
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The Importance of Worship and Praise...

"Great is The LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness." Ps.48:1

"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to His Name." Heb.13:15

"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them." Acts 16:25

"Make a joyful noise unto The LORD, all ye lands.

Serve The LORD with gladness: come before His presence with singing.

Know ye that The LORD He [is] God: [it is] He [that] hath made us, and not we ourselves.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name.

For The LORD [is] good; His mercy [is] everlasting; and His truth [endureth] to all generations." Ps.100

"I will bless The LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Ps.34:1

Worship and praise unto God must start from the heart and then actions must follow. We don't wait until 'Sunday', or until we 'feel' like singing and offering praise, or until we're going through a trial; true worship and praise are to be part of the Christian daily life just as prayer and studying The Word. Notice in Psalms 100 the commands that require action? 'make' a joyful noise; 'serve' The Lord with gladness; 'come' before His pesence; 'enter' into His gates...we have to take the initiative.

Praise first pleases God, we know He inhabits the praises of His people. Praise unto God breaks down strongholds and sets free the oppressed. Praise and worship fosters and develops the relationship between God and us. It builds us up, especially when we worship in The Spirit.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 11 Jan 2014 19:28:47 GMT

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"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." Matthew 11:28-30

What an invitation from Jesus, "Come unto Me"...what a revelation of peace, hope, and joy when understood... LORD, open our eyes, give us hearing ears, bold tongues to share of Your great Love, and feet that run unto You.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 16 Jan 2014 15:47:57 GMT
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The Importance of Discernment...

"The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired Him that He would shew them a sign from heaven.

He answered and said unto them,When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas..." Matthew 16:2-4

I look around me and see the explosion of knowledge in science and technology; how meteorologist can predict weather events weeks in advance [discern]...yet, much of the world lies in darkness concerning discernment of spiritual truths. The Gospel of The Kingdom of God is hidden from those who received not the love of the truth. Paul, in his second Epistle to the church at Thessalonica (II Thess.2:10-12) explains this.

That we have had The Gospel revealed unto us and have received it with joy is cause for rejoicing continually, and being thankful unto God for this most precious gift.

***discern: to distinguish; to see the difference between two or more things. to rightly judge; to see or understand the difference; to make distinction between good and evil.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 17 Jan 2014 14:49:10 GMT
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"Behold, what manner of LOVE the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

And every man that hath this HOPE in him purifeth himself, even as He is pure."I John3:1-3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 24 Jan 2014 15:30:51 GMT
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The Importance of Endurance...

endurance: the ability to do something difficult for a long time; the ability to withstand hardship or adversity; the quality of continuing for a long time.

Biblical definition: to remain in Christ; to persevere through all trials and tests keeping ones eyes on Jesus Christ.

In Matthew chapter twenty four Jesus gives His disciples the signs that will point to His return. He warns, encourages, and give hope to all men that if they will heed His warnings not to be deceived by false Christ and not to let the wars and rumors of war trouble them...and endure until the end, we shall be saved. We're not to allow our love for He to diminish; we're to "watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."Matt.24:13

How many have fallen by the wayside after starting so zealous for The Lord? How many have lost their love for God and the things of God? How many have turned from God because things didn't happen as they had anticipated? Brethren, God's ways are not our ways, He needs not explain every move He makes to us; our response to Him is to trust and obey, to endure until the end. Remember what Job said..."Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him..."Job 13:15
Enduring til the end is not something we can do within our own willpower and might, it can only be done through Jesus. What He did at Calvary, the price is paid, the victory is won, in Him and Him alone can we persevere/endure, but He has promised that if we'll put our trust in Him nothing can separate us from His great LOVE.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 27 Jan 2014 15:26:30 GMT
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"...God will provide Himself a lamb..."

In my daily Bible reading this past week I was reading Genesis twenty-two and I have been thinking about it during the weekend. God begins by testing Abraham to reveal his faithfulness to obey God even when it appeared that what God was asking of him was going against the promise/covenant He had given Abraham concerning Isaac.(Genesis 17:19&21) Abraham went forward in obedience, not knowing how God would do it, just that He would. He prophesied in verse eight that God would provide HIMSELF a lamb...speaking of Jesus(although I don't think Abraham knew that at the time) He also boldly told the young men traveling with them that he and the lad (Isaac) would return to them after they had worshiped The LORD.

As I thought about the whole plan of salvation revealed to us in scripture, I thought about how we're told in Luke 15:10 that the angels in heaven are full of joy at the conversion of one soul to Christ. Imagine the joy they had when Abraham obeyed God; and as if that wasn't enough, think of the joy when they (the angels) understood the plan of salvation for mankind through the sacrifice of Jesus Himself, The LAMB of God.

The more The Lord opens my eyes and heart to His Word and the great Truth revealed therein, the more in awe I am of His GREAT love, mercy, and grace unto us who deserve nothing from Him.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 03 Feb 2014 14:51:08 GMT
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"For the wages of sin death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."Romans 6:23

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 04 Feb 2014 17:12:41 GMT
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Dealing with the heart...

Jesus taught us that it isn't what we eat that defiles a man, it's what is hidden in the heart. "There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man."
"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:
All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." Mark 7:15&21-23 also see Matt.15

Paul reminds the Christians in his epistle to those in Rome (and us) that it isn't what we eat that defiles man, it's our heart, our attitude towards one another. He tells them that whatsoever they do to do it in faith, whether eating or not eating a certain thing. He reminds them/us that: "For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in The Holy Ghost." Romans 14:17

Bickering and pointing fingers over personal preferences concerning what one eats, drinks, wears, celebrates, observes, or doesn't eat, drink, wear, celebrate, or observe only places burdens on others...remember the scribes and the Pharisees described by Jesus in Matthew 23? They placed burdens upon others while they themselves were only hindering people from entering The Kingdom of God (Matt.23:13) It not only hinders and causes others to stumble, it reflects the spiritual immaturity and hypocrisy of the finger pointer.

May God grant grace and mercy to The Body of Christ that rather than point fingers and accuse one another over non-salvation issues, we start showing the LOVE of God to our brothers and sisters...as well as those who know not Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God..." I John 4:7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Wed, 05 Feb 2014 00:21:34 GMT
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I was just reading this same scripture this morning.

I think more and more we are seeing an over sensitive spirit manifest in people and they read into every situation. I know someone that gave another person recently some scriptures to encourage them in the Faith they sent the paper back and said they did not need to hear any Bible in their situation.

Like one brother said, If your pointing the finger at someone there is three fingers pointing back at you. The thumb is generally pointing up into heaven.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Wed, 05 Feb 2014 11:59:36 GMT
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Quote: James wrote: Bickering and pointing fingers over personal preferences concerning what one eats, drinks, wears, celebrates, observes, or doesn't eat, drink, wear, celebrate, or observe only places burdens on others...remember the scribes and the Pharisees described by Jesus in Matthew 23? They placed burdens upon others while they themselves were only hindering people from entering The Kingdom of God (Matt.23:13) It not only hinders and causes others to stumble, it reflects the spiritual immaturity and hypocrisy of the finger pointer.

I was thinking about this further and somewhere there is a balance and I don't know if that is even the right word to use.

Take any subject, let's say sports for instance. While we can point the finger at all the evils behind any certain sport, there can be some good as well.

I would rather see young teenage boys involved in sports then running the streets involved in idleness and drugs. I can see where involvement in sports would burn up all that youthful energy and can be geared towards more positive goals in life.

What about drinking an occasional beer or glass of wine, certainly it can lead to evil if abused. But

if the scriptures do not forbid it then why should anyone point the finger at someone saying their in sin for drinking.

I know of someone who recently was going to a relatives wedding, a young niece, someone in the family told me they were not going to the reception afterwards because his family was Prebysterian (misspelled) and they would be drinking. I agreed with the person at the time, but later was thinking Jesus showed up at the wedding reception and even created more wine for the guests.

What if a person has a disease to make them overweight do we point the finger and say their gluttonous?

For some people TV or even the internet becomes the great evil. So they cast these items out of their houses and point the finger if anyone mentions some movie they recently watched. If a Christian writes a book and it becomes a major movie, then is it evil if it contains wizards and occult. Some don't think so its just fantasy while others point the finger and say its occult and evil.

Is this stuff really evil in itself?

It depends on what side of the fence your standing on, or which group your running with and what they believe on the matter.

In reality Christianity is a narrow road that each individual will travel and they have to make decisions for themselves what is right or wrong in light of the scriptures. Granted some groups only take what the preacher says and believes and they never take a look at what is in the Bible, and what it says.

I realize there are over sensitive Christians that will never listen to any Godly counsel as well. But the Bible does give instructions if that's the right word to use.

There are times when a person refuses to participate in some of these situations mentioned and even if you do not say anything people will accuse you of legalism. I heard someone say recently at a funeral about the person who died, They said; I think they refused to go to a doctor like the JW's. They were acting like the person was wrong because that dead person did not want to go to a doctor. I guess they even point the finger at you when your dead and in the grave. People will point the finger whether you do or you don't, I think its just human nature whether your a Christian or not a Christian it will happen.

BTW part of your post sounded like you are pointing the finger at the finger pointers. LOL

Lord Bless,

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 05 Feb 2014 15:21:53 GMT
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Lord Bless,
Gary

Personally, I'm seeking to determine which 'side of the fence' Jesus and His Word are on and make sure that's the side I get on. Too many times I've either been on the wrong side, or sitting straddled the fence. Also, I try not to put too much stock in what others believe or which way they're running, unless I can see clearly a life that reflects Jesus and His Word being lived out.

As to 'pointing fingers', I guess it wouldn't do any good to say that what I'm trying to share has been present in my life and I willingly confess it...My point is to encourage the reader to examine themselves and compare their/our lives with scripture and see if our religion is real or just lip service. The last thing I want is to found wanting on that day, I welcome godly constructive criticism that encourages me to seek after God's way as revealed in His Word.

Don't be over-sensitive, I'm not offended by your response...<GRIN>

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Wed, 05 Feb 2014 17:27:25 GMT

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Don't be over-sensitive, I'm not offended by your response...<GRIN>

Slice me up I'm not swallowing those minnows. LOL

Hey James Did anyone ever tell you, your a blessing from the Lord.

Did you know the Pharisees actually started out as a good movement.

Antiochus IV tried to crush the Jewish faith, he burned all the scriptures, they could not observe any feasts or celebrations, he defiled the temple, and anyone who did not obey his law was put to death.

The Jews were forced to adopt the wicked Grecian culture.

A priest comes along and starts the Maccabean political revolt, during this same time many gathered together and became "separatists" in the Greek this is where they get the word Pharisee. These guys refused to defile themselves and vowed to follow the Law of Moses. Later down through the centuries they started adding all the rules and came up with the Talmud.

Interesting stuff how they got started.

One more thing Josephus was a Pharisee and he wrote: "the Pharisees have delivered to the people a great many observances by succession from their fathers, which are not written in the law of Moses."

Jesus had to deal with this centuries of embedded rules and laws created by men. This is why they were so offended.

If you read church history, (Schaffs, history of the church), we see this happening time and time again. Every church receives a certain amount of revelation but they lock into it and go no further. This is why we have thousands of denominations with their own set of creeds.

Its amazing how we think we have all the truth and miss God's bigger plan. This is why so many will not take an honest look at the scriptures to see what are they saying. You know if its good enough for Grandpa its good enough for me theology, so why change things now.

Of course we just don't swallow everything that comes down the pike like error, heresay, etc.

I think your on to something though and I agree with you, its about developing a personal relationship. Walking with God like Enoch. Only the Lord really knows our hearts.

If you haven't already, you might want to check out Shaffs history of the church.

Lord bless your day, crunching those numbers.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 06 Feb 2014 14:52:35 GMT
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Truths Concerning True LOVE...As shared by the Apostle of Love, John.

"This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all."

"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

"He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now."

"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."

"Hearby perceive we the Love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

"And this is His commandment, That we should believe on The Name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment."

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is Love."

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

"And this commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."

~scriptures taken from the first Epistle of John.

John also recorded these words spoken by Jesus:

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already,

because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather that light, because their deeds were evil.

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Sat, 08 Feb 2014 12:38:39 GMT
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Love, Love, Love, All we need is Love. "Sound Familiar"

Did you know the world is saying this also?

If you know what I mean.

Lord Bless,
Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 10 Feb 2014 17:33:41 GMT
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The Importance of Being Content...but not Complacent.

Paul writes to Timothy in chapter six of the first epistle to him concerning the false teaching that gain is godliness, not so he admonishes. In fact, and contrary to the popular 'prosperity gospel' being taught today throughout the world; we're told that those teaching this message should be withdrawn from. Paul writes, under the inspiration of The Holy Spirit, "But godliness with contentment is great gain." v6

Jesus told the rich man in Mark 10:17-27 to sell what he had, give the proceeds to the poor, take up the cross, and follow Him. The man was unwilling, why? He wasn't willing to be content with

trusting Jesus to provide for him day by day, taking no thought for the morrow. His treasure was in what he possessed and in it he trusted, even though he had obeyed the ten commandments. How many of us in America who profess the name of Christ are just like the rich man, willing to obey in many things but not all. The American dream is alive and well in the average church today, the hunger for 'more' eats at most Christians, when in reality we have so much more than the rest of the world already, yet so many strive for more. Not to have to share with those in need, but to stockpile 'for a rainy day' or just trying to 'keep up with the Jones's'. But Paul tells us that "And having food and raiment let us be content."

Being content in whatever state we're in (Phil.4:11-13) is different than being complacent. Complacency is not what a Christian is to have as a mindset. We told to always be pressing on in Christ(Phil.3:13-14). Jesus warns in Revelation about becoming lukewarm, which is complacency, satisfied with where we are our walk with Christ; maybe caught up in the day to day grind and just going through the motions of loving God and our fellow man. James writes in (James 2:15-20) that if a man professes to have faith(a Christian, follower of Jesus, overcomer...) and doesn't willingly provide for the needs of those who are destitute and hungry when it's within their power to help, they really don't have FAITH and their religion is dead and in vain.

Works don't save, but those truly saved produce works.(fruit) Complacency in obedience to the whole council of God is a dangerous place to find oneself, repentance is the answer. Learning to be content while obeying The Lord is a place of joy and peace.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 18 Feb 2014 19:36:32 GMT
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The Importance of Recognizing and Confessing Our Sins...

Before any man can come unto The Lord he must recognize his sinful state and in brokenness and humility confess his sinful nature before a Holy God. Here are some Biblical examples of declarations made by godly men when they came face to face with who God is and what they weren't, they all confessed that I am....

1. When Isaiah saw God in His holiness he said, "I am undone." (Isaiah 6:5)

2. In remembering God's deliverance David exclaimed, "I am a worm." (Ps. 22:6)

3. Peter confessed after Jesus had manifested His power, "I am a sinful man." (Luke 5:8)

4. The prodigal son in seeing himself declared, "I am no more worthy." (Luke 15:19)

5. When Paul realized the application of the law of God in its spirituality, he said, "I am carnal." (Rom.7:14)

6.The unveiling of God's glory led Job to cry out, "I am vile." (Job 40:4)

7. When in remembrance of The Lord the psalmist said, "I am poor and needy." (Ps. 40:17)

8. When Jacob sensed the presence of God it caused him to acknowledge, " I am not worthy of the least of all Thy mercies." (Gen. 32:10)

9. The knowledge of Christ makes everyone that sees themselves in the Light of His presence to exclaim, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." (I Tim. 1:15)

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 21 Feb 2014 18:59:44 GMT
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"For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of The Holy Ghost;

Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men."Titus 3:3-8

Scriptures showing we're not saved by works but by God's Mercy and Grace; but at the same time we're saved to do works.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 22 Feb 2014 14:32:50 GMT
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"...Be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name. For The LORD is good..."Ps.100:4-5

God IS good and I bless His Name, and I am thankful. His compassions fail not, they are new every morning, great is His faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 26 Feb 2014 22:54:17 GMT
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The loving God we serve....

"But thou, O LORD, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth." Ps.86:15

"The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing." Zephaniah 3:17

"Know therefore that the LORD thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations." Deuteronomy 7:9

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith The LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation,
To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." II Corinthians 5:18-19

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by james on Fri, 28 Feb 2014 18:09:26 GMT
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Our forgiving God...

In Hebrew the word El Nahsah means, God who forgives. I'm not versed in Hebrew, so I have to believe what others say. I do have first hand knowledge of God's forgiveness having experienced it many times. The Word is filled with scriptures on forgiveness, both God's willingness to forgive us as well as His expectations of us forgiving others. He offers forgiveness to us as individuals and well as to groups of people. One of the most well known offers of forgiveness to a group of people is II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Individually we're told in I John 1:9..."If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
Every scripture on forgiveness has conditions, a person or nation must humble themselves, pray and confess, and turn (repent) from their sins and turn unto God/Jesus. Also we're told we must be forgiving of others, Jesus said in Matthew 6:12,14-15 "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

His willingness to forgive us, even though we don't deserve that forgiveness, is a display of His Love for us. His plan of salvation/restoration/reconciliation through Jesus Christ is the greatest gift of love we could ever imagine. How can we possibly begin to understand this great love without humbly seeking to forgive any and all who trespass against us? As we're conformed into the image of Jesus by the working of The Holy Spirit within us, forgiveness becomes much easier as we remember what we've been forgiven of and how often by our merciful and loving heavenly Father.

Will eternity be enough time to say "Thank YOU, LORD?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Fri, 28 Feb 2014 20:52:03 GMT
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Boy if this wasn't perfect timing of the Lord. I just got a card in the mail where someone was asking forgiveness for some things they said a while back.

I was thinking about this and here you posted this message.

The thing is when Jesus forgives He forgets as the old song goes. But sometimes when men forgive they still remember the past and what was said and done. Their always cautious or suspicious of someones actions thinking it will happen again.

What a good message James. Learning to completely forgive others who have wrong us as the Father forgives us for the sins we have committed.

True forgiveness is to not to hold someone accountable for their past sins towards us and then constantly reminding them of what they did in the past and always holding them accountable.

Good Timing here Brother.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 28 Feb 2014 21:50:26 GMT
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After I had written about forgiveness and was reading scriptures about forgiveness I was reminded that we should be as diligent about seeking forgiveness from others as well as from God. There is a buddy that I used to play tennis with that was a Christian and he just stopped communication about 6 months ago, so I sent him an email today asking if I had in any way offended him and please allow me to ask forgiveness and restore our relationship. I haven't heard back yet, but I want to be the first to seek reconciliation if at all possible. I've not always done this, but as I seek to be more Christ-like every day I want to show others His love by my actions.

I'm not setting myself up here as the perfect example because I'm not; nor trying to extra humble, but I do want to follow The perfect example...Jesus.

You're right Gary, as humans we have perfect (in our own minds) memory concerning offenses perpetrated against us, yet we are to totally forgive just as we seek total forgiveness from God. When I find myself tempted to rehash past offenses of others against me, I stop and ask The Lord to help me in forgetting, and even if it's humanly impossible to totally forget something to give me

a heart that seeks mercy for them. As I said, I'm sure not perfect, but He is helping me 'get it'. Usually it only take's a gentle reminder of the 'golden rule' and a look in the mirror remembering my past mistakes that I'm counting on Him having forgotten.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 10 Mar 2014 16:34:46 GMT
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The Importance of Remembering What God Says...or not forgetting

From the beginning God has communicated with man in various ways, and from the beginning man has forgotten what He has said. In the garden of Eden He talked one on one with Adam and Eve, He instructed them concerning His commands (Not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil) and yet they forgot. God, through His Grace has given us His WORD time after time, and time after time man has forgotten to keep His Word. Moses would go up on the mountain and God would speak unto him what to say unto the children of Israel. This was the spoken Word.

Then God gave man His Word in written form. (Written Word) He wrote the Ten Commandments down for Moses to deliver to the children of Israel, He also told Moses to record (write) what He told him.(Ex.24:4) He had men to record His Word under inspiration of The Holy Spirit, we all have copies of it, we call it The Holy Bible. Yet they, as well as people today, 'forgot' that Word.

Next God had them to learn or memorize His Words,(Deuteronomy 6:7-9) to get them into the heart and mind by constantly thinking upon them. But as we know from study of The Word Israel didn't do this effectively and spent hundreds of years in rebellion and captivity, never obeying for long at a time before falling back into idolatry and sin. Even in the New Testament we're told to study His Word.(II Tim.2:15)

So now we come to Jesus The WORD coming down to man to reveal God's Word to us.(John 1:14) Hebrews chapter one says, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His SON, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds." This is the Incarnate Word. Still even with Jesus Himself revealing God's Word and will unto man, man forgets and wanders off after anything but God.

But our God, who is so merciful and full of grace unto His people, didn't leave us unto our own destruction but with His foreknowledge of our tendency to forget made a new covenant with His people concerning His WORD and this time it would be different. Jeremiah 31:31-34 Heb.8:10-12 Heb.10:16-17 The Indwelling WORD, God's Word, written/placed/put in our hearts and in our minds directly by HIM. No longer walking in the power of our own strength(flesh) but being made one with Christ we now walk in The Spirit having The Spirit of God dwelling in us.(Rom.8:5-10)

Is this not the utmost display of Grace? God's character revealed through His Love, Grace, Mercy; His patience and longsuffering with His people to make a New Covenant after the first was refused, to offer Life to man who only deserved death through Jesus' own shed Blood, and then come and live within us??? "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ..." NOTHING! May we never forget...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 11 Mar 2014 13:56:58 GMT
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Behold The Lamb of God...

behold: to observe; look at; see

In The Gospel of John, John The Baptist upon seeing Jesus coming towards him said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Again the next day standing with two of his disciples he stated it again, "Behold the Lamb of God!" John was declaring to all who would listen that He of whom he, John, had been crying out in the wilderness concerning, was there, in their midst, Jesus, The Lamb of God their Messiah. John 1:29&36

That invitation to "behold" Him was accepted by many; but Jesus Himself offered another invitation to all who would receive it..."Come unto me" and the opportunity to not just 'see' or observe Him, but to learn of Him and find rest for our souls.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 12 Mar 2014 21:08:12 GMT
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FOLLOW ME...

Another invitation Jesus gave was to the twelve, offering them the opportunity to become His disciples. In Matthew 4:19 Jesus said: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." I was pondering what being a follower of Jesus really meant. A follower of Christ is committed to lifelong learning from Him through His Word and committed to sharing that which they learn. That is what the Great Commission is..."Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." learning to be a disciple and then making disciples of others. I saw somewhere that the

word "Christian" is only used three times in The New Testament; yet the word "disciple" is used two hundred and sixty nine times. Ask the average American if they are Christian and most will say they are. But how many 'christians' are disciples (followers) of Christ. How many who name the name of Christ are being transformed into the image of Christ? He told them to "Follow Me" and that He would make them fishers of men.

I'm convinced that there is nothing more important, for a man professing to be a follower of Christ, than sharing that which has been given him, the Good News of God's gracious plan of salvation through repentance from sin and turning unto Jesus Christ as LORD and Saviour. There are plenty of "believers" (James 2:19) but what He is seeking are followers, those who will "come unto Him and learn of Him"; who will "take up their cross daily and follow Him"; to serve rather than seeking to be served.

I know my mentality too often in the past has been more of 'self preservation'; keeping myself unspotted from the world, and waiting on the rapture; how selfish of me! A true follower of Jesus is obedient in ALL things commanded in The Word of God, or else as James wrote, their religion is vain.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sun, 16 Mar 2014 05:14:09 GMT
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Hope this comes through. It is about a painting that was commissioned to portray the resurrection of our Lord.

http://downloads.cbn.com/cbnplayer/cbnPlayer.swf?s=/vod/MW13 1v2_WS

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 26 Mar 2014 13:26:38 GMT
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"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me." John 14:1

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27

"These things have I spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."John 16:33

"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you."John 20:19

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"Rom.5:1

"Now The Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all."II Thess. 3:16

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 28 Mar 2014 16:23:07 GMT
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The Importance of Exhortation...

"But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Heb. 3;13

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works:
Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much more, as ye see the day approaching." Heb.10:24-25

exhort: to urge; advise, or caution earnestly. to incite by words or advise, to animate or urge by arguments to a good deed.

exhortation: form of words intended to incite and encourage; to counsel.

Paul spent much time exhorting and encouraging others to do likewise...(Timothy and Titus/bishops and elders/each follower of Christ, urging and encouraging) The Epistle of Hebrews is filled with exhortations and encouragements, there are several places early in the book that we're encouraged to "take heed"(Heb.2:1 and Heb.3:12)

Then after the old and new Covenants are laid out in understandable details and Jesus is shown as the perfect sacrifice Who established the New Covenant with His Own Blood; we're exhorted to, by faith, draw near unto God. (Heb.10:19-23) And after we're given examples of faith and faithfulness by those who have gone on before us(having not received the promise) and who are

a 'cloud of witnesses'; we're exhorted to lay aside every weight and any sin that easily besets us, and run the race that is set before us...Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.Heb.12:1-2

So as God's Word tells us to do, exhort one another, love one another, pray for one another...let us do so. What's the exhortation? Hold fast, don't grow slack; be doers of The Word, not hearers only; walk in humility and love; keep our eyes on Jesus; be thankful and bless His Name.

I read this the other day, "Pray for me, I need the prayers and you need the practice"...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 02 Apr 2014 14:10:41 GMT
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Sacrifices...

sacrifice: giving up of something valued: a giving up of something valuable or important for somebody or something else considered more valued or important. The offering up of sacrifices is to be regarded as a divine institution. It didn't originate with man; God Himself appointed it. Offering of something precious.

I have spent the last month or so reading about God's plan for the Tabernacle and the institution of sacrifices(Exodus and Leviticus) as part of a daily Bible reading. Today I was reading in Psalms and this scripture got me to meditating upon what sacrifices we're to offer today as New Testament followers of Christ.

"Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in The LORD."Ps.4:5

Jesus Christ was the perfect sacrifice, and faith in His sacrifice of Himself alone brings salvation; this we know and understand that all our sacrifices could never bring about our own salvation. But we are told that we're to offer sacrifices; not blood sacrifices of bulls and goats, or lambs and turtledoves. But we're to offer the sacrifices of a heart that's filled with gratitude and thanksgiving because of the sacrifice Jesus made.

We're told in Romans 12:1 to offer our own bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto God. In I Peter 2:5 we're told to offer up spiritual sacrifices. Hebrews 13:15-16 tells us to offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually and to do good which are sacrifices that please God. David writes in Psalms 50:14 to offer unto God thanksgiving; and in chapter 69 verses 30 and 31 we're told: "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving. This also shall please The LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs."

One key phrase I saw repeatedly in Exodus was, "a willing heart "; all that was taken up for the tabernacle was to be given willingly from the heart. That's the sacrifices God wants today from His people; sacrifices of obedience, of living in His righteousness, of thankfulness, of praise, of holiness from our hearts. Daily offering up of ourselves as living sacrifices because of what Jesus did for us and His example unto us; again to repeat, not because we think this is needful in procuring our salvation...our salvation is by faith in Him alone and His sacrifice at Calvary; but because it is our reasonable service in light of what He has shown He desires from us. Why, one might wonder, that our lives will bring glory and honor to God and point those who don't know Him to Him and His Glory.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Thu, 03 Apr 2014 05:08:59 GMT
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Hi James,

Yes that `willing heart,` is so precious to the Lord. Thank you for pointing it out. I have just recently had some time with different friends while hubby went on his annual fishing trip with some Christian men. They caught some good trout & had special men times sharing of their lives.

I have come to appreciate more & more how important men are who follow the Lord in word & deed. The world is so `me,` orientated & to see godly men committed, faithful, (especially in what they read & watch) & who are demonstrating quietly in their work the importance of doing their job well, & also relating to others caringly. I have been encouraging my friends & myself to appreciate our men folk & not get caught up in the frictions of life or `why doesn`t he talk like my girl friends,` etc.

So I say to all the men, we are trying more & more to appreciate your calling in the Lord & we pray for you to stand strong against the flood of iniquity that is coming against you & us.

`Be strong in the Lord & in the power of His might.`

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 04 Apr 2014 15:04:02 GMT
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Thanks for the encouragement, Marilyn.

btw: if he 'talked like your girl friends'...there's a high probability that you would have lost interest by now. Not to wax philosophical here but there does seem to be some degree of truth in the adage 'men are from Mars and women are from Venus'. A more Biblical explanation would be that that's how God made us.

Hey! The fresh trout has to count for something....lol

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 08 Apr 2014 17:53:43 GMT
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Encouragement from God's Word...

For those who battle condemnation and guilt (and who hasn't?) these words from Isaiah are promises to cling to; if you've fallen and missed the mark, if you've allowed Satan to get inside your head with his condemning accusations saying God has forsaken you, choose this day to believe God and stand on His promises. If repentance is needed, then repent.(I John 2:1-2)

"For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.

In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith The LORD thy Redeemer." Isaiah 54:7-8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 11 Apr 2014 21:52:40 GMT
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"I will love Thee, O LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

I will call upon The LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let The God of my salvation be exalted." Ps. 18:1-3&46

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 14 Apr 2014 13:34:50 GMT
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HE IS RISEN...

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I have preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" I Corinthians 15:1-4

"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," I Peter 1:3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 21 Apr 2014 20:49:20 GMT
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ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PSALMS 31...

" In Thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in Thy righteousness."

"Oh how great is Thy goodness, which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee; which Thou hast wrought for them that trust in Thee before the sons of men!"

"Oh love The LORD, all ye His saints; for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully reward the proud doer."

Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in The LORD."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Mon, 21 Apr 2014 21:43:24 GMT
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Quote:`Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in The LORD."

I thank you dear Lord that you strengthen our hearts. Where would we be if we just tried to get through life`s trials and difficulties without you. I pray and ask that if any are weary, or discouraged or downhearted today that you will especially come to them and reveal yourself to them in a way that they would realise your closeness. Though the way often becomes cloudy I pray that we will all `feel,` know your hand strengthening us and that we realise that that is those special times when we take notice that you are close.

Thank you for you love, care and strengthening our hearts yet again dear Lord.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Thu, 24 Apr 2014 06:17:27 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Mon, 21 April 2014 16:43
Quote:`Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in The LORD."

I thank you dear Lord that you strengthen our hearts. Where would we be if we just tried to get through life`s trials and difficulties without you. I pray and ask that if any are weary, or discouraged or downhearted today that you will especially come to them and reveal yourself to them in a way that they would realize your closeness. Though the way often becomes cloudy I pray that we will all `feel,` know your hand strengthening us and that we realize that that is those special times

when we take notice that you are close.

Thank you for you love, care and strengthening our hearts yet again dear Lord.

Amen and Amen! I receive that in Jesus Name.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Anonymous Please on Thu, 24 Apr 2014 19:11:20 GMT
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I like this verse especially since I keep hearing about the love of God even though we are all said to be "failure Christians". True Christians love God - and that love is expressed in OBEDIENCE. People should not fool themselves. Love for God is seen in obeying.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 27 Apr 2014 22:17:47 GMT
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Apostle wrote on Thu, 24 April 2014 14:11 True Christians love God - and that love is expressed in OBEDIENCE. People should not fool themselves. Love for God is seen in obeying.

Yes, John told us that, as lead by The Spirit. He also made more than one reference concerning us loving one another. And Paul wrote a whole chapter (I Corinthians 13) on the importance of love, in fact he said that without it we are nothing, even if we display awesome spiritual gifts. Jesus said to those who claimed their works before Him, "I never knew you." Faith without works is dead, as written by James(no! the other James <grin>) what works? Love in action, doing God's Word. Helping widows and orphans, treating people alike, watching what we say and 'write'(guarding the tongue).

No, people shouldn't fool themselves...it's extremely costly. God grant us hearts to love You and our neighbor as ourselves.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 02 May 2014 19:39:20 GMT
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What God's Grace teaches us...

"For the Grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14

The good news of Grace (The Gospel)teaches us that God loves us and sent His Son Jesus to pay the penalty for OUR sins, that penalty (punishment) required the shedding of blood, yet the sacrificial offering had to be spotless and without blemish (sinless...which totally disqualified you and me). So in His great love He offered up of Himself, suffering and dying on The Cross to redeem/reconcile us unto God. Not only did He purchase our pardon, setting us free from the penalty of sin, but He was resurrected from the dead and has given life eternal to all those will will receive/believe this wonderful news.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

It's sad when we get it wrong, works never saved anyone...Grace alone saves; a true revelation of Jesus' work at Calvary and God's love in offering salvation to man who is so undeserving of it, can not but result in a humility and thankfulness that will then start producing fruit/works. Getting it backward results in false religious pride...getting it right produces Christlike disciples who serve out of gratitude, understanding it's all by Grace...favor that is completely unmerited by us.

"For by Grace are ye saved through faith; and THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES, it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of The Holy Ghost." Titus 3:5

I wonder how it ever was that the very thing (The Gospel) that should have brought profound humility in many of us, resulted in religious pride in some of us. In hindsight it's clear to me that some never truly understood the revelation of God's Grace in their hearts, only intellectually. That's how legalism was able to get such a foothold among people who wanted to follow The Lord zealously, Grace wasn't fully understood and therefore it was never enough just to "TRUST" in Jesus, we had to have lists of do's and don'ts, thinking (probably subconciously) we could 'earn' His love by self sacrifice, rather than simply believing what He told us in His Word.

That He (God/Jesus/Holy Spirit) would lovingly correct this wrong theology/mindset at all shows the extent of that great Grace.

Thank You, Father; thank You Jesus; thank You Holy Spirit; may Your Grace continue to open our hearts and spiritual eyes to truly see the wonders of Your Love to us.

btw: Just for complete honesty, this message was for me and if anyone else needs to hear it then that's why I posted it. I'm reading a book (surprise! surprise!) by a young man named J.D. Greear, titled: Gospel:Recovering The Power that made Christianity Revolutionary. I'm only 87 pages into it but already it's revealing truths I needed to hear. Funny, only a few short years ago I made the statement on here how I basicly only read HEF books...since then The Lord has used a few authors from 'mainstream christianity' to help open my eyes to see God's Grace in a whole new light. Philip Yancey's book, "What's So Amazing About Grace" that I read a couple years ago was helpful as well.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 05 May 2014 21:31:11 GMT
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Here is something the author of the above mentioned book prays each day, as a reminder of what Jesus has done for us.

"In Christ, there is nothing I could do to make You love me more: nothing I have done that makes You love me less."

"You are all I need today for everlasting joy."

"As You have been to me, so will I be to others."

"As I pray, I'll measure Your compassion by the cross and Your power by the resurrection."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Tue, 06 May 2014 01:34:12 GMT
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Keep sharing James, all good.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 06 May 2014 14:03:52 GMT
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All praise and honor unto Jesus, Marilyn. Thank you for the encouragement, by God's Grace I will continue to share as He gives freely.

This was one of my chapters for today's daily reading, Psalms 50(as an assembly we are reading through The Bible together). Verse 23 was made into song back in the day and I still enjoy singing it.

"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God."

I was walking this morning and was 'trying' to keep my mind focused on The Lord and His Word(offering Him praise, meditating on various ways of how we can 'order our conversations aright'.) I mentioned I was trying because I was constantly being distracted by my mind wandering back to my circumstances, and putting my focus on myself and things I'm going through rather than walking (literally<smile>) with my mind stayed on Him and abiding in Him. I had this clear question come to mind, (I believe to have been asked by The Holy Spirit) Are you going to allow

circumstances to dictate you joy, or are you going to look to Me?

I've been reading a book about centering our lives around The Gospel and the prayer the author prays to remind himself of what Jesus did. One part says, "Your presence and approval are all I need for everlasting joy." That is my heart's cry, to dwell/abide/continue in/make my home in the presence of The Lord. Not just during quite time, or corporate worship, but 24/7...to experience Him as He desires me/us to experience Him. To have His JOY to be my strength; to walk in perfect peace as my mind is continually stayed upon Him, trusting in Him.

So my response to the question is, by God's Grace I am going to look unto Him, the author and finisher of my faith, for His Presence to be all I need for everlasting JOY.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Wed, 07 May 2014 01:39:09 GMT
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Hi James,

We are appreciating your flow in the Lord. And that is a big one - re: circumstances trying to dictate to our mind. As 2 cor. 10: 3 - 6 as we all know speaks of this continual battle -

`Inasmuch as we refute arguments & theories & reasonings & every proud & lofty thing that sets itself up against the true knowledge of God; & we lead every thought & purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ.` (AMP)

When I find circumstances or sad thoughts etc crowding in then I turn it to a prayer. Today I`m praying for those kidnapped girls overseas.

`Dear Lord, we uphold these young girls to you & pray that you will make yourself known to them in this difficult time. May they in their hearts turn to you & know your presence amid the horror. Comfort their parents & may they seek you.

I pray also for their captors that they would be quickened in their consciences & treat these girls as sisters. May there be a resolution to this situation, with many arising to help at this time.`

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 09 May 2014 14:52:11 GMT
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Great psalm and song...

"I will love Thee, O LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

I will call upon The LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let The God of my salvation be exalted." Psalms 18:1-3&46

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 10 May 2014 15:08:32 GMT
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I'm not too big a fan of 'contemporary Christian music' in general, but there are some beautiful praise and worship songs being written and sung today that would fall into that genre, I suppose. Matt Redman, Hillsong United, and Phil Wickham come to mind. Here are the lyrics to a song by Wickham that really blesses my heart and I can't stop singing it.

"This Is Amazing Grace"

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness

Whose love is mighty and so much stronger

The King of Glory, The King above all kings

[Chorus]
This is amazing grace

This is unfailing love

That You would take my place

That You would bear my cross

You lay down Your life

That I would be set free

Oh, Jesus, I sing for

All that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order

Who makes the orphan a son and daughter

The King of Glory, the King of Glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice

Shines like the sun in all its brilliance

The King of Glory, The King above all kings

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy is the King who conquered the grave

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy is the King who conquered the grave

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy, worthy, worthy

He is so Worthy, Jesus, The King of Glory...Hallelujah!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sat, 10 May 2014 22:55:30 GMT
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Hi James,

Wish I could hear you sing. Those words are so inspiring. I`ll have to look out for it. Trevor likes Matt Redman, & so do I. `I`m coming back to the heart of worship...it`s all about you...` (& not all the glitz that often goes with it, but the simple heart song to the Lord.)

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 11 May 2014 12:24:40 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Sat, 10 May 2014 17:55

Wish I could hear you sing.

Marilyn, that's funny, you'd only make that wish one time...lol

I 'make a joyful noise unto The Lord', but in my heart I sing in perfect tune. I don't care for the music videos that are so popular today, I just enjoy the music without the 'look of a rock concert'(glitz). You can YouTube Phil Wickman or the song title and listen to it.(surely you already know this, since I'm the almost always last to catch on the the lastest technology.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sun, 11 May 2014 22:47:47 GMT
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Hi James,

Now why aren`t I surprised about that.  I like the bit about the `heart in perfect tune.` And that is the main thing in the spiritual sense we are all appreciating that Christ by His Holy Spirit is doing in our lives.

Thank you for telling me about Phil Wickman. Never heard of him but looking forward to checking his singing out. I don`t `keep up,` either. Glad it is not a requirement of God`s agenda.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 12 May 2014 20:17:30 GMT
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The Importance of Keeping Our Eyes On Jesus...and the cost when we don't...

The two examples that come to mind are found in the OT and have lasting repercussions. First is Israel when they were afraid to trust God to deliver the promised land into their hands.[Numbers 13 &14] They refused to go and take the land, only Joshua and Caleb trusted The Lord to do as He had said. The results of their lack of faith cost every person except Joshua and Caleb above the age of 20 years their life as they perished in the wilderness over the span of 40 years.

Second is David when he took his eyes off Jesus and 'glanced' at Bathsheba, his 'look' lead him to lust after her, and just as James 1:14-15 explains, the results was death. Death of his child, death of Uriah the Hittite, plus adultery... and violence and death followed David the rest of his life. II Samuel 11&12.

Israel continued to be blessed by God and He continued to forgive them when they would repent and seek His face, yet the sin of unbelief cost them dearly. Same with David, God forgave David and continued His blessings upon David, yet he too paid dearly. Psalms 51 is David cry unto God after he had committed these hideous sins. He recognized the seriousness of his sins, he threw himself upon The Mercy of God, he confessed his sins and God forgave him. But we know his life wasn't what it could have been due to his actions of disobedience.(Thou shalt not kill...Thou shalt not commit adultery)

Two examples that had huge ramifications, not only for those directly responsible (the 10 spies and David) but to their families and fellow Israelites. Joshua and Caleb had to waste 40 years of their lives because the other 10 were afraid (along with the congregation of Israel) and The Jewish nation of Israel had to wait for a Temple because God wouldn't allow David to build it because of his sins.

Lesson for us? He forgives and restores us, yet there are times when the consequences follow us, hindering what could have been if we'd only believe and obey. Obedience is better than sacrifice...Trust and obey, look to Jesus, trust in what He tells us, he is able to bring it to pass.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Tue, 13 May 2014 07:09:05 GMT
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Hi James,

My all time favourite song as I`ve posted some time back -`Turn your eyes upon Jesus.` It never ceases to stir my spirit & focus me on our precious Lord. Thank you for your insightful comments.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 15 May 2014 18:07:40 GMT
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A Testimony of Grace...

"Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare all He hath done for my soul.

I cried unto Him with my mouth, and He was extolled with my tongue.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, The LORD will not hear me:

But verily God hath heard me; He hath attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me." Ps.66:16-20

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 19 May 2014 13:30:04 GMT
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Thoughts on Beholding The Glory of God...

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost.

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus The LORD, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." II Corinthians 4:3-6

Gary has brought out in searching the 'gospels' the importance of being able to "see" and "hear" the good news of God's grace. I've been mediating and pondering the depths of God's Grace and The Gospel, and the ultimate purpose of God as revealed in scripture. God's Word reveals His character and attributes, it reveals His will for mankind, and it reveals His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. But the revelation of Him and His plan for redemption of man has a purpose deeper than just keeping us from His wrath and judgment; He wants us to be able to "Behold" [see] His Glory. In the Corinthian letter He [God] uses Paul to share with the church how that the gospel [good news] of Christ (who is the image of God) who shine light upon those who recieved it and open their [our] eyes. Verse six tells us that God Himself shined that light into our hearts (so that we now see), and what do we see? What does He want us to see?

"Knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." He wants us to see His glory and it's only through Christs' sacrifice at Calvary and resurrection that we can be restored unto God, and by that cleansing power of His shed Blood we can begin to Behold The Glory of God. We can't obey the instruction to "glorify God" in all our actions if we haven't been able to "see" Him as He desires us to see Him and learn to give Him glory through worship and praise. Isaiah 40:9 is part of the prophecy Isaiah was giving of when all things will be restored, sins pardoned, and God's glory revealed, His Word is once more declared to be everlasting, and the good news cried out, to "Behold your GOD."

Remember no one could behold God in His glory due to mans' sin, even Moses had to hid in the rocks to only see the passing by of God's Glory and even that caused his face to shine. But through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ the day will come when we [and all the saints who have gone on before us] will behold the Glory of God even as He desires. But even now He wants us to learn to 'see' His Glory daily as we gaze with spiritual eyes upon our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ {who is the image of God] to bring glory and honor unto Him by our lives. The promise of a day coming when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ as Lord is easier to understand when we begin to see the glory of God and realize that when all men behold His Glory there can be nothing else for them to do except confess who He is...The Glory of God will be such that no man can or could deny it...as we "Behold our God"

This is cause for Christians to share this great news, knowing that even though Satan has blinded many peoples eyes, through the living water of God's Word presented in love, the truth can and will set free the captives....that, they too, may know the one true God and Jesus Christ our Saviour, to behold God in His great Glory.

Beautiful song titled "Behold Our God" by Sovereign Grace Music:

[chorus]

Behold our God seated on His throne

Come, let us adore Him

Behold our King-nothing can compare

Come, let us adore Him

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 20 May 2014 14:33:10 GMT
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More Thoughts on Beholding God's Glory...

"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw The LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple.

Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, Holy, Holy, [is] The LORD of hosts: the whole earth [is] full of His Glory." Isaiah 6:1-3

And down in verses 9-13 we see God causing spiritual blindness upon the people until the fulfillment of His plan was acomplished.

"And He said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Then said I, Lord, How long? And He answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and

the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

And The Lord have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof." Isaiah 6:9-13

So in looking at both OT and NT we can see that for God's plan of reconcillation of both Jew and Gentile there was a spiritual blindness sent upon the Jewish nation of Israel until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled. Then in II Corinthians 4:3&4 we see the gospel hidden from the lost because the god of this world [Satan] has blinded them. I see a big difference here, with Israel it's God's will that they be blinded (obviously because of their rejection and rebellion against Him <on their part>, on His part it was all part of His sovereign plan of restoration of man unto Him through Jesus Christ, remember, He said throughout the OT that He had a remmant and He promised that in the end He would restore Israel unto Himself). But with the Gentiles (us) Satan is the blinder and it's our calling as followers of Christ to share/present/preach that glorious Gospel of Christ unto them that are lost; that they too might receive the 'light' of the knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ... to Behold The Glory of God.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 23 May 2014 13:00:39 GMT
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Scriptures on The Image of God and His Glory, Revealed in Jesus...

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [His] Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds;

Who being the brightness of [His] glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." Hebrews 1:1-3

"Wherefore GOD also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] under the earth;

And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] LORD, to the GLORY of GOD The Father. Phil. 2:9-11

"Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given me, be with me where I am; That they may behold my Glory, which Thou hast given me : for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." John 17:24

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 29 May 2014 17:09:03 GMT
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"For a day in Thy courts [is] better than a thousand, I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than dwell in the tents of wickedness."Ps. 84:10

Chew on this scripture a while, here's King David who had experienced God like few people ever had, fallen into sin that changed the lives of many people (for the bad), had power like few ever experienced, and had wealth beyond description, yet he says he'd rather just be a doorkeeper in the house of God than be in the place of the wicked. He had known the place of despair and guilt that sin brought on and he had known the restoration back into fellowship with God...he knew there was no comparison. A day with The LORD was far better than a thousand in any others company.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 05 Jun 2014 13:54:56 GMT
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"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."Hebrews 11:6

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph 2:8-9

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 06 Jun 2014 12:23:24 GMT
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"Unless The LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence.

When I said, My foot slippeth: Thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.

In the multitude of my thoughts within me Thy comforts delight my soul." Psalms 94:17-19

What a testimony, I think it should be the testimony of every Christian; humbly remembering how God has delivered us time after time...and taking great delight and joy in meditating upon all He has done for us...most importantly, revealing Himself and His plan of restoration that we might learn to delight in Him and His great Glory.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sat, 07 Jun 2014 23:16:09 GMT
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Good post, James,

`the multitude of my thoughts....`

& God says we are to destroy speculation & `every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, & we are taking EVERY THOUGHT captive to the obedience of Christ.` (2 Cor. 10: 5)

Oh our thoughts, who can tame them, once a memory or reminder or something someone has said....takes hold we must pull ourselves up & put Christ`s thought`s, scripture, song etc in its place - A constant battle.

Blessings & so appreciate God`s thoughts at this time thank you James.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 08 Jun 2014 20:52:11 GMT
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The Enemy Must be Completely Destroyed...

"Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree.

And ye shall overthrow their alters, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place." Deuteronomy 12:2-3

"utterly destroy all the places"; overthrow alters, break pillars, burn groves, hew down graven images, destroy the names....Everywhere! Upon high mountains, upon hills, and under every green tree...God was serious, He knew the power of an enemy stronghold and He demanded total destruction of every trace of them. The warfare continues today, Satan is seeking strongholds in the lives of God's people; God is calling us to total obedience, knowing that without the destruction of the idols [besetting sins]we cannot be effective in the carrying out of our calling.

Satan has a lot of power, but he can't exercise it over Christians unless we give him the right or authority through opening a door to him by sin. God has given unto Christians power as well as authority, but too often we're rendered ineffective because of strongholds of the enemy in our lives. Doubt, unbelief, fear, lukewarmness, apathy, traditions of religious institutions, hidden sins, rebellion, self-centeredness...all are standing between man and God, all are 'idols, graven images, and alters to another god'. All nulify what God has offered the believer, power and authority to cary out His command to show the world the Glory of God...to preach the Gospel...to live the Gospel.

We can't be servants of God while enslaved to the enemy. Remember, Satan is always subtle, his idols and groves and high places today don't look so bad, in fact it's often hard to distinguish between what's right and wrong, unless guided by The Holy Spirit and a humble and obedient heart. How many men of God fell to false idols and false gods in the OT?(remember Solomon) How many men of God have fallen in the last 20-30 years due to letting down their guard and

allowing Satan to get a stronghold in their lives?

The admonition is to be diligent to take heed to God's Word and remember it's written for example that we don't fall into the same traps that others fell into, Satan's time is limited, he's going about with one purpose, the distruction of The Body of Christ through whatever method he find effective...Our duty, put on the whole armour of God and recognize we're in a war 24/7 and it's not the time to be lackadaisical, utterly destroy all the places that Satan has set up shop, break those stronghold and renounce his power and refuse to give him authority. Start walking in fellowship with Christ and His Power and Authority.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sun, 08 Jun 2014 23:13:57 GMT
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Hi James,

Some really good detail there of Satan`s tactics. What especially caught my notice was - `Satan is always subtle...`

Lately I have been reading & discussing with a friend `passive control` by the enemy. It is where he gets into people`s thinking so that they `passively,` without discerning, believe that all manifestations are from the Lord. eg. This or that happens then it must be the Lord .....etc

My friend & I are concerned & praying for another friend who is caught up in the `Dominionist thinking,` where they have to go to mountains, do special walks, etc, etc thinking that they are on some special mission from God.

Have you heard of such teaching? It is pervading all areas.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 09 Jun 2014 14:04:14 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Sun, 08 June 2014 18:13Lately I have been reading & discussing with a friend My friend & I are concerned & praying for another friend who is caught up in the `Dominionist thinking,` where they have to go to mountains, do special walks, etc, etc thinking that they are on some special mission from God.

Have you heard of such teaching? It is pervading all areas.

Hi Marilyn,

No, I'm not familar with "Dominionist thinking".....but, thanks to Google (saved me hours of research at the library going through dozens of books...yeah! right.<grin>) I have now 'heard' of it. I read your post early this morning but had something to do before I could respond...I had to take my morning 'special' walk up on the 'mountain'...it's my 'mission'....Just kidding! I do walk up a small mountain every morning and pray as I go and I do believe I'm on a mission from God, but that's not it. lol (I saw a coyote this morning, some mornings I see deer and other wildlife)

After reading a bit on Dominionism I'd say that it has 'some' influence in many denominations, especially in the area of changing society through active involvment in government, protest, voting, enforcing 'christian value' upon society. Don't misunderstand what I'm saying, Christian(God's) values in our society and dictating our laws would be wonderful (and I pray for our leaders to repent and seek God and His Standards as the guide to their decision making) but I can't find in scripture where we as Christians are called to become part of this world's kingdoms, we are to be active in God's Kingdom...btw: most definitly not the same, contrary to many Americans beliefs.

Seems like there is always something Satan is using to take the focus off God and divert it to some 'cause' that 'seems' noble. So with that thought in mind, I think I'll not waste any more of my time on 'Dominionism' or it's 7 Mountains...unless The Lord has me learn more in order to share the error of it with someone.

But if you have friends being lead astray with this false teaching, then certainly you have reason for concern and sharing the truth with them. C Peter Wagner, here in america, seems to be behind much of this teaching...he's know for promoting 'out there stuff' inside charismatic circles(part of the group that gave Todd Bentley his apostolic approval in Lakeland Revival 2008)

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Tue, 10 Jun 2014 10:40:11 GMT
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Hi James,

Well you certainly gave a good over view of Dominionism. It is more subtle in Evangelical circles but quite dominant in charismatic & Pentecostal groups. The words of the songs are the main `teaching` tools that get into people`s thinking.

Anyway it is a continual warfare as you so rightly said. I`m so glad you can get away & climb a small mountain & focus on the Lord. Fancy seeing a coyote. On my walks through the trees & by

the channel I see all manner of bird life & a few rabbits & hares.

God bless, my brother as you seek Him & His word of encouragement for us all. It really is not many years till all of us will be with Him & each other....forever.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 10 Jun 2014 13:13:31 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Tue, 10 June 2014 05:40
Well you certainly gave a good over view of Dominionism. It is more subtle in Evangelical circles but quite dominant in charismatic & Pentecostal groups. The words of the songs are the main `teaching` tools that get into people`s thinking.

As a music teacher I am sure you're even more aware of this than I, but the lyrics to songs are very important. It breaks my heart to see so many who love The Lord and want to follow Him being deceived by another subtle tatic of the enemy. I don't know what percent, but it seems like at least half the songs played on 'christian radio' have unscriptural lyrics and some are even heretical. A good example is a song titled "Forever" by Kari Jobe, this song sounds beautiful and has some solid truthful lyrics, but there is a verse that says this:

"One final breath he gave
as heaven looked away
The son of God was laid in darkness
a batle in the grave
The war on death was waged
The power of hell forever broken"

This is from the JDS (Jesus Died Spiritually/ God forsook Jesus/ He had to go to hell and be born again, ect...E.W.Kenyon, K. Hagin, K.Copeland, Joyce Myers, and many others) teachings. Music has such power over the human mind and emotions and the words become entrenched in our memory and effects our thinking. Another example, I grew up in the culture of the 60's and the music I listened to(Stones, Allman Brothers, Zeppelin, Hendrix...ect) I still know the words to forty years later. I know Hillsong, from there in Australia, has some beautiful music, but there are [some] songs from them that are, at best shakey scripturally. I know Bethel out in California, The Vineyard, IHOP, and some of the 'charismatic' churches that promoted a lot of false worship have all got music teams that write and sell CD's of their music that often have unbiblical lyrics.

Yes, Satan is subtle...it is a warfare, but God gives wisdom and discernment.....and Grace. May eyes be opened and those who seek to follow Him live to bring God Glory.....not ourselves.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Thu, 12 Jun 2014 01:15:42 GMT
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Hi James,

I`ve been thinking on what you have just said concerning JDS & the words of that verse. Could you please show me how those words show JDS. By the way I`m not very familiar with JDS & have only seen it mentioned in passing in things I`ve read.

Good to be able to discern. Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 12 Jun 2014 12:44:48 GMT
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Marilyn if you will go to "Bible Issues" and read the thread on "Teaching on Jesus Becoming Sin" there is some background mentioned. What I am saying concerning the lyrics to "Forever" is the influence of the teaching is seen in the wording of the song. While it isn't as blatantly stated as some, it's still there. "as heaven looked away" is a description of God turning his back on Jesus and forsaking Him. "a battle in the grave, the war on death was waged" sounds like the teaching that Jesus had to go to hell and battle Satan for three days and nights in order to defeat him and complete our redemption. If you aren't familiar with this heresy teaching I'd suggest doing a study on it, it's extremely important and it's influencing millions of people. It started with E W Kenyon and today is taught by many 'WOF' (word of faith/prosperity) teachers such as Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Joyce Myers, and the list is long.

The atonement occured on The Cross with the shedding of Jesus' Blood, NOT in hell battling the devil.(Col. 1:20 Rom.5:9) When Jesus cried out "it is finished"...It was finished, the debt was paid in full!

I don't know the heart of this young woman(and anyone else who writes songs) and I'm not condemning her as a person, it's the influence of the music and where the influence came from and what the influence is, and what the results of that influence can be.....a false understanding of who Jesus is, both before the Cross and after. He never sinned, He never was subject to Satan, He never had to be reborn, He was never forsaken by God, He never died spiritually.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by Marilyn Crow on Fri, 13 Jun 2014 01:30:59 GMT
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Thank you James,

That information was very helpful to me. I will certainly read up on this false teaching. I also hear your heart that you are concerned re: the heresy & not to condemn anyone & may they come to know the truth.

Blessings, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 18 Jun 2014 12:12:44 GMT
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Comfort and Encouragement from Isaiah...

Isaiah chapter forty has some wonderful encouraging words from The Lord for His people, the whole chapter offers encouragement to those who will receive and believe. The chapter starts with:

"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God."

and verse eight tells us:

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand for ever."

Then He reminds us in verse twenty eight who He is and that we can rest in Him.

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, The LORD, the creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of His understanding."

Then verse thirty one has this reminder and encouragement:

"But they that wait upon The LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 20 Jun 2014 11:49:50 GMT
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"From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same The LORD'S name is to be praised."Psalms 113:3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 28 Jun 2014 12:37:31 GMT
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After the assurances given in Romans chapter eight, especially verses twenty eight through thirty, verses thirty one and two really drives home the promise...

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Rom.8:31-32

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 07 Jul 2014 11:59:20 GMT
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Psalms 139:23-24

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 11 Jul 2014 12:09:20 GMT
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"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body, and be ye thankful.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns

and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to The LORD." Colossians 3:12-16

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 14 Jul 2014 16:02:31 GMT
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"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee."Isaiah 26:3

Experiencing anxiety or fear? Look to Jesus; meditate on God's Word; delight in the promises of God; worship God with all your heart; rest in Him; keep your mind focused on Jesus; walk in the spirit; sing praises unto Him; expect Him to fulfill His Word; thank Him for His great Love; rejoice and bless His Name.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 20 Jul 2014 17:35:11 GMT
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Food for Thought...

"Patience is the capacity to 'wait and to endure' without murmuring or disillusionment- to wait in the unplanned place, and endure the unplanned pace."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Mon, 21 Jul 2014 06:51:56 GMT
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Hi James,

That is such a word from the Lord for all of us. Thank you so much for being diligent & continuing to write in this quiet time while Gary gets his garden in order.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Mon, 21 Jul 2014 08:45:30 GMT
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Thanks Sister!

Much is happening here. We finally think our house is sold, now were going to be moving sometime in the future. Every ones prayers appreciated, believing for God to direct our paths, were we can make the right decisions, and be where He wants us and not what we want. Hope that makes sense.

BTW the garden is doing great we may have to leave much of it but hopefully they will be blessed from all the veggies.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 21 Jul 2014 16:41:51 GMT
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Gary wrote on Mon, 21 July 2014 03:45
now were going to be moving sometime in the future.

Nice and warm down here in Alabama, winter is not too cold.

Plus there's a Home Depot less than a mile away...and we have a longer growing season for

gardeners.

But you'd have to learn to like SEC football and speak with a drawl. lol

---

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Tue, 22 Jul 2014 08:35:07 GMT
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Thanks Brother, I did not know what you meant at first I thought you was giving the weather down there.

I can understand a little better how life does not consist in the abundance of "things". All the toys in life seem important until you have to move them. We're planning on scaling way back and getting rid of all the clutter.

Ya'll understand what I mean. LOL

I'll have to shut down the computer soon, I hope I can remember where all those wires go to. I can get stuff on my phone but its a hassle to try and type on those things.

Not to change the subject, I thought of you recently watching those Eagles. We have several baby Robins hopping around in our fenced yard and we cannot let the cats out or they'll try to kill them. I did not realize how vulnerable birds are its surprising so many even survive considering all the predators out there.

Birds spend some time on the ground while trying to learn to fly. The parents are helpless in trying to protect them. This is a part of this world that I never paid attention to and that is, the animal kingdom suffering because of man's sin.

Its kind of sad to see anything die.

We've had to rush outside several times pulling our cats away from those little birds. Cats love killing stuff. This probably sounds crazy to someone who loves to hunt and kill animals, I'm talking about people out there in general who do hunt.

Anyway my wife said, we're like those little Robins, surrounded by predators (powers of darkness) that we're unaware of and the Lord is there constantly watching over us and protecting us.

I thought it was a good analogy.

Did you ever hear that story that Stan Hill shared in a sermon years ago? I think it went like this:

There was a massive forest fire that took place out west. It totally destroyed all the landscape and there was nothing left of this large forest but charred remains. After the fire finally went out there was a number of Rangers walking through the area and surveying the damage and documenting all the destruction that took place. While walking along one of the Rangers kicked a small black charred clump and out of it ran a bunch of baby chickens. They found; It was the mother hen, who put her wings over them and protected them from the fire.

Praise God were hiding under the shadow of His Wings and protected from this old world, with its black charred sin.

I never forgot that true story he had shared.

Anyway I thought of you watching the mighty Eagles and here in Indiana I'm watching two Robins. I sure hope they learn to fly soon.

In Him,
Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 22 Jul 2014 12:34:51 GMT
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That's a very good observation your wife made, we are totally dependant upon God, we can do nothing of ourselves including chosing Him.

Cats do have a 'mean streak' in them, most of the time they don't even eat what they kill, they just love the 'hunt'. I do understand the hunter mentality because I once was a hunter, but The Lord changed my heart about 32 years ago and now I too am a lover of life, even for the 'little critters'. I enjoy watching wildlife and nature...though I don't comdemn anyone hunting for food.

I came to the realization that things don't matter years ago when I found out just how easily it can all disapear and what really has value. It's usually not an over night change of heart but The Holy

Spirit will work within us if we'll seek those 'things' which are above. Recently someone died that some of my family members were close too, he was very wealthy; in talking with my brother about having our priorities in order(God, and that we couldn't take 'it' with us) he stated: "Yeah, you're right, I didn't see a Wells Fargo bank truck following the hearse."

Suggestion: take some tape and label your wires and jot down a few short notes on what went where concerning electronic 'stuff'...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 25 Jul 2014 11:49:44 GMT
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"It is a good thing to give thanks unto The LORD, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O most High:"

Ps.92:1

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 24 Aug 2014 18:56:30 GMT
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MY BOASTING...

"Thus saith The LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am The LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith The LORD."Jeremiah 9:23-24

***Strong's Hebrew Dictionary definition of the word glory used in this scripture means to boast.

So God is telling us not to allow anything to puff us up in pride, nothing we own, our strength, or our own wisdom; we should boast of nothing apart from knowing God. Also notice it doesn't say "know about Me", it says, "know Me".

In John 17:3 Jesus tells us: "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent."

I'm reading a book by J.I.Packer, "Knowing God", written in 1973.(Mark, I know you'll appreciate me expanding my reading material to include one of your favorite authors. <grin>) There's some good insight and information in it and I want to quote him on a simple but very true truth.

"How can we turn our knowledge about God into knowledge of God? It is that we turn each truth that we learn about God in matter for meditation before God, leading to prayer and praise to God."

I visited a different church this morning and wouldn't ya know it, the pastor was preaching/teaching on this same topic The Lord has been encouraging me on. A point he had today was concerning taking no thought for tomorrow (don't worry); at every temptation to worry, fret, and look to 'self' we were encouraged to instead direct our thoughts and begin to worship God, and as we come to a place of knowing God more and more we'll find it natural to worship and praise Him instead of worrying.

Our God is a great God, full of mercy and grace, longsuffering and patient, righteous and Holy, kind and faithful...so worthy of ALL our worship and praise.
As the psalmist says, " I will bless The LORD at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth..."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 25 Aug 2014 19:29:57 GMT
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"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." Romans 15:13

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 01 Sep 2014 12:02:42 GMT
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"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."
Heb. 10:35-36

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 07 Sep 2014 19:13:19 GMT
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"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name."
Hebrews 13:15

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 10 Sep 2014 17:02:37 GMT
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"These things have I spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."John 16:33

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 11 Sep 2014 22:27:10 GMT
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Patience...

"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Hebrews 10:36

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4

"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

Bur if we hope for what we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." Romans 8:24-25

Patience is necessary, in our growth as followers of Christ as well as in dealing with those around us.
Love is displayed when we're patient with others, quick to be forgiving and to think the best.
Patience in the midst of trials teach us endurance and allows us to focus on The Lord and be sure we're grounded in Him and His Word.
Patience is included in true faith as we wait for the manifestation of what we're believing God for.
Fruit is produced and matures only as we learn to patiently yield to The Holy Spirit, for it is Him that produces the fruit in us.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 13 Sep 2014 12:13:57 GMT
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God's mystery revealed...

"Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints:

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col.1:26-27

Let the wonder of that sink in as we meditate on His Word and worship our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...Christ in us. The creator of the universe who freely and willingly gave Himself for our salvation lives within us, His presence should be all we could ever want or need for everlasting joy and peace. He is SO worthy of ALL our attention, worship, and praise.

Blessed be the Name of The LORD, praise You Jesus, thank You, thank You, thank You!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 15 Sep 2014 13:53:07 GMT
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Attitude Towards God...

Duty.....Desire.....Delight

Before I start sharing what I believe The Holy Spirit shared with me, let me say that I'm only encouraging and desiring to edify others because we're told to encourage and edify one another, not because I've arrived at perfection in The Lord and am 'preaching' at anyone.

In my daily devotion and time with The Lord I try to always ask The Holy Spirit to grant me understanding and wisdom from God's Word, to teach me and instruct me as to the way I should live. But I find myself, at times, doing so out of duty, habit, just to make a 'check mark' on my list of daily reading His Word. I DO NOT want to EVER take His Word for granted or find myself bored with God. So as I was praying about this,(my attitude toward God and His Word) these scriptures were brought to mind and as I meditated upon Him and His Word.

Duty: First we are told to love and obey God, to fear and follow Him...

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Ecc. 12:13

And to study His Word...

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing The Word of Truth." II Tim. 2:15

Desire: But God wants it to be from the heart...our desire.

"Yea, in the way of Thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for Thee, the desire of our soul is to Thy Name, and to the remembrance of Thee." Isaiah 26:8

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of The Word, that ye may grow thereby." I Peter 2:2

Delight: God and His Word is our delight, it's what is and should be our satisfaction.

"Delight thyself also in The LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Ps.37:4

"But his delight is in the law of The LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night." Ps.1:2

So while we're told to study His Word and to follow and obey Him as our Christian duty; God is looking at our hearts, He is seeking those who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth...from the heart. Let's examine our hearts and draw near unto God, to delight in Him and His Word, to desire Him and His presence above all else. What a wonderful gift we've been given, let us be thankful and not take for granted what Jesus did for us...and share this Good News with others.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Mon, 15 Sep 2014 23:08:14 GMT
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Hi James,

Enjoying & appreciating your words in the Lord, (as usual). Now nothing wrong with habit, I believe when it is a good one. However I know what you mean, as we don`t want to take our precious Lord for granted. I like to meditate on different attributes & names of the Lord & go `deeper,` into what they mean & not just say the word.

I think I am getting inspired to post something soon on this very topic of our Lord.

All the best to everyone, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 16 Sep 2014 12:59:17 GMT
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Has Better Advice Ever Been Given?

"My son, attend to My Words, incline thine ear unto My sayings.

Let them not depart from thine eyes, keep them in the midst of thine heart.

For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

Proverbs 4:20-23

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 18 Sep 2014 14:29:22 GMT
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Perfecting Holiness...

How important is holiness in a Christians' life? So important that without it no man shall see The LORD. Hebrews 12:14 How do we go about 'perfecting holiness'? We start by prayer, asking The Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in obedience to God as He's revealed it in His Word. We yield and surrender our lives to the cross daily as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto God. We separate ourselves from the wickedness of this world, not being unequally yoked together with them (unbelievers). We turn from all uncleanness and filthiness of the flesh and turn our affections upon things above. We offer sacrifices of praise and worship as we grow in the knowledge of His Glory as revealed in the face of Jesus Christ. II Corinthians 4:6

God gave us promises that are based (or conditioned upon) on our obedience. And just to be clear, our salvation is by grace, a gift that can't be earned based on Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary; but many of the promised blessings are conditioned upon our willingness to obey.(remember the Old Testament? blessings or curses...'choose ye this day'...)

Here is a passage of scripture that both instruct us in His will(holiness), and how to do it, as well as what the results of obedience will bring.(relationship with our Father)

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of the living God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith The Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith The Lord Almighty.

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."
II Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Fri, 19 Sep 2014 07:39:31 GMT
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Amen & amen, James,

You are bringing a `now` word of the Lord, dear brother. This message from Andrew Strom,(New Zealander)speaking in Australia recently came to me via e-mail. It is exactly what you are saying.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSuDZl-6-J0

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 23 Sep 2014 18:25:19 GMT
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Choices When We Face Adversity...

"For this thing I besought The LORD thrice, that it might depart from me.

And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then I am strong." II Corinthians 12:8-10

Recently I heard a pastor make this statement, "Sin is more often born out of times of prosperity than in time of adversity." I've found that to be true in my own walk with The Lord; not that I forget God when things are going well, it's just that I get much closer when faced with adversity. Troubles drive me to Him in a way, and with focus, due to the desperation in seeing that in and of myself I'm helpless and my only hope is in Him. This runs against the wisdom of man, in fact I'm

sure it's viewed as foolishness, the very idea of being glad/rejoicing/taking pleasure in the midst of trials and tribulation, infirmities and distresses. Because the world without Christ can't understand the wisdom of God and His designed plan of salvation. It's the surrendering of ourselves and acknowledging our utter dependence upon Him that allows The Holy Spirit work in and through us. Our weakness and the realization of it, removes 'self' as our confidence and places Christ where He should be...our sufficiency.

In this, we can rejoice, we can rest, we can be glad because we learn from experience that Jesus Christ alone is worthy of our praise, worship, and focus. Our God is a good God, He loves us so much that He doesn't forsake us when we stray from Him, as a Father He gently and mercifully allows things in our lives that give us opportunity to make the choice to seek Him, to cry out to Him and contritely and humbly surrender to his will for our lives, which is...constant fellowship, focus, and faithfulness with and to Him.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 13 Oct 2014 18:31:59 GMT
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Spiritual Warfare...

Eph. 6:10-18

Paul, in exhorting and instructing believers, uses the example that people could relate to since they were used to seeing soldiers dressed in armour. And while we know that righteousness isn't a physical breastplate, or salvation a helmet, he's telling us that having the understanding of (and living with that understanding as part of our daily lives) Christ's righteousness, and our minds renewed through salvation, and walking in the truth, speaking The Word, and living in faith...then we use that as our defense against the darts of the enemy.

I was jolted by a statement a Bible teacher made recently, he said that he didn't want to step on anyone's spiritual toes but he had known fellow Christians who daily prayed, as part of their morning devotional with The Lord, for The Lord to cover them with this armour (helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness, loins gird about with truth, feet shod with the message of The Gospel, shield of faith, sword of The Spirit, praying in the spirit) each and every day [I'm one who has done this many, many times]. He pointed out, and rightly so I believe, a Christian should NEVER put down their armour, that the enemy attacked at night just as in the day and we should never be without our armour. It made me stop and think...which was probably his purpose in sharing it. He pointed out how soldiers didn't remove their protection at night knowing that the enemy could attack at any given time and they'd be defenseless, so his question to those who daily did this was..."Why did you ever put it down? In order to have to daily ask for God to cover you with it implies that you must have removed it each night".

The teaching was sound and went into depth concerning Satan and his wiles, demons, and evil wickedness all around us in our society. The more I seek to be teachable and humble, the more I realize that HEF (and those of us following his teaching) didn't have the market cornered on spiritual truths; God reveals truth to all those hungering and seeking to follow Him with obedient hearts, including teachers and pastors within the very denominations many of us (me included) wrote off as a harlot system of men...I know for a fact that there are God fearing, humble, born again believers within that system.

Actually I think Satan uses this very thing as part of his attack against The Kingdom of God, dividing people through pride and self righteousness...

Amazing Grace..... that saved a mess like me.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 17 Oct 2014 13:11:38 GMT
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Paul, in addressing the believers in this Epistle, can't be there in person to encourage and exhort them, but he does pray for them daily and uses the means of communication available(letters/epistles) to build them up in their faith.

"And The LORD make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

To the end He may stablish your hearts unblameable at the coming of our LORD Jesus Christ with all His saints." Thessalonians 3:12-13

This is something we can do one for one another, pray for and encourage, and love each other in The Lord.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sat, 18 Oct 2014 00:24:58 GMT
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Thank you, James,

That word is very encouraging - knowing that others are praying for me/us & also exhorting - for me/us to do the same also.

It reminds me of the passage I love, when Paul wrote to the Ephesians.

`...every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself (by the Holy Spirit) in love.` (Eph. 4: 16)

What a privilege, what a responsibility.

Blessings, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 21 Oct 2014 14:01:43 GMT
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Recognizing The Truth, Believing The Truth, Loving The Truth...

How grateful we should that God gave us hearts to recognize His Truth [The Gospel}, to believe it and love it.

That's something to shout about, to rejoice in, and give thanks continually for.

It's not something to ever take for granted or boast of because it was by His choice and calling that we have this precious gift.

II Thessalonians 2:10-14

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 23 Oct 2014 16:35:34 GMT
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Often we hear these phrases, "the end game" or "the bottom line" or maybe "the crux of the matter", words describing getting to the heart of the matter or the purpose of what's being spoken of.
In Paul's letter to Timothy he sums up the purpose of the Law or what it leads one to if embraced and followed...love out of a pure heart, a clear conscience, and true faith.

It's not always the purpose or motivation of some to bring others to this place, we're being warned to watch out for this and steer clear lest these false teachers bring people into bondage, create doubt, and deceive.

"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith[so do].

Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and faith unfeigned:

From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling.

Desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully."

I Tim. 1:4-8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 07 Nov 2014 14:54:52 GMT
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Thoughts on the brazen serpent, Hezekiah, and worshipping God ...

We find in Numbers where God instructed Moses to make a image of a serpent on a pole for the people of Israel to look upon for healing when bitten by serpents in the wilderness. Also the serpent on the pole is mentioned by Jesus in the book of John. But in II Kings we're told that Hezekiah destroyed the brazen serpent that Moses had made because the people were worshipping it, burning incense to it. These are the only three places in The Bible where the brazen serpent on the pole is mentioned.(to my knowledge)

So because of disobedience God sent serpents among the people and they were being bitten and dying, in His mercy He commanded Moses to fashion the brass serpent on a pole and to instruct Israel to look to the image on the pole for healing. An act of faith, like dipping in the river Jordan seven times for the healing of leprosy; it's not the brass snake or the Jordan river that heals, it's God healing when He is obeyed in faith. Yet we find that just a few hundred years later Israel had made the brazen serpent in to a god and was burning incense to it in a form of false worship.

Hezekiah was a good king, he did that which was right in the sight of God. He removed the high places, cut down the groves, and destroyed false gods that prior kings had allowed. He destroyed the brazen serpent that Moses had made and he restored worship of the One true God. When facing death he turned unto God and God heard his petition and added fifteen years to his life. But when Isaiah told him the good news that he wasn't going to die instead of taking the promise of God as the truth, he sought a sign to confirm that it would come to past even as God had spoken it. He got his sign, but we see that he later revealed the treasures of the kingdom to the Babylonians and God wasn't pleased with this and they came under the captivity of Babylon.

All this is recorded and given for our learning and instruction, that we not follow in the sins and mistakes that Israel made. A constant reminder to NOT FORGET God and not to lose focus on who we worship and why. It's never about the creation (us) but The Creator, God (Father/Son/Holy Spirit), to behold His Glory, to worship Him and Him alone.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 18 Nov 2014 18:45:30 GMT
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OUR GOD IS MERCIFUL...

Among the many blessings we have to be thankful for [Thanksgiving}, God's Mercy has to be at the top of any list. His Love for us is shown in His Mercy, His Grace is shown in Mercy...And Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary, redeeming/reconciling us to God, shows the extent of that mercy/love/grace.

" He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His Mercy toward them that fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us."Psalms 103:10-12

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 19 Nov 2014 14:45:26 GMT
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"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."Hebrews 13:5

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 21 Nov 2014 14:22:44 GMT
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"Give thanks unto The LORD, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the people.

Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him, talk ye of all His wondrous works.

Glory ye in His Holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek The LORD.

Seek The LORD and His strength, seek His face continually."

I Chronicles 16:8-11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 02 Dec 2014 12:40:04 GMT
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"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin.

That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lust of men, but to the will of God."I Peter 4:1-2

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 07 Dec 2014 12:52:43 GMT
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"This is the day which the LORD hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it."Ps.118:24

There is no better time to thank, praise, and rejoice in The Lord than right now, I encourage anyone reading this to do just that...rejoice and be glad in this day which The Lord has given us. It's given us to glorify Him, and our worship and praise, obedience and devotion, is what He desires of us. We're going to worship and praise Him for all of eternity, let's start practicing now.

Praise You Jesus, thank You for the greatest sacrifice possible, Your life given for our redemption...Blessed be Your Holy Name.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 11 Dec 2014 15:01:05 GMT
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A Divided Nation...and Divided Hearts...

In reading through II Chronicles we find the history of Israel during the times of kings reigning over them, some were godly kings and others were evil kings. Solomon's son Rehoboam was a good king (not always perfect, but he was willing to confess his sins and humble himself before God) and he reigned over Judah from Jerusalem after Solomon died.
But there was another king who reigned over Israel at the same time named Jeroboam who was evil. He had false priests offering sacrifices unto idols and pagan gods, and constantly warred against Rehoboam and Judah.

But we find in the 12th chapter of II Chronicles that Rehoboam forsook the Law of The LORD after he had established his kingdom and lead all Israel with him. The king of Egypt came against Jerusalem and Rehoboam humbled himself and the people repented and God showed them mercy.

Then in chapter 13 we see after Rehoboam had died that Jeroboam once again came against Judah to war against them. The armies of Jeroboam were defeated and there were five hundred thousand (500,000...that's half a million Jewish soldiers) slain because the kingdom of Judah trusted in The LORD for deliverance and the kingdom of Israel were wicked and rebellious trusting in their might. also Jeroboam was struck down by The Lord and died.

I see in these three chapters (11-13) people rebelling against God, humbling themselves before

God; trusting in their own might, trusting in God; divided by sin, yet still God shows mercy and delivers those whom will seek Him in repentance. And He destroys those who will not surrender to His will and walk in obedience. The history of Israel in the times of the kings seemed to follow this pattern, a good king then a bad king, obedience to God and then disobedience, worship of God and then worship of false gods and idols.

Let us be diligent not to fall into these patterns of behavior, may we take heed to the warnings and admonishments given us in The New Testament concerning these traps laid by the enemy. The key lesson given, I believe, can be found in verse one of chapter twelve. It tells us that after Rehoboam had established his kingdom and strengthened himself, he forsook the law of The Lord.(II Chronicles 12:1) That's the temptation, when all is going well people tend to forget God, at least not be as diligent in seeking Him. Yet let some adversity come our way and it's "Oh God, help me". Yes, He allows things to happen in our lives to get our attention back on Him, He chastens those who are His, He tries our faith in order for US to see if it's real or just words confessed. He's merciful and longsuffering and forgiving when we repent and turn from sin...but His will is obedience from a heart of love for Him. May we learn from the examples given us.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 13 Dec 2014 15:08:54 GMT
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Continuing thoughts from the lives of the kings of Israel...

As I read and meditate on the acts of the various kings of Israel/Judah I see a more and more the reason The Lord reminds us to learn from studying their example. King Asa, who started out as a good king (he even removed his own mother from being queen because she built and worshipped an idol in the grove). When the king of Ethiopia came against Judah he called upon The Lord and they were delivered. Judah had rest from war and prospered under the leadership of Asa.

Then, for whatever reason, after over 30 years of peace and trust in God, when Israel's king Baasha came against Judah, Asa sought help from the king of Syria. And although they won God wasn't pleased with them and sent a prophet to speak unto Asa, reminding him of His deliverances in the past and condemning the calling on Syria for help in time of need ..."For the eyes of The LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf

of them whose heart is perfect toward Him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars." II Chronicles 16:9

And so Asa put the prophet in prison...and then Asa got a disease in his feet and rather than seek The LORD as he had in his younger life, he refused to turn to God for help and died.

Over and over we see men who started out in their walk with God as obedient, humble, hungry for God's presence, giving Him all the glory, leading their nation in worship of God, destroying false idols and images...only to depart from God in their latter days. Solomon allowed his many wives to draw him away from God to the worship of idols. His son Rehoboam turned from God after he had strengthen himself and his kingdom. And Asa went from being a man/king who was so zealous for God that he even removed his mother from queen and cried out unto God for deliverance when his kingdom was assaulted by the Ethiopians, to refusing to even seek God when he was dying.

Sin hardens the heart of man; it brings deception, it opens the door to discouragement and despair, it erodes faith to the point that one forgets all the blessings that God has bestowed in the past...if sin is allowed to come to fruition without repentance, it results in death. How many times have we heard the saying, "It's not how you start the race but how you finish"?

God grant us grace to be teachable, humble, quick to repent, and always in remembrance of what You've done in the past and what You have promised for the future, hearts that recognize the enemies wiles and are quick to cry out unto You for deliverance when under assault, always giving You the glory, honor, and thanksgiving knowing You who have made the promises will fulfill them, In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 17 Dec 2014 20:30:46 GMT
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The Solution...Look to Jesus

Often in our walk with The Lord we find ourselves not knowing what to do or how to do it. Sometimes it seems the enemy has the upper hand and God has forgotten us. But He hasn't forgotten us or forsaken us, He is still offering wisdom, comfort, peace, and safety. He desires our undivided devotion, trust, and obedience.

During the reign of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, the Moabites and Ammonites came against Judah and the king had the nation fast and seek The Lord because they were outnumbered and it appeared overwhelmed. After crying out to God before all the people Jehoshaphat made this declaration...

"...neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon Thee."II Chronicles 20:12

Brothers and sisters, when the enemy comes in like a flood (and there are times when he will) God promises deliverance, The Standard we're instructed to look to, Jesus Christ will be there...rest in that and trust in it.

Remember the old song, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"...encourage yourself and worship The King of Kings, The Lord of Lords; behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 25 Dec 2014 13:35:13 GMT
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This is the day that The LORD hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it

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Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 26 Dec 2014 14:57:16 GMT
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Pride in the life of two kings...

"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18

Pride is a sin God hates, it lifts a man up in his own mind to a place of deception and nothing good ever comes from it. In II Chronicles 32 there are two kings described, both allowed pride in their lives at some point, yet they dealt with it differently and their endings reflected it.

Sennacherib was king over Assyria and Hezekiah was king over Judah. Sennacherib in pride and foolishness came against Jerusalem to war against Judah and king Hezekiah. He railed against God announcing in pride of his great conquest among all the other nations he had defeated and their gods. He blasphemed God and tried to turn the hearts of the people from trusting God. Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed for deliverance and God sent an angel and Assyria and Sennacherib was defeated and returned to their own country in shame. And his end came about at the hands of his own people, his pride broken and in shame...because he came against The one true God and His chosen people.

Hezekiah too allowed pride in his life later on. He was given an additional 15 years to life by God after his sickness, but he didn't give glory to God as he should have; pride entered his heart. Yet we're told in II Chronicles 32:26 "Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of The LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah."

And later in the chapter we're told that Hezekiah was buried in the chiefest of the sepulchers of the kings and he was honored by Jerusalem at his death.

Two kings, different endings due to different choices made in dealing with pride in the heart. Pride blinds, but if a person will humble themselves and turn to God in repentance He will restore, defend, and deliver them.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 06 Jan 2015 15:21:26 GMT
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Examples of God's Sovereignty with Three Persian Kings...

Years after Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and taken most of Israel captive into Babylon, the Persians were in power and Cyrus was their king. God stirred Cyrus' heart to rebuild the Temple at Jerusalem and he made a decree for it to be done.(Ezra 1:) And the Israelites who wanted to rebuild went and started work on it; but there were adversaries who opposed them and frustrated the work all the days of Cyrus. They even wrote letters to the king leading to the stoppage of work.(Ezra 4:)

Then years later Darius was king and the Jewish leaders sent a letter to him asking that he search the records to find the decree that Cyrus had made to build the Temple and to allow them to start again the work on the Temple. He did, and he not only gave his blessings on the work (giving them back the gold and silver stolen by Nebuchadnezzar) but he told anyone opposing and hindering the work they would be punished.(Ezra 6:) And the Temple was completed.

Then in the reign of Artaxerxes he not only allowed anyone who wanted to go to Jerusalem to worship God, to go, he decreed that whatever Ezra needed for sacrifices and the Temple was to be given him by the inhabitants of the land. The vessels of gold and silver were to be taken back from Babylon and put into the Temple. And the Temple was once again the place of worship of God by the children of Israel. Ezra wrote about God's sovereignty in putting in the hearts of these kings of Persia to build again the Temple at Jerusalem.

"Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart,

to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem." Ezra 7:27

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Tue, 06 Jan 2015 23:43:13 GMT
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Quote: the Persians were in power and Cyrus was their king. God stirred Cyrus' heart to rebuild the Temple at Jerusalem

One little side note here.

The Persians as we all know, is modern day Iran. I heard recently that Persians do not like to be called Arabs as they see them as an entirely different culture. I think in the West we always lump everyone together and just think of them as being all Arabs.

The Jews in the seventies supplied a lot of weapons and technology to Iran and had a secret embassy in Tehran. When the Ayatolla took over he ran the Jews out of the Country through persecution.

There's a lot of interesting history concerning the Persians and their relationship to Israel. From ancient history to the present.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 13 Jan 2015 15:16:12 GMT
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Paul's Message of Hope...

When Paul was in Antioch preaching in the synagogue to the Jews, he went over the history of the Jews and quoted prophecies pertaining to Jesus as The Messiah. Then he summed up the good news of salvation...

"Be it know unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Acts 13:38-39

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 15 Jan 2015 16:04:57 GMT
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Repentance requires action...

After Ezra had oversaw the rebuilding of The Temple in Jerusalem and it was rededicated unto The Lord,(and that included burnt offerings and sacrifices by the Levite priests who had been purified in the manner given by Moses) they also kept The Passover feast. They had to be feeling good about themselves and full of joy being back in Jerusalem and free to worship God in the place of their forefathers.

Then comes the revelation unto Ezra that the people of Israel, and the priests, and even the Levites had been living in disobedience by having taken women to wife from among the pagan nations around them. Not only had many taken foreign wives, they had children by them. Ezra apparently not aware of this and when he found out he was crushed in his heart and begin to cry unto The Lord and confess their sins.

The congregation gathered together to seek how to correct their trespasses. One man spoke up and said, "We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them,..." The people agreed to this and they started doing it. Imagine the heartaches, not only were they putting away their wives, they were doing the same with their children. There is a long list of those who had taken strange wives including priests and leaders of the people; after the names are given, the final verse in the last chapter of Ezra reminds us of the cost of repentance and obedience. "All these had taken strange wives: and some of them wives by whom they had children." Ezra 10:44

This should be a reminder to Christians today; first, don't disobey to start with, but if we do there is hope.(I John 2:1-2) But with the confession/repentance must come actions, we must turn from our sins. This isn't preached a lot anymore, many have taken the message of Grace and misinterpreted it into just a 'get out of jail free' card without corresponding actions of repentance {turning from self/sin unto Jesus as not only Saviour, but also as LORD.)

This isn't written to suggest anyone divorce their spouses and dump their children if they aren't of the same lineage and nationality as themselves; we are free from the Law given Moses, Jesus' sacrifice did away with that. But it does show the high cost of obedience; Jesus said that a follower of Him must be willing to abandon ALL to be His disciple, including self and family. He had many 'hard' sayings, and many after hearing them turned and followed Him no more.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 20 Jan 2015 17:08:30 GMT
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Seasons and Times...

The writer of Ecclesiastes writes in chapter three:

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

verse four says:

"A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;"

In reading Ezra and Nehemiah we see a nation [Israel] who has been dispersed and scattered, brought into captivity and bondage; then we see them allowed to return to Judah and Jerusalem to rebuild and restore the city walls and the Temple of The Lord. They become aware that they have sinned against God in taking strange wives and not worshipping God in the way He had instructed through Moses. They repented in putting away the strange wives and returned unto The Lord in worship through burnt offerings and keeping of the feasts, they began once more to pray and fast, they wept and mourned over their sins.[repent]

Later in Nehemiah 8:9-10 they were going to have a feast, the people are told by Ezra and Nehemiah that they were celebrating The Lord and His day of feast, to be joyful.

"And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto The Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of The Lord is your strength."

Turning from sin is essential in our relationship with God; mourning, weeping, praying, fasting, and seeking mercy is what God responses to. He promises to forgive and restore us when we trust in His Mercy and Grace [Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary/shed blood/atonement]. That repentance and restoration frees us to joyfully walk in His strength, resting in His promise and faithfulness.

There are many examples throughout The Bible of men sinning against God and turning away from Him in every way imaginable. Yet, there are equally as many examples of His Mercy and Grace given men then they repent and turn back unto Him. What a time of joy when we receive forgiveness and restoration into fellowship, knowing full well we don't deserve it one iota.

Oh, the Grace and Mercy of God.....Who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 27 Jan 2015 15:15:25 GMT
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Such a Time As This...

What better example of God's predetermined plan of mercy and grace than the history of Esther. The Jews were still in exile and under the rule of king Ahasuerus. He had a wife (queen Vashti) who displeased and embarrassed him so he determined to replace her with another. Mordecai, a godly Jewish man, had raised Esther (Hadassah) and she was a very beautiful Jewish maiden who was chosen by the king to become his queen.

Haman, who hated the Jews, especially Mordecai who not would bow down to him, went about getting the king to make a decree that would destroy the Jews. He was an evil man who even built a gallows that he intended to hang Mordecai on.

Esther was informed by a messenger (Hatach) that she should seek favor of the king to intervene on behalf of the Jews. Mordecai reminded her she was also a Jew and would also be destroyed if she was discovered to be a Jew.

"Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.
For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to this kingdom for such a time as this?"Esther 4:13-14

She was allowed into the king's presence and found favor in that he offered her whatever she desired of him. She held a banquet and invited the king and Haman, there she exposed Haman's

evil plan to destroy her people and the king used the same gallows Haman had built for Mordecai, to hang him on.

And once more God delivered His chosen people out of the hand their enemies. It's wonderful to see how He does it, He raises up people to be used at the appointed times. A simple little Jewish girl without parents becomes a queen and is used to save her people,; all orchestrated by God.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 29 Jan 2015 20:58:59 GMT
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Why Praise God?

Because He tells us to...Because He alone is worthy of praise...Because we love Him...Because of the knowledge of who He is.....

Today I listened to a teaching by Tom Hamilton titled, "God Is Going To Be Praised" and he mentioned several reasons why people (Christian) don't really enter into praise of God. Sin, guilt, fear of what others might think, not really knowing God, and oppression; were a few things pointed out that prevented freedom of expression to worship and praise God. Sin will always be a barrier and the guilt of that sin on a person's conscious breaks the fellowship. Not knowing who God is through The Word and the revelation of His Glory by The Holy Spirit causes one to only half heartedly enter into praise and worship.

But as I got to thinking of scriptures on praising and worshiping God (and there are hundreds) I was reminded, as Tom titled his sermon, God is going to be praised. Whether it be me, you, someone else, or stones, He is going to be praised. It is a privilege and an honor to praise our God and Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

David didn't seem to ever tire of praising The Lord, he realized the significance and purpose. Gratitude and love are reasons for praise, fellowship in His presence come by praise and prayer.

Let us be reminded of the opportunity given us to offer praise, the time could come when we can't.

"The dead praise not The Lord, neither any that go down into silence.

But we will bless The Lord from this time forth and for evermore. Praise The Lord." Ps. 115:17-18

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 09 Feb 2015 18:46:06 GMT
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A Reminder of Our Calling...

"Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

Who comforteth us in in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherein we ourselves are comforted of God." II Corinthians 1:2-4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 16 Feb 2015 17:03:42 GMT
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Our Faithful God...

"Know therefore that The Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations." Deuteronomy 7:9

"This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope.

It is of The Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion , saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him.

The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him.

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of The Lord."
Lamentations 3:21-26

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 20 Feb 2015 14:47:58 GMT
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Job, faithful in trials...

Has anyone ever experienced trials like unto Job? He lost everything except his life; his children were killed, all he had materially was destroyed, he was struck with incredible boils that was painful beyond description, his friends turned on him and questioned his integrity, his wife instead of encouraging him advised him to curse God and die.

Yet Job held fast to his hope in God (even though he didn't understand what and why he was going through such adversity) and His Word. He believed that it was for his good and that God's Word was more important as spiritual food than the physical food the body requires.

"But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

My foot hath held His steps, His way have I kept, and not declined.

Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:10-12

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 27 Feb 2015 16:06:07 GMT
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Job's question and the answer...

In chapter 28 of Job, Job raises the question: "But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?" Job 28:12 He describes how God has placed gold, silver, iron, brass, and stones such as sapphires in the earth. He speaks of God's power to create and control all the earth, yet wisdom can not be bought with pearls, rubies, or topaz; not even pure gold will allow a person to obtain it.

Then in the last verse he reveals the way to gain wisdom and understanding.

"And to man HE said, Behold, the fear of The LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 13 Mar 2015 13:27:42 GMT
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"O Praise The LORD, all ye nations: praise Him, all ye people.

For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of The LORD endureth for ever.

O Give thanks unto The LORD; for He is good: because His mercy endureth for ever."

Ps.117:1-2 &118:1

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 16 Mar 2015 13:31:28 GMT
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"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of The LORD, as the waters cover the sea."
Habakkuk 2:14

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 18 Mar 2015 15:34:41 GMT
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Encouragement to Give Thanks Unto The LORD...

I don't know the exact number of times in God's Word He tells us to be thankful or to give thanks...I do know there are many. Being thankful is an attitude and response of the heart; it's hard to be thankful when we are harboring sin in our lives. Pride and self-centeredness are things God hates, there is no room for humility in a heart filled with pride and focused on self. We're told in II Timothy 3:1-7 that in the last days many people will fall to various sins and snares, the first

one mentioned is: "lovers of their own selves" and in the same verse "unthankful"...these aren't those one would think of as ungodly people, these are people that have a form of godliness.(maybe found in the church, even leaders of churches.)

Giving thanks isn't a costly exercise, we can do it anywhere and anytime. Paul was praising God and giving thanks from prisons and in persecution. I've met people who have a thankful heart and by societies standards they have very little; being thankful isn't a response 'after' we've been blessed with material blessings, it's a response to God based on what He's already done (at Calvary) and a response of obedience to what He throughout His Word tells us to do...Be thankful...give thanks.

A thankful heart is a humble heart, humbled by the realization of who we are/were and what has been sacrificed by Jesus to restore us to The Father. Understanding God's Love as displayed in His provision of a Saviour, when we in no way deserved saving, has to lead a person to being thankful.

"O Give thanks unto The LORD; call upon His name: make know His deeds among the people." Ps.105:1

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 25 Mar 2015 14:48:04 GMT
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Antidote for Discouragement...

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to The Lord;

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and The Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..." Ephesians 5:19-20

Satan will use anything at his disposal to destroy our witness; discouragement, despondency, depression, defeat...but God has given us everything we need to overcome Satan. We have the power of The Holy Spirit, we have the Name of Jesus, we have the power of His shed Blood,(The Cross) we have His Word, and we have the armour of God. Satan can't obtain victory over us or our emotions when we're abiding in Christ, focused on Him and His glory, He inhabits the praises of His people, that's one purpose of praise and worship, we enter into His presence and we know where He is Satan is not! It's impossible to be in God's presence singing and making melody to

Him and be discouraged and depressed...we may enter into His gates and into His courts with thanksgiving and praise, being thankful and blessing His Name...We can't be focused on ourselves and our lives and be focused on The King of Kings and The Lord of Lord, the creator of all that is seen and unseen, our salvation and hope, at the same time. His Glory out shines all else and the Light of the Glory of the knowledge of God as seen in Christ Jesus is ALL we could ever need, it brings deep hope and assurance that He who has made the promise will certainly fulfill it. Nothing can separate us from that Great Love, Nothing!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 30 Mar 2015 15:43:13 GMT
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Wisdom and Truth...

"The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from The Lord.

All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but The Lord weigheth the spirits.

Commit thy works unto The Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." Proverbs 16:1-3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 05 Apr 2015 15:25:10 GMT
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HE IS RISEN...

"Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher.

And they entered in, and found not they body of The Lord Jesus.

And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shinning garments.

And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

He is not here, but is risen..." Luke 24:1-6

Thanks be unto God our Father for the gift of life unto hopelessly lost man through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

"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.

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." I Peter 1:3-5

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Tue, 07 Apr 2015 06:31:07 GMT
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Hi James,

What wonderful, uplifting scriptures. Thank you.

Now to something personal - What do you believe is -

Quote:To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

Blessings, Marilyn.

PS. Probably this might need to go to the doctrine area.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 07 Apr 2015 14:09:16 GMT

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Hello Marilyn,

I believe the inheritance awaiting those whom God has begotten/called/chosen unto salvation is, in a condensed answer, to know God and enjoy Him forever. We can quote scriptures all day on what all The Word promises to those who overcome (Rev.) and those who endure to the end...but as to what all that will include, I'm thinking we don't even begin to comprehend, even though we 'see it' through the eye of faith. Endless worship and praise; endless joy and peace; endless life and health, and so much more.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 08 Apr 2015 13:43:42 GMT
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More thoughts and meditations from God's Word on our inheritance...

Jesus spoke of what awaits the believer in John 3:15-16.

"That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

In John 17 John records what Jesus said, "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent."

Knowing God, is eternal life; and that is certainly the key to our inheritance and the most important...for without knowing God there is no inheritance/salvation/eternal life. To behold His Glory to the extent that He choses to reveal to us today, won't compare to what awaits when we're in the fullness of His Presence.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Wed, 08 Apr 2015 22:41:08 GMT
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Hi James,

What a wonderful inheritance, bequest, the gift of eternal, everlasting life. And all because our Lord Jesus died for us. Never before has such a last will & testament been given. Truely amazing.

Here are some thoughts from that great teacher, Charles J. Rolls.

Never before in the whole range of human knowledge was a messenger sent on such an important issue for mankind which involved, besides other supreme matters, the gift of eternal life, the bequest of an everlasting inheritance, & the legacy of immortal blessedness.

More than all this, the person of the messenger Himself by far exceeds the exceptional mission & ethereal message on account of which he came. Heaven`s chiefest & choicest in the whole celestial hierarchy came in manifestation, to convey the glad tidings & to confirm the covenant.

The pure motive of His precious message & the perfect magnificence of His personal majesty are unrivaled in world history. How strange it appears that everyone`s attention is not arrested & attracted by the manifestation of such a delegate, with so wonderful a purpose from the celestial court.

How blessed we are to know & to receive the truth.

Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 09 Apr 2015 14:06:51 GMT
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As I thought about our inheritance I was reminded of Psalms 103. Verse two exhorts us to forget not ALL His benefits. Some are listed in the following passages; forgiveness of iniquities(all of them),healing of diseases (all of them), redemption from destruction, receiving daily of His lovingkindness and tender mercies, food for our mouths (good food), the renewing of our youth. But there are many, many more benefits...just the simple things that are so easy to take for granted such as our senses of sight, hearing, feeling, smelling, tasting.

I watched my earthly father waste away from Lou Gehrig Disease for 22 years, he couldn't even scratch his nose or feed himself. I daily thank The Lord for the strength to walk and enjoy nature each day, to see and smell the flowers and watch wildlife going about their daily lives.

The benefits are given us freely, but they came at a cost...Jesus our Lord suffered, bled, and died to purchase those benefits. I see widows who have been given an inheritance through death of their spouse(such as a 401K or an IRA or property) and sometimes they mention their appreciation of the one who loved them had a plan in place of provision for them should something ever happen to them. How much more appreciative should we be because our heavenly Father had a plan in place for us to provide benefits(inheritance) for us, both now and in the future...may we never lose sight of the cost, who paid it, and for what purpose.

"Bless The Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Thu, 09 Apr 2015 15:18:30 GMT
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Quote:... How much more appreciative should we be because our heavenly Father had a plan in place for us to provide benefits(inheritance) for us, both now and in the future...may we never lose sight of the cost, who paid it, and for what purpose.

Amen to that!

Human love seems to rise and wane with circumstances, His love is eternal!

Back during the 70s it was popular to greet others with a 'Jesus Loves You' and as I was thinking about this the other day it occurred to me that if we wanted to be completely frank we would've added: -- Jesus loves you, and so do we (as long as you are doing everything we believe you should be doing!)

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Fri, 10 Apr 2015 10:10:37 GMT
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william wrote on Thu, 09 April 2015 11:18Quote:... How much more appreciative should we be because our heavenly Father had a plan in place for us to provide benefits(inheritance) for us, both now and in the future...may we never lose sight of the cost, who paid it, and for what

purpose.

Amen to that!

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Back during the 70s it was popular to greet others with a 'Jesus Loves You' and as I was thinking about this the other day it occurred to me that if we wanted to be completely frank we would've added: -- Jesus loves you, and so do we (as long as you are doing everything we believe you should be doing!)

Blessings,
William

I can only share a few thoughts here as I am rushed to get to work.

The other side of the coin is the groups that say they have the love but could careless how someone lives and are even supportive of certain sins that are predominate in society today. It takes just a little leaven in a church setting. In other words it can be rephrased: Jesus loves you and so do we, (so live the way you want and we won't judge).

I realize there's a balance that man has not arrived at but when one takes a good look at the life of Christ we know that some could accuse Him of having no love because of the way He dealt with certain situations.

For example: A guys trying to make a living and feed his family, and maybe his intent is right and then comes along a fellow and throws his money on the floor, upsets his carts and runs him out of the temple with a whip.

I think with anything its how a person perceives different situations in life. Whether for the good or for the bad.

Anyway I have been thinking concerning this whole concept with what is taking place in any given church and what did Jesus actually tell His followers.

What's the old saying: that, "salvation is free but its not cheap", if you know what I mean.

The root of the problem is sin deeply rooted in man's fleshly desires and having our own way in life.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 11 Apr 2015 13:54:45 GMT
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Without Direction We're Hopelessly Lost...

I was reading Paul's two epistles to the church of the Thessalonians and I saw the word direct in a couple of places. First in I Thess.3:11 Paul is seeking that God Himself and Jesus direct him unto them from Athens. Also II Thess.3:5 he writes: "And The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."

Unless God directs us, we are as lost as sheep without a shepherd. We can't even love God without Him doing a work within our hearts. Man would never choose God over himself without coming to understand His great Love for us first. He loved us while we were yet sinner, giving Jesus as a propitiation for our sins, reconciling us unto Himself. And it's His calling through the revelation of The Gospel message by His Holy Spirit that gives us directions as how to get unto Him, through Christ Jesus.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 14 Apr 2015 20:58:34 GMT
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I listened to one of Tom Hamilton's last sermons (April 1) and he was preaching on believing, and can it be mentioned or preacher on too much. A scripture he used was found in John 5:24

"Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Believing God, can never be over taught, without faith in God and what Christ did on behalf of us we have no ground to stand on or foundation to build our lives upon. We're told that without faith

it's impossible to please God and that it's by faith we receive anything from God. Yes it's His grace and mercy and love, but if a person doesn't believe then they never receive the benefits of His love, mercy, and grace; salvation, restoration, reconciliation, and redemption.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 20 Apr 2015 20:30:28 GMT
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"And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife ; and some also of good will:

The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice."Phil. 1:14-18

These scriptures came to my mind last night as I watched part of the 50th Country Music Award show on TV. For the first time that I'm aware of, the name of Jesus was boldly spoken of by country artist as they accepted their awards. Not just one or two but at least 7-8 groups or individuals gave thanks unto The Lord for their talents as well as openly professing Him as their Lord and Saviour, and I only watched for an hour or so. I've heard people when receiving an award give thanks to the voters, their peers, the fans, and whatnot; but these didn't just mumble a quick 'thank the Lord' they boldly proclaimed Him as Lord and Saviour of their lives and in a venue that didn't normally speak of Christ, they did.

My point? Well it's not to try to convert anyone to 'country music'...lol. it's to say that in a setting, TV, with millions watching and their record sales based on popularity of the masses, they didn't act ashamed of Jesus Christ, and took that opportunity to say so. And as Paul stated, I rejoiced to see the name of Jesus Christ mentioned...who knows what effect it could have on someone's life.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 23 Apr 2015 13:46:23 GMT
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james wrote on Sat, 11 April 2015 08:54Without Direction We're Hopelessly Lost...

I was reading Paul's two epistles to the church of the Thessalonians and I saw the word direct in a couple of places. First in I Thess.3:11 Paul is seeking that God Himself and Jesus direct him unto them from Athens. Also II Thess.3:5 he writes: "And The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."

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"If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct." Ecc. 10:10

This scripture in my daily reading caught my eye after mentioning 'direct/direction' in this previous post. Here is a practical example of God giving man wisdom to direct him in everyday life. The sharper the edge of a cutting tool, the less effort is required to do the job at hand. Of course we know that evolutionist think it took many years of trial and error before man stumbled upon the "ah ha" moment when the light came on...but it was God who gave that wisdom. (Imagine how long it would have taken to do all the work God directed Noah to do in the building of the ark without sharp cutting instruments.)

After thought: William I'm sure you're getting to experience this in working with wood using power tools as well as hand tools...gotta have sharp tools to do good work, not to mention to keep from wearing yourself out having to add the extra muscle.

And Gary learned it years ago...lol

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 28 Apr 2015 16:25:36 GMT
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This past Friday night David Platt taught for six hours on "Christ, Culture, and the Call to Action" in

a setting that is called "Secret Church". That term is taken from a mission trip he took about 8-9 years ago where, while in Asia the Christians who were under threat of persecution for meeting and studying God's Word, asked him to teach them at a hidden location at night. He has done fifteen of these intense teachings and they are simulcast around the world to tens of thousands via internet. (anyone interested can find them on YouTube under Secret Church, David Platt...except this last one, it hasn't been downloaded to it yet...but the study guide can be read by going to Radical, Secret Church and downloading the study guide, with the answers filled in.)

He covers a lot of material but here's a couple of quotes he took from a couple of very respected men of God from the last century speaking on the lack of a fear of God and how the society we live in and culture has watered down the importance of repentance and just who God is and what He demands of mankind.

"The vague and tenuous hope that God is too kind to punish the ungodly has become a deadly opiate for the consciences of millions. It hushes their fears and allows them to practice all pleasant forms of iniquity while death draws every day nearer and the command to repent goes unheeded."
A.W.Tozer

"What is most needed today is a wide proclamation of those truths which are the least acceptable to the flesh. What is needed today is a scriptural setting forth of the character of God-His absolute sovereignty, His ineffable holiness, His inflexible justice, His unchanging veracity. What is needed today is a scriptural setting forth of the condition of the natural man-his total depravity, his spiritual insensibility, his inveterate hostility to God, the fact that he is 'condemned already' and that the wrath of a sin-hating God is even now abiding on him."
A.W.Pink

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Sat, 02 May 2015 11:53:54 GMT
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james wrote on Tue, 28 April 2015 12:25This past Friday night David Platt taught for six hours on "Christ, Culture, and the Call to Action" in a setting that is called "Secret Church". That term is taken from a mission trip he took about 8-9 years ago where, while in Asia the Christians who were under threat of persecution for meeting and studying God's Word, asked him to teach them at a hidden location at night. He has done fifteen of these intense teachings and they are simulcast around the world to tens of thousands via internet. (anyone interested can find them on YouTube under Secret Church, David Platt...except this last one, it hasn't been downloaded to it yet...but the study guide can be read by going to Radical, Secret Church and downloading the study guide, with the answers filled in.)

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A.W.Pink

I have got to say here that I am finding out there is a lot of ungodly people who profess to know Christ. I am only sharing this because this is what I am running into in my workplace and what I am experiencing.

I keep thinking the problem is that many are not being taught the Bible correctly and they have not a clue of what Jesus told His disciples.

Bear with me here. I was talking with a man yesterday who is very vocal and generally a lot of uncleanness proceeds out of his mouth, when out of nowhere he tells me that a man who is a customer of his always sets with him at church where he and his wife attend. I was a little shocked.

Well I'm only sharing this as I'm not here to pass judgement on the guy or other co-workers but just sharing my heart, and what I am experiencing at work. This man has had a huge influence over other employees who also profess to know Christ. They allow themselves to watch anything on TV or the internet and boast of it. This man brags about the porn he watches. Just trying to let you see what I am experiencing not here to make a judgement call on their sin.

Somewhere or how, I know God wants me to be a positive influence on these guys without coming across as holier then thou attitude. (In my heart I would like to quit and go home and just work in the garden till Christ returns or calls me home), that way I won't have to listen to it.

Thankfully, I think that will happen when we get to heaven. I don't know if anyone else here has realized this but we or those out of our group are a little bit different in what we hold to as truth. I don't mean this in a bad way but its just that we were influenced in a way to understand.

Why us it could of been anybody, I'm not saying this to make us anything but to make a point. One other thing while I am thinking about it, I always thought peer pressure was something that teenagers had to deal with and that we had passed that stage. But now I think that peer pressure is a powerful force that tries to hold influence over all of us as Christians. Society wants all of us to conform to what they think and feel. I mean who wants to be different or odd, everyone wants to be liked or at least appreciated. So I realize we have to resist societies peer pressure and influence, or at least be able to recognize its influence.

Anyway after reading what James wrote here I thought it was good what was taking place in the world with those preaching the full gospel, but at the same time I realize the church world is in pretty rough shape in America. Its good that God has men out there who are sensitive to the Spirit of God. where do we fit in? Our purpose may be to lead as examples as the Spirit of God directs us. We all do have a part in the Kingdom it's just the finding out where He will lead us. Some here may have considered all of this but I wanted to think about it out in the open before all.

Okay concerning the faith message, I know its been given a bad rap and some have carried it to extremes. But I cannot get away from the fact that Jesus is the one who promoted this whole idea of faith in God. I think its about understanding that the Lord is the Great God and nothing "is" impossible with Him. We can confidently lay our lives before Him in this life. Is anything to hard for the Lord?

Ultimately eternity it is the most important "great pearl", that is worth dying for. Is it so important?, that we try to preserve our life in this life and lose such a great gem because our flesh would desire this world and its ways. I'm talking about all the little foxes that spoil the vine if you understand what I am trying to say. I'm not talking about going out into a life of sin but I am speaking of any area the world would have a draw to want us to conform to its way.

The flesh, the mind, the world is a daily wrestling match, yielding our spirits to God's Spirit has to be our constant goal. We should settle for nothing less.

Well James I was blessed by what you shared here, I hope all of us can comprehend what we have been brought into. The words of A.W.Pink speak to this generation just as loudly as when he spoke them to his generation. Being able to reach this generation by what we have learned and continue to learn is an ongoing process.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Sun, 03 May 2015 19:44:34 GMT
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Quote:I keep thinking the problem is that many are not being taught the Bible correctly and they have not a clue of what Jesus told His disciples.

I think you are right here but the question that remains is why aren't they being taught?

Each one of us has been given the ministry of reconciliation --2Cor 5:18-19. BTW, Paul says this twice, in both verses:

Quote:[2Co 5:18-19 KJV] 18 And all things [are] of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

One thing that I've noticed over the years that I've been a Christian is that when truth is proclaimed it might take a while but eventually, over time, there is a sea-change in people's thinking.

One of the most recent things that I've seen, for example, is the gradual attitude shift concerning authoritarianism. You don't have to look back too far to the time where the Church was governed by a hierarchical clergy hell-bent on making sure its rules were followed. It matters not whether we are talking about so-called biblical 'rules' or simply religious rules that stem from the traditions of men.

Of course authoritarianism, I'm convinced, is one of the characteristics of the gentiles who "love to exercise authority" as Jesus said:

Quote:

[Mat 20:25-26 KJV] 25 But Jesus called them [unto him], and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. 26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

[Mar 10:42-45 KJV] 42 But Jesus called them [to him], and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. 43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: 44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. 45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

[Luk 22:25-27 KJV] 25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. 26 But ye [shall] not [be] so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. 27 For whether [is] greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? [is] not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Now these verses have always been there and to some extent have been taught but, and this is only my opinion based upon a rather limited exposure to Christian circles... but it seems to me that folks are beginning to grasp the significance of what Jesus said.

Specifically I'm thinking about a recent case where there was a minister who was for all intents and purposes very sound in his biblical teaching yet the ministry organization he founded was recently crippled because of his heavy-handed administrative style.

As it turns out it was the people who had been taught the Word under his ministry who finally said --ENOUGH! (Goggle Mars Hill if you are interested in the details). Now this is just one example and it might not be the best but it does show what can happen over time when the Word of God is taught. Eventually it will produce fruit.

Which brings me back to the original question that was raised by your comment --Why aren't they being taught?

God sets teachers into Church but we know that they aren't always shining examples of the servants that Jesus mentions in the above verses. But if I'm right, there will come a time when this misguided authoritarianism will be stamped out once and for all, and it just might usher us all into a better understanding of Christianity. Then maybe your statement can be reversed: They won't be clueless any more!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Mon, 04 May 2015 10:06:46 GMT
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Quote:William wrote: God sets teachers into Church but we know that they aren't always shining examples of the servants that Jesus mentions in the above verses. But if I'm right, there will come a time when this misguided authoritarianism will be stamped out once and for all, and it just might usher us all into a better understanding of Christianity. Then maybe your statement can be reversed: They won't be clueless any more! LOLOL

Well I see your point and its well taken.

I guess its easy to be concerned for a flock of people then forgetting were to be servants not realizing God is in control and knows how to lead his people.

Very good thought William.

Remember to pray for these guys I work with and that I may speak boldly as the Spirit leads and not end up bulldozing them under.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 04 May 2015 13:21:39 GMT
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Gary wrote on Mon, 04 May 2015 05:06
Remember to pray for these guys I work with and that I may speak boldly as the Spirit leads and not end up bulldozing them under.

Gary

As I read this I'm mindful that it's spring and time for 'planting'. Remember what Paul said about how one plants, another waters, and so forth... but it's God that gives the increase. Also maybe it'd be good to remember that we work in gardens with smaller machinery than bulldozers...something more like tillers and hand tools such as hoes and rakes. Heavy machinery just compacts the soil and all gardeners know healthy producing plants need good loose soil.

Advice from the urban farmer..... I do have a few patio plants...<grin>

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 04 May 2015 13:36:57 GMT
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william wrote on Sun, 03 May 2015 14:

Specifically I'm thinking about a recent case where there was a minister who was for all intents and purposes very sound in his biblical teaching yet the ministry organization he founded was recently crippled because of his heavy-handed administrative style.

As it turns out it was the people who had been taught the Word under his ministry who finally said --ENOUGH! (Goggle Mars Hill if you are interested in the details).
Blessings,
William

I hadn't heard about that and it happened last fall, Wow! I can see where that could (and possibly should)happen at a lot of churches...The example Jesus set of a self sacrificing servant who willingly lays down his life for others seems often lost on those who think they have authority over everyone and are accountable to no one.

Hopefully Mark will be restored in a humble godly manner and there'll not be another Todd B. situation.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Tue, 05 May 2015 10:33:07 GMT
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I think this is going on more then what anyone realizes in a lot of groups. We have some friends that attended a church where the Pastor refused to let people function in the gifts in his church. No prophecy, no tongues and interpretation, etc.

Somewhere along the lines a lot of ministers lose sight of what they are called to do.

BTW I very much liked the quotes James, by A.W.Pink, I'm going to get some of those books back out and reread them.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 07 May 2015 12:21:25 GMT
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God Always Has The Big Picture in Mind...

My daily reading has me in Hebrews this week and as I read chapter twelve once more I'm reminded of 'the big picture'. We're reminded that there is always a great cloud of witnesses watching us; we're exhorted to lay aside every weights and the sin that so easily besets us and run the race set before us with patience; we're told to look to Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith; to remember the sacrifice He paid for us.

In verse ten we're reminded how God corrects/chastens us for our own good...for the purpose that we might be partakers of His Holiness. Later on we're reminded that without holiness no man will

see The Lord. God doesn't deal with us as we deserve, but in love, He reminds and exhorts, encourages and shows us patience, He corrects and chastens.

What an awesome God we have, He gave of Himself, not because He had to or that in any way we deserved it, but because He LOVES us...and that love is displayed every single time He grants repentance and restores...that we might be partakers of His Holiness...To behold His Glory for eternity.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 19 May 2015 16:30:15 GMT
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We're invited to Partake.....don't forget the invitation.

There is going to be a marriage supper of The Lamb, we're invited, don't lose sight of the big picture. Rev. 19:6-9

There have been several passages of scripture that have kinda jumped out at me lately pertaining to God's invitation extended to us. First I noticed in Hebrews 12 where we're reminded that chastisement is from God designed for our good so we may partake in His Holiness. Later we're told without holiness no man will see The Lord.

In II Peter 1 we're encouraged concerning the promises given us from God for this purpose..."that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." What is 'the divine nature' we're invited to partake of? His Holiness. We can't fellowship with God without having our lives changed by The Holy Spirit to reflect His attributes. Hebrews 12 explains that it's for our profit that we're corrected. II Peter 1 tells us that we're to be diligent to add these attributes to our character, virtue, faith, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, kindness, and charity. Not only are we admonished to be diligent in these attributes as part of our character, but we're told without them we're blind and can not see 'the big picture' of God and His plan of redemption for man.

Peter goes on to use the word remembrance over and over again, because remembering is of utmost importance. The Word of The LORD is filled with "take heed", "be diligent", to repeat the law to our children, let it not depart from before our eyes, to hide it in our hearts...to remember and DO it(obey).

A thought to remember, we've not arrived yet, the finish line is still ahead and there is yet a race to be ran...may God grant us grace to finish well, trusting Him to complete the work He has begun in us.....that we may be partakers of His Holiness and divine nature, enjoying His presence for all eternity.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 25 May 2015 16:25:12 GMT
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"Yea, in the way of Thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for Thee; the desire of our soul is to Thy name, and to the remembrance of Thee."
Isaiah 26:8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 28 May 2015 13:59:49 GMT
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"And this is love, that we walk after His commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wroght, but that we receive a full reward."

2 John 1:6-8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 05 Jun 2015 14:10:39 GMT
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God turns around the most powerful of men when he was filled with pride and spoke against God and His people.
james wrote on Fri, 26 December 2014 08:57Pride in the life of two kings...

"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18

Pride is a sin God hates, it lifts a man up in his own mind to a place of deception and nothing good ever comes from it. In II Chronicles 32 there are two kings described, both allowed pride in their lives at some point, yet they dealt with it differently and their endings reflected it.

Sennacherib was king over Assyria and Hezekiah was king over Judah. Sennacherib in pride and

foolishness came against Jerusalem to war against Judah and king Hezekiah. He railed against God announcing in pride of his great conquest among all the other nations he had defeated and their gods. He blasphemed God and tried to turn the hearts of the people from trusting God. Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed for deliverance and God sent an angel and Assyria and Sennacherib was defeated and returned to their own country in shame. And his end came about at the hands of his own people, his pride broken and in shame...because he came against The one true God and His chosen people.

Hezekiah too allowed pride in his life later on. He was given an additional 15 years to life by God after his sickness, but he didn't give glory to God as he should have; pride entered his heart. Yet we're told in II Chronicles 32:26 "Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of The LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah."

And later in the chapter we're told that Hezekiah was buried in the chiefest of the sepulchers of the kings and he was honored by Jerusalem at his death.

Two kings, different endings due to different choices made in dealing with pride in the heart. Pride blinds, but if a person will humble themselves and turn to God in repentance He will restore, defend, and deliver them.

In Isaiah 37:29&34 God answers Sennacherib's boasting:

"Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest."

"By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith The LORD."

Sennacherib never came into Jerusalem and returned to his own land and was killed at the hands of his own sons while worshipping 'his' god.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by james on Sun, 07 Jun 2015 17:15:23 GMT
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Encouragement from God's Word...

Isaiah with it's 66 chapters, has a lot to say, messianic prophecies, prophecies of destruction, ect. but also promises of hope. In chapter thirty five there is a wonderful promise that should cause the believer's heart to rejoice and shout for joy.

"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; He will come and save you."
Isaiah 35:4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 29 Jun 2015 11:29:51 GMT
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"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God, for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."

Isaiah 61:10-11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 03 Jul 2015 13:54:09 GMT
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Righteousness, Our Gift from God...

I was meditating on God's gifts to us and the most important ones. Of course we know that everything we have is a gift, from the air we breathe to our daily needs being met, from the grace leading to salvation, the faith to believe, and the righteousness counted unto us because of Jesus'

righteousness.

Romans chapter five explains how we come to the place of being declared righteous through Christ' sacrifice at Calvary, as well as how His righteousness is the gift unto us. We inherited the sin nature from Adam which brought us to condemnation because of his actions; but the 'Good News' is that by the actions of another (Christ) we have be freed from that condemnation and been declared to be in right standing with God (restored/reconciled). And it's a gift, freely given, yet at the greatest of all costs...we're given the gift of righteousness.

"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one, much more they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation, even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." Romans 5:17-18

Here's the link to a sound teaching on righteousness, our gift from God that I came across after posting this today...

http://www.truthortradition.com/articles/righteousness-every -christians-gift-from-god

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Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 16 Jul 2015 13:56:54 GMT
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"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
Rom. 1:16

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 23 Jul 2015 13:50:07 GMT
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Occupy Til I Come...Luke 19:10-13

Occupy means to continue on with business/trade. Why did Jesus discern that this lesson/parable

needed to be given? 'Because' they thought God's Kingdom was coming immediately. He was showing them that their responsibility was to continue with what He had instructed them to do..."Go ye therefore into all the world, making disciples..."; proclaiming The Gospel (good news); living daily with expectation and hope of His return, yet going about the business of growing the Kingdom/Church/Body of Christ...Learning to love one another and live in unity as believers; learning and growing in holiness as we seek first The Kingdom and His Righteousness; growing in faith and grace as we practice His teachings; being an example to this world of what Kingdom we belong by our separation from the sinfulness of this earthly kingdom.

We're told that 'this Gospel' must be preached in ALL the world.....THEN the end will come. (Matt.24:14)We, the Body of Christ are given an important task, taking the message of reconciliation unto the nations so that everyone will have opportunity to 'believe upon The Lord Jesus Christ' and be saved. Is this our focus? Has it been? If it hasn't isn't it time we made it?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Sat, 25 Jul 2015 09:39:21 GMT
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james wrote on Thu, 23 July 2015 09:50Occupy Til I Come...Luke 19:10-13

Occupy means to continue on with business/trade. Why did Jesus discern that this lesson/parable needed to be given? 'Because' they thought God's Kingdom was coming immediately. He was showing them that their responsibility was to continue with what He had instructed them to do..."Go ye therefore into all the world, making disciples..."; proclaiming The Gospel (good news); living daily with expectation and hope of His return, yet going about the business of growing the Kingdom/Church/Body of Christ...Learning to love one another and live in unity as believers; learning and growing in holiness as we seek first The Kingdom and His Righteousness; growing in faith and grace as we practice His teachings; being an example to this world of what Kingdom we belong by our separation from the sinfulness of this earthly kingdom.

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I was thinking about this and thought that its easy to get caught up in the cares of this life, and be deceived by the allure of riches and think were following Jesus but its on our own terms. You know, go to church three times a week, throw some money in a basket and our minds think we've

done our duty now we can live our lives the way we want.

I don't think no one is intentionally thinking this but the flesh loves to have its way and to choose what we want rather then what the Lord is saying to us. Its easy to fall into a rut and think were pleasing God but in reality were doing it our way.

I think this is part of hearing they hear but do not hear, and seeing they see but do not see. The spirit in man can clearly see what it says, but then they cannot see it because of the flesh doesn't want to hear it. This is why many in this end times can look at clear passages of scripture and will explain it away and try to make it say something it is not saying. For instance the Baptism of the Spirit, many can read it but they cannot see it is for them. That's just one example among many.

We have to be willing and open to see it and then believe what the Lord is saying rather then what we think He is saying.

But its only for those who have ears to hear then make an effort to obey what the Lord makes very clear in His Word. Its not about rules but understanding the way of the Spirit in the Lord.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 27 Jul 2015 11:58:57 GMT
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Gary wrote on Sat, 25 July 2015 04:39We have to be willing and open to see it and then believe what the Lord is saying rather then what we think He is saying.

But its only for those who have ears to hear then make an effort to obey what the Lord makes very clear in His Word. Its not about rules but understanding the way of the Spirit in the Lord.

Gary

Just this morning I was thinking back about a time in my life when I 'thought' The Word was teaching that any contact with anyone connected with medical science was sin(trusting in the arm of the flesh); when, if a sister had on make up or a pair of slacks she was in sin; when anyone

who didn't believe as I did(or rather as I'd been taught to believe) wasn't truly following Jesus and wasn't special to God, like me, an overcomer. I remember thinking if a person hadn't been baptized in the manner shown in the book of Acts(in Jesus' Name) they hadn't really been baptized...although Jesus clearly said to His disciples to go make disciples, baptizing them in The Name of The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I'm willing to say, based on past experiences, that there are things I think I know now that 'He is saying', that I'll find out someday that I was misunderstanding and misapplying.

Things that lead to bondage, to an exalted opinion of oneself, to judgment of others without self examination, or confusion...are NOT what He is saying to me in His Word...that tells me I'm totally reliant upon Him and His Mercy and Grace...that's a good place to come to, because without pride, self righteousness, and hypocriticalness blinding me I can start to 'see' Truth and start applying it...with The Holy Spirit teaching me.

If this rings true for anyone else, great, if not that just means that God did it for you before now...cause I don't know of anyone from our like past who didn't at one time or another have these beliefs.

The good news? Praise God for GRACE...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Mon, 27 Jul 2015 13:25:17 GMT
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Quote:If this rings true for anyone else, great, if not that just means that God did it for you before now...cause I don't know of anyone from our like past who didn't at one time or another have these beliefs.

Maybe I'm just getting sentimental in my old age but I teared up reading your post.

Would someone please hit me up side the head with a rebuke before anyone I know sees me? <grin>

Thanks brother!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Tue, 28 Jul 2015 22:30:16 GMT
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Quote:
Just this morning I was thinking back about a time in my life when I 'thought' The Word was teaching that any contact with anyone connected with medical science was sin(trusting in the arm of the flesh); when, if a sister had on make up or a pair of slacks she was in sin; when anyone who didn't believe as I did(or rather as I'd been taught to believe) wasn't truly following Jesus and wasn't special to God, like me, an overcomer. I remember thinking if a person hadn't been baptized in the manner shown in the book of Acts(in Jesus' Name) they hadn't really been baptized...although Jesus clearly said to His disciples to go make disciples, baptizing them in The Name of The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I'm willing to say, based on past experiences, that there are things I think I know now that 'He is saying', that I'll find out someday that I was misunderstanding and misapplying.

I don't quite understand what you are talking about. Jesus never said anything about doctors, women wearing pants, etc. etc..

In fact He came against all the rules and attitudes that the Pharisees and scribes lorded over people. The Pharisees were constantly trying to accuse Him of not following the tradition of the Elders, by keeping certain sabbath practices.

What I am trying to say is when you read the Gospels you do not see the Lord coming with some creed for everyone to follow. It's more about developing a relationship and learning to know the Lord through the Spirit. In other words Jesus did not say never take a pill, see a doctor, or like one minister said you cannot even work for a doctor, like in remodeling his house. This is stuff that has been read into the script so to speak, or things have been rationalized to fit certain scriptures.

Quote:
If this rings true for anyone else, great, if not that just means that God did it for you before now...cause I don't know of anyone from our like past who didn't at one time or another have these beliefs.

You sound like your mad about something here. I think by now everyone is through that stage of things. Its just something that happened in life (at our meetings), and we have to pick up the pieces and move on.

For myself I'm trying to see what did the Lord say and what did He mean to imply. In other words, What is the mind of the Lord. If anyone thinks the Word is saying something different then what I am saying please share it, I'm willing to look at the Word of God to try and understand it in the right context. I even agree with Marilyn somewhat on this ten nations being of Arab descent and have shared it with a lot of people. I don't think the common market nations are the ones mentioned in Daniel. She gave a good case on this with scripture.

One other thing, I don't believe there is a church in America or ever has been one, that does not hold to some type of legalism or peer pressure from others to conform to their way of thinking. If this was not true we would not have a thousand different brands of "churchianity'. I think its a rut that men have a tendency to fall into, and it started with Luther in the reformation and has progressed to our day and time. Our group was not the only one and never will be the only one.

Another thing, following a man's teaching and never questioning anything he says because of fear of reprisal is a terrible situation to be in. Peer pressure through church members and trying to put a show on in the House of God goes on all the time even to this day. You see very few ministers that see themselves as slaves or servants to the body of Christ.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 29 Jul 2015 11:22:34 GMT
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No, dear brother in Christ, I wasn't 'mad' when I was reflecting on the post you wrote about 'thinking we understood what something The Word was saying'; I was just bringing up how easily people (me, in the past) have been, and are influenced by those who are their teachers or peers and the attitudes it leads to, actually more than just attitudes, bondage and legalism while being filled with pride and hypocrisy.

I think William understood my point, I think you will too if you stop and reflect on it. Yes, we should put it in the past.....but it's also good to remember the past mistakes/sins in order to remain both humble and not to fall into the trap of repeating them(especially thinking we know and understand

scripture more than we actually do).

If the things I mentioned that have gone on in my life and the 'group' I was in don't ring true in your experiences, that's wonderful...like I've shared before, I don't think all Christians mature at the same rate due to what ever the reasons...but again, praise God for His abundant GRACE.

I love you Gary and I'm not offended or bent out of sorts, mad or frustrated...I was just sharing my 'feelings'...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Fri, 31 Jul 2015 10:08:50 GMT
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Quote:
No, dear brother in Christ, I wasn't 'mad' when I was reflecting on the post you wrote about 'thinking we understood what something The Word was saying'; I was just bringing up how easily people (me, in the past) have been, and are influenced by those who are their teachers or peers and the attitudes it leads to, actually more than just attitudes, bondage and legalism while being filled with pride and hypocrisy.

Hi James,

Sorry it took so long to get back here, but we have had one person after another stop in after work and they stay late.

I understand what your saying now and thanks for all the kind words.

What started out as a good thing ended up in a mess (in the church), if you know what I mean. Sometimes I think though that the Lord allowed it for a reason as we all learn or can learn from the past. I do think though that no matter what happened it did show what was in our hearts in a good sense.

For one thing there was so much zeal and love for the things of God that we would of done anything for Jesus because we honestly believed that is what He wanted for us. I hope you can understand here what I am saying about it all.

When Christians have the fire of God, His love, and a little zeal it becomes a powerful witness in the world. Controlling all of that in the right direction is the problem, because men get in the way of the Spirit and they try to take over at the wheel if you know what I mean. Its easy to

misunderstand what God is wanting.

I know how you love to read and if you get a chance (if you haven't already), read Schaff's church history. Eight large volumes but a very interesting set of books and they hold your interest. From the time of the reformation, it seems that every time someone started a work it always ended in some church institutionalizing it and making it their denomination. I went through those books wanting to see what happened after the dark ages and how it all came to what we see today. How did we get so many denominations and even a group like ours fail by the wayside and followed in the same path.

One problem is, that men lose sight of what the Lord is wanting and they try to do it their way. I agree with you 100% concerning out meeting but I also see the same pattern in about every church in the land across America. Its just that there is different degrees some are not as drastic and noticeable as others.

Even the New Testament church had its set of problems, Paul had to rebuke Peter, and we see Paul constantly dealing with issues in the different churches. It appears like were all little children that constantly need monitored or a least admonished in this life. Were very limited as men because of the fall of man into sin in the garden. Then there's the issue that there are spirit beings on the other side who constantly want to destroy us if they could.

Just thinking here, but if I could have it to do all over, I would probably do it again, (if I knew what I know now), but hopefully be a little wiser in my own situation recognizing my own carnality and learning what it really means to walk in the Spirit. I think also it shows how men are like sheep and will follow whomever if they feel confident in what a shepherd is telling them.

We definitely had some issues but I think were better off for it if we learn from what happened. The thing about living in the Western part of the world, we truly don't know the hardships that other Christians go through in foreign lands. We live in a land of plenty which God in His providence has allowed us to enjoy.

I guess I'm saying that, anything I had to go through I don't regret it or feel like I was overly abused. But I realize we just have to pick up the pieces and learn from it all. There's no perfect church out there, we just had a different set of problems. I can't say that I regret going through it and its hard to forget all the good times in the Lord that took place.

Got to go, Lord Bless you day and thanks again for what you shared it did bless me and helped as well.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 31 Jul 2015 11:42:28 GMT
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Gary wrote on Fri, 31 July 2015 05:08Just thinking here, but if I could have it to do all over, I would probably do it again, (if I knew what I know now), but hopefully be a little wiser in my own situation recognizing my own carnality and learning what it really means to walk in the Spirit. I think also it shows how men are like sheep and will follow whomever if they feel confident in what a shepherd is telling them.

This seems to be something all men come to realize, but alas, we can't go back...only forward, hopefully learning from the past and being diligent not to repeat the failures. But even in saying that, I can't count the times I've repeated the failure to do even the seemingly simple instructions to love God with ALL my heart and my neighbor as myself...not to mention the constant reminder in The Word to "take heed" and "don't forget"...again, Praise God for His Grace.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 09 Aug 2015 17:48:23 GMT
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Just a Reminder...

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the Law of The LORD, and in His Law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brineth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doth shall prosper." Psalms 1:1-3

So often with the wisdom and guidance of men we are presented with what "not to do", rules and regulations; but God, in His Word gives us instruction on what "to do" that will bring positive results. Delight in God's Word and meditate on it continually...Yes, He also tells us what not to do, but that's because He wants us to walk in His blessings and fellowship with Him and He knows that trusting in mans counsel and hanging with ungodly people and becoming comfortable with the world and it's ways leads away from Him and His will for us. His wisdom is given through His Word and with that Word dwelling inside us we will be planted in Him, deep and unmovable, bringing forth fruit unto His glory.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Mon, 10 Aug 2015 09:24:25 GMT
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james wrote on Sun, 09 August 2015 13:48Just a Reminder...

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the Law of The LORD, and in His Law doth he meditate day and night.

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I think 95% of the time men are quoting, what we can call "God's Rules", the problem is when they try to give their interpretation and "addition" to what God is saying. For instance modesty of dress becomes no pants on women, no red high heels, no stripes on your tennis shoes, and the list goes on.

There's not a church in the country that is not guilty of this in some way. Even if things are not dealt with from a pulpit, rules are present and become governed by an unspoken type of peer pressure that everyone follows. I don't think having some guidelines is all completely bad because it helps some people to stay on the straight and narrow. Take that in the right context not trying to say someone is to indorse a dress code or whatever.

But with that said, God does set up standards in the Word, that believers should pay attention to, but its every ones additions to the standard that becomes the problem.

The Pharisees took the scriptures concerning "resting on the Sabbath" and created a whole set of rules that God did not initiate. I think its very easy to do even with the guidelines set forth in the NT.

Somethings are okay in themselves to do, but are they expedient to what the Spirit of God is wanting for us is the question. I think there is a Deeper place in the Spirit of God that every individual needs to strive for, its dealing with our flesh, the devil and this old world, that presents a hindrance.

Maybe this is why were told to work out "our own salvation", with "fear and trembling".

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 25 Aug 2015 12:52:03 GMT
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Jesus, Our Hope...

"...Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' Blood and Righteousness..."

"Behold, the eye of The LORD is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy.

To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waiteth for The LORD; He is our help and our shield.

For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name.

Let Thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee."Psalms 33:18-22

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 31 Aug 2015 13:08:36 GMT
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"Let all those that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee: let such as love Thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified." Psalms 40:16

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 08 Sep 2015 13:43:17 GMT
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"And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you, and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh.

That they may walk in my statues, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God."Ezekiel 11:19-20

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 10 Sep 2015 13:13:10 GMT
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Lately I've been extra aware of the mercies of God and His lovingkindness. I can meditate on this verse found in Psalms for a long time as The Holy Spirit reveals just how loving and kind and full of mercy God is...it is such a wonderful revelation to KNOW by experience what the sacrifice made by Jesus means in restoring lost sinner to our Father.

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions."Psalms 51:1

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 29 Sep 2015 21:06:05 GMT
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The Awesome News of God's Love...

God loves us, unconditionally and eternally because He IS love.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."1 John 4:8

He loves us to the extent that while we weren't even born He offered up His Son Jesus as an atonement of OUR sins.

"But God commendeth His love toward US, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."Romans 5:8

Think it through, WE are the ones who sinned and broke the relationship/fellowship with God, turned our backs upon Him and rejected His great Love....yet,
He is the one who willing paid the price(death) for our sins in order to restore the relationship...Why? Because of His LOVE.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."John 3:16

If He had given us a list of 1,000 things we must do in order to receive eternal life, that would still be an awesome thing in comparison to eternal death in the fires of Hell(of course we now know that that would be 'earning salvation through works' and voiding His GRACE; plus we would have failed anyway)...yet, He offers us life instead of death(which we KNOW we deserve) for free, just believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. What an awesome God, what LOVE, what Mercy, what Grace.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 02 Oct 2015 16:32:26 GMT
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"Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works.

All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.

For thou art great, and doest wondrous things; thou art God alone.

Teach me thy way, O LORD, I will walk in thy truth; unite my heart to fear thy name.

I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore."
Psalms 86:8-12

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 07 Oct 2015 13:56:19 GMT
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"Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD, Praise ye the LORD."

Psalms 150:1-6

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 22 Oct 2015 11:49:40 GMT
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"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."

Psalms 46:10

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 28 Oct 2015 13:19:33 GMT
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"For ever, O LORD, Thy Word is settled in heaven."

Psalms 119:89

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 30 Oct 2015 18:50:41 GMT
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"Thy Word is true from the beginning; and every one of Thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."

Psalms 119:160

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 04 Nov 2015 18:25:00 GMT
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Jesus said:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Ghost.

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Matthew 28:19-20

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 05 Nov 2015 16:10:10 GMT
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"O magnify The LORD with me, and let us exalt His Name together."
Psalms 34:3

magnify: 1. make something appear larger than it is

2. extol; glorify

We can't make God appear larger than He is, we can't even comprehend the fullness of Him, we can learn of His attributes and character and witness His mercy and grace. So for Christians, magnifying God means to extol or glorify Him. How is this done? I think The Bible shows us how, by praise and worship; by our thoughts, words, and actions. Not only do we magnify The Lord because He tells us to but because by magnifying Him our attention is removed from 'us'(self).

Anything that we encounter in life (sickness, disease, rejection, personal loss, persecution) gets bigger the more we focus on it. That's not to say it isn't real, it is, but by magnifying it, it becomes bigger and often seems hopeless. If we're walking in The Spirit and keeping our minds stayed upon The Lord and His Word, glorifying and exalting Him (magnify) our circumstances often will change as our attitude changes. It's hard to focus on two things at once, so if we're focused on God we're not focused on self and there in His presence with hearts of praise and worship, gratitude and humility, that we experience and witness His Glory.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 27 Nov 2015 13:27:58 GMT
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"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him.

If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us.

If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself.

Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before The Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."

II Timothy 2:11-16

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 29 Nov 2015 19:46:06 GMT
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Life Lesson for Followers of Christ...

"And He said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he posesseth."
Luke 12:15

Contrary to the false prosperity doctrine taught today, Jesus did not teach it, nor does scripture back it up as is claimed by teachers who twist and take out of context to feed their greed.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 30 Nov 2015 16:49:53 GMT
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"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth The LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

Micah 6:8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 16 Dec 2015 18:48:37 GMT
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Mary, Did You Know...

Mary, did you know

That your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know

That your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know

That your Baby Boy has come to make you new?

This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know

That your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know

That your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?

Did you know

That your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?

When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?

Mary, did you know

Ooh oh oh

The blind will see.

The deaf will hear.

The dead will live again.

The lame will leap.

The dumb will speak

The praises of The Lamb.

Mary, did you know

That your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know

That your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?

Did you know

That your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?

The sleeping Child you're holding is the Great, I am.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 18 Dec 2015 14:16:32 GMT
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Jesus, the hope of mankind...

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name."
John 1:12

"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."
John 3:17

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 25 Dec 2015 16:59:11 GMT
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I've always found the record(story) of David and how God's mercy and grace restored him after he had failed(sinned) extremely encouraging. But in the NT Peter's life is also a wonderful encouragement. From a crude fisherman who was a bit rash with his words and denied His Lord and Savior, to a mighty man of God filled with power from on High and great boldness. Jesus, in Luke 22:32, prayed for him and told him that after he was converted to strengthen his brethren. As we can see from reading in Acts and the two books he wrote(I&II Peter), he definitely was a great

strength and source of encouragement to fellow believers, even until the present time.

I can only imagine his thoughts later in life as he reflected upon his younger years and the three years he was taught of The Lord Jesus. Imagine the anguish he experienced(and possible condemnation) after denying that he even knew Jesus, not once but three times. Yet when The promise of The Father came (Holy Ghost) upon him he was a totally new man in Christ. He was converted and became the instrument to bring conversion to many, many souls. He wrote much about the suffering for Christ in his first book, we don't hear much about that today. He speaks much about God's Holiness and that we're to also be holy...we don't hear a lot about that today either.

I hope someday to tell both David and Peter how much their lives have encouraged me...after I've spent about a billion years thanking God for His great plan of salvation and restoration, and thanking Jesus for the sacrifice He paid so I could come to know God and behold His Glory....forever.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 03 Jan 2016 18:11:26 GMT
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Prayer for all believers...

Ephesians 1:17-23

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 14 Jan 2016 19:21:05 GMT
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"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:6-8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 09 Feb 2016 17:11:58 GMT
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"Behold, what manner of love The Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

Any every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." I John 3:1-3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 20 Feb 2016 14:56:52 GMT
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Encouragement keys from God's Word:

Most Christians (especially FA people) quote Psalms 91 regularly. It's a great chapter with wonderful promises, but there are things required of the believer in order to receive of these promises. We must dwell in the secret place V1; and we must make The Lord our habitation V9; and we must set our love upon Him V14. This isn't a quick formula for blessings, this is instructions for living life as a follower of Christ.
I'm encouraging anyone reading (especially myself) to not grow slack concerning His promises, the finish line is drawing nearer and The Lord is seeking those who will endure until the end. I've found out from experience that I can only endure life's trials and tribulations by doing the above and trusting in Him. In Christ I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, He is our Rock and in Him alone can we stand.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 17 Mar 2016 14:12:58 GMT
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"Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

Trust in The Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Delight thyself also in The Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Commit thy way unto The Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.

And He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Rest in The Lord, and wait patiently for Him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass."

Psalms 37:1-7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 22 Mar 2016 16:46:23 GMT
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"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;"

Psalms 46:1-2

I wonder if it would be taking scripture too far out of context to say that even if "so in so" became president we shouldn't fear; that God will continue to be our refuge and strength and a VERY present help in time of need. I don't think so, I believe regardless who is in power (and we know that it's really God who is 'in power') we can confidently place our trust in Him. Pray for the situation we find ourselves in? Yes. Worry or fear about it? No.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 27 Mar 2016 16:03:47 GMT
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The Greatest Gift Ever...

The fifteenth chapter of the Epistle to the Corinthians is a summary of The Gospel and Paul stresses the importance of The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; every hope we as Christians have is based on this being true. Paul speaks of the consequences if it isn't true, but then he declares it to be true and explains.

I heard a minister make this statement, "you can not out give God", this is a true statement though often today it's used in the context of the false prosperity message to get people to give more to their ministry. But the truth revealed unto us of what God did to reconcile lost sinners unto Himself can not be compared to anything we could ever do as repayment or to equal His gift. Martin Luther described the transaction of Grace in this way calling it the great exchange; God taking our sins and placing the punishment on Jesus, then taking His righteousness and imputing it unto us. Unearned, undeserved, unattainable without His gift, JESUS as sacrifice for us. We went from absolutely without hope to victorious with eternal life with Him, all at His initiative.

The foolishness of rabbits and eggs aside, Christ suffered, died, and is Risen, He is alive, and in Him our hope is assured.

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 15:57

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 29 Mar 2016 19:35:09 GMT
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God's Love and Grace...

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority..."

Titus 2:11-15

"But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of The Holy Ghost;

Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

Titus 3:4-7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 05 Apr 2016 15:56:34 GMT
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"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?"
John 11:25-26

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 21 Apr 2016 12:47:48 GMT
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Food for thought...

Stephen, in addressing those accusing him of coming against their traditional religion,<Acts chapter7> (remember they said he said Jesus would destroy the temple) was trying to make them see how their religious traditions (sacrifices, laws, rituals) hadn't really changed their hearts at all and all through Israel's history they had not been able to keep the law. Yet they refused to hear the prophets God sent throughout their existence and they refused the deliverer God sent in His Son Jesus Christ. Religion and religious works make people feel deserving and self reliant, not needing God's Grace. Israel couldn't let go of their temple worship and rituals and embrace Jesus and the sacrifice at Calvary as sufficient for their salvation. They wanted to continue in the same old same old ways of their forefathers.

This attitude and refusal to accept the Grace of God in Jesus' sacrifice as sufficient and complete apart from works and religious traditions still exist in the hearts of man and the religious system of

today.

Jesus said that the only way to The Father is through Him, The Way, The Truth, and The Life. The CROSS was enough...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 25 Apr 2016 12:11:55 GMT
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"I will bless The LORD at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth..."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 26 Apr 2016 16:14:39 GMT
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"Rejoice in The LORD alway, and again I say, Rejoice. Phil. 4:4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 27 Apr 2016 19:48:59 GMT
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Concerned with getting older? Start focusing on God's Word, let it renew our minds...

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

II Corinthians 4:16-18 ESV

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 28 Apr 2016 12:31:50 GMT
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God's Will for us today...and every day.

"In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:18

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 03 May 2016 13:25:57 GMT
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"Trust in The LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 09 May 2016 21:00:22 GMT
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Biblical Warning and Reminder...

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

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth; and shall be turned unto fables."
II Timothy 4:3-4

We know that that time has came, never more evident than in our generation. Millions have heaped upon themselves teachers who will tell them what they want to hear, refusing to heed sound doctrine. We must be more tolerant of others views; we must embrace into the church the

lifestyles of sexual immorality. (cohabitation without marriage, same sex marriage, fornication and divorces without scriptural grounds) Don't offend anyone by speaking the truth from the pulpit; feed the human spirit of greed by promising prosperity from God through 'seed sowing' into the ministries of these false prosperity gospel teachers. Suffering doesn't happen to those walking by faith, if you're suffering it's the devil and you've got sin in your life.

And on and on it goes, build bigger buildings; buy more TV satellites; give more money; get more members; don't offend; don't rock the boat; tell them what they want to hear...make them feel good, water it down, explain it away, lie, deceive, scratch their ears...

From such turn away...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 15 May 2016 18:23:16 GMT
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Life Lessons for Christians...

Paul wrote this in Philippians chapter four and verse eleven: "Not that I speak in respect of want; for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Was Paul always this way? no, he had to be taught by The Lord. But once he learned this valuable lesson he discovered peace and contentment in Christ, regardless of circumstances.

The writer of the Christian hymn "It Is Well With My Soul", seems to have learned this lesson as well. He writes, ..."whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul."

I don't think a follower of Jesus will ever find true peace and joy in Him until we've learned(come to understand) that there is no peace apart from Him. And when we have Him, we have everything. It doesn't seem to happen over night, and often we let this world and it's treasures momentarily distract us, but He will teach us what the true treasures are if we set our hearts upon Him and seek Him and His peace, desiring His presence and learning once we have that we can never lack for anything...because in Him, Jesus Christ,we have everything that has importance.

So a word of encouragement, seek Him while he may be found. Is. 55:6-7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 24 May 2016 13:27:53 GMT

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"All nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship Thee, O LORD, and shall glorify Thy Name.

For Thou art great, and doest wondrous things: Thou art God alone."
Psalms 86:9-10

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 01 Jun 2016 11:02:54 GMT
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"The name of The LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."
Proverbs 18:10

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 03 Jun 2016 11:43:28 GMT
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"The earth is The LORD'S, and the fullness thereof: the world, and they that dwell therein."Psalms 24:1

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 04 Jun 2016 14:13:36 GMT
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God's promise to believers when trials and tribulations come our way...

"So shall they fear The LORD from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, The Spirit of The LORD shall lift up a standard against him."
Isaiah 59:19

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 05 Jun 2016 18:49:06 GMT
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The Importance of Remembering...

How many times have we found ourselves forgetting things of uttermost importance? How many times have we promised God that we 'got it this time'? I can't tell you the number of times I've lost focus on what's important by allowing cares of this life, self, or any number of other things to distract me. What about as we grow older and (some of us) start forgetting things in the natural process of aging?

The answer lies in John 14:26, The Holy Spirit bringing to our remembrance what which we've been taught and read from God's Word. Speaking for myself only (but I know from life's experience that most everyone is affected in this way) I (we) read scripture, memorize it, meditate upon it, share it, exhort other with it (me, here on this forum), and yet still find myself acting as if I'd never read or hear it. Peter writes in II Peter 1:12 that he would be negligent if he didn't remind us of Biblical truths..."though ye know them..." And in II Peter 3:1 he writes that he's stirring our minds by way of remembrance.

Remember God instructing Israel to take His Laws and get them into their hearts, to instruct their children continually in the ways of The Lord? Remember David when he encountered the giant, he thought back (remembered) to God's hand of deliverance being with him when he was watching his fathers sheep and a lion and bear attacked him?(I Samuel 17:37) Remembering the past gave him hope/faith for dealing with the present.

We can have scripture memorized and still forget key Biblical truths such as, the main message of God's Word, The Gospel, that it's by Grace we're saved; that the message of The Word is to convey and reveal unto us God, and His Glory...and to redeem us unto Himself through Christ Jesus. To reveal our evil hearts and point us to The Saviour to save us.

Wisdom and knowledge slips away if it isn't exercised and put to use, and it's of no use to a man who forgets it, it's as if he never was given such valuable information. Remember the wisdom given in Proverbs 7 concerning sexual sin and the end results, how many people have read it, taught it, and yet fallen prey to it?

Without remembering the hope of The Gospel a person will lose hope in the future. Through remembering we look to God's grace in the past, to give us strength and endurance for the present, and confident hope of redemption in the future. Why is it stressed in God's Word to walk in The Spirit and not in the flesh? Because when we're in the flesh we can't hear what The Holy Spirit is doing, which is reminding us of what we've been taught from The Word of God and how we need to turn back to it(repent). Encouragement from remembering God's faithfulness throughout His Word as well as His faithfulness in our lives in times past is often what's needed to correct our attitudes and get us back on track, so to speak.

Deuteronomy 8:18 commanded Israel to Remember God when things got easy through wealth, why would God have to remind them to remember Him? Because it's human nature to forget, especially when we aren't hurting, or broke, or needing help. We should be a people who continually have His praises upon our lips and His Word in our hearts, remembering what He's told us in the past to equip us for the future.

Bless The LORD, O my soul and all that's within me, Bless His Holy Name...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Mon, 06 Jun 2016 14:55:56 GMT
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I really needed that today! Thanks!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 07 Jun 2016 14:51:28 GMT
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"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."
Psalms16:11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 09 Jun 2016 13:10:10 GMT
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In case you haven't discovered this yet, we NEED Jesus...
Life gets tough, Satan is determined to destroy us, he attacks our minds,
circumstances, health, families, daily in an attempt to cause us to focus
on the our problems rather than God's Word and His promises.
But we have an advocate in Jesus, One in whom we can trust in and run to regardless of what faces us....He cares.

"Casting all your cares upon Him, for He careth for you."
I Peter 5:7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 13 Jun 2016 13:40:27 GMT
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No one needs to walk through life confused, lost, and in darkness...God's Word gives understanding, wisdom, direction, and light; resulting in assurance, peace, and joy. Through The Word of God the Gospel of salvation is revealed, leading us unto The Father through Jesus Christ. God's Word is precious and should be cherished, daily.

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalms 119:105

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 14 Jun 2016 16:13:10 GMT
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Trials, Patience, Joy...

Temptations/trials/tribulations/tests are all used as part of the refining process to bring us into perfection. With this knowledge in our minds and hearts we can take joy in the midst of them because we know the ways and purpose of God in them. Patience/steadfastness/endurance isn't a characteristic we're born with, nor does it come easily overnight. Yet it's a must in order for us to become what we're called to be in Christ; holy, perfect, godly, overcomers, faithful, and Christ like.

So let me encourage you brothers and sisters in Christ to make it a priority to walk in remembrance of the knowledge that God has designed each and every trial that comes our way for the explicate purpose of bringing us unto perfect in Him...with that hope and expectancy in our hearts we can take joy in them.

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by james on Fri, 17 Jun 2016 16:49:44 GMT
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james wrote on Mon, 13 June 2016 08:40No one needs to walk through life confused, lost, and in darkness...God's Word gives understanding, wisdom, direction, and light; resulting in assurance, peace, and joy. Through The Word of God the Gospel of salvation is revealed, leading us unto The Father through Jesus Christ. God's Word is precious and should be cherished, daily.

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalms 119:105

"For ever, O LORD, Thy Word is settled in heaven.

Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: Thou hast established the earth, and it abideth." Psalms 119:89-90

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 21 Jun 2016 00:47:37 GMT
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"If Thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O LORD, who shall stand?

But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared." Psalms 130:1-4

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 22 Jun 2016 12:50:07 GMT
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Reminder for daily living...

We're in a war as Christians, the war is a spiritual war going on in spiritual realms and in our own minds. Satan is daily assaulting believers with his tactics.
 We're told in Ephesians 6 to put on the armour of God, spiritual armour. And in Corinthians we're told that this warfare includes imaginations and thoughts.
 He's given us the armour but it's our responsibility to put it on and walk in it.

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God,

and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."
II Corinthians 10:4-5

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 24 Jun 2016 14:02:22 GMT
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Encouragement from Romans...

Romans chapter eight; can there be a more encouraging chapter? A book could be written on any of several themes from this chapter written by Paul. But I just want to go through and highlight some truths from scriptures that can really cause a Christian to shout for joy.

First, the knowledge that there is NO condemnation for those in Christ. Then the benefits of walking in The Spirit and what all The Spirit does in the believer. Adoption to be the children of God. We're given hope; we are told that ALL things work to our good; we're shown that God called us according to His own purpose and that He had predestined it and that He also justified us (through Jesus).

Then Paul ends the chapter with this huge confidence builder, NOTHING can separate us from the love of God in Christ. Absolutely nothing; we're His and He loves us, He's taken His own Son and given Him as a sacrifice for our sins. No condemnation! Sons! Justified! Loved!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 01 Jul 2016 17:18:28 GMT
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Food for Thought...

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. Romans 8:15

When we think about what God has done for us through Jesus, it really is mind boggling. Here we are sinners in total rebellion to God, undeserving of anything from Him, and absolutely deserving of His wrath and punishment; yet, He sought us out and called us unto Himself. Not only are we justified and have been declared righteous because of Jesus' Righteousness and death, burial, and resurrection; the wrath of God has been appeased against our sins through The Blood of

Jesus. He is our propitiation, fully satisfying God's wrath and the punishment we deserve.

But meditate upon this; God has adopted us into His Kingdom. When someone has children of their own they come with the responsibility of loving and caring for, whether they wanted it or not. But when someone adopts they are seeking out because they want the child to love and care for. God sought us out and not only offered up Jesus to forgive and cleanse us, freeing us from His wrath against sin; He has made us His children(sons/daughters); thus giving us the right to address Him as our Father.

Let that sink in...that's Love. But that's what The Word says; God is Love. He so loved us that He gave His only Son as a sacrifice to atone for OUR sins. But His Love didn't stop there(as it could have), He brings us into fully restored relationship with Him as our Father as if we had never been in rebellion and sin. Totally forgiven...Praise His Name.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 10 Jul 2016 12:23:30 GMT
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"It is of The LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness."

Lam.3:22-23

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 11 Jul 2016 16:24:03 GMT
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There's turmoil and fear sweeping over much of this nation; people are fearful over all the killings going on between law officers and citizens as well as citizens killing law officers. It's a time of distrust between races, between cultures, between classes; and it's been escalating the last few years. Loving our neighbors as ourselves just seems to be a totally abandoned ideology only followed by a few people.(in comparison to the total population)

Psalms 93 speaks of flood water and mighty waves, yet, we are reminded that The Lord reigns in majesty and strength. The Word of God tells us that in the midst of whatever is coming against us(waves and flood waters), He is in control, He is bigger than anything and His testimonies are very sure. We can trust in Him to deliver and save. Our Holy God is mighty in power above all and we can trust in Him.

It's a time like never before to be praying for this nation, the church, and individuals. Surely the time is drawing nigh for the return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...even so, come Lord Jesus.

"The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea."Psalms 93

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 19 Jul 2016 11:04:43 GMT
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"But let all those that put their trust in Thee rejoice:
let them ever shout for joy, because Thou defendest them:
let them also that love Thy name be jouful in Thee."
Psalms5:11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 27 Jul 2016 13:28:19 GMT
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"This is the day which The LORD hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalms 118:24

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 08 Aug 2016 16:07:14 GMT
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The Message...I

"This then IS the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

John 1:5-8

The Gospel message is the message of truth, of a God who is pure and holy, without any hint of darkness (sin). And it is a call for those who follow Him to walk as He walks. Walking in darkness is allowing secret sins to remain in our hearts and actions while professing to be in fellowship with God. This isn't saying a follower of Christ doesn't ever sin, but that he quickly repents, trusting in God's Mercy as revealed in Christ and His shed blood.(as we're told in the following verses and the first couple verses of second John) We're to live our lives with honest, transparent and repentant hearts before God and each other. That's the only way we can be in fellowship with Him or each other.

This deception is really a mental attitude of heresy, because it's perverting the truth of God's Word. Wrong thinking about our standing before God, which is exactly what a person is doing when they convince themselves that they're walking in fellowship with God while allowing sin to remain in their lives without repentance. The transparency and honesty is how we should live before each other because we know nothing is hidden from God. He isn't fooled for one second, but what about how we're to live before each other? But we can't open our hearts and lives to our brothers and sisters in honesty when we're living deceived lives harboring sins that we haven't brought before The Lord in confession and repentance.

This is an encouragement and exhortation to myself first and to any brother or sister reading, let us RUN to The Light and seek Him in whom there is no darkness to reveal to our hearts and minds by His precious Holy Spirit any darkness that we've not dealt with. He is lovingly waiting to forgive and desires your fellowship and devotion, completely with out reserve.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 13 Aug 2016 12:59:17 GMT
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Finding Joy...

I don't share this from a place of perfection but rather from a place of growing in my desire for God. Psalms 37:4 instructs believers to delight ourselves in The Lord...and He shall give us the desires of our hearts. For far too long my use of this scripture was to quote it as a proof text when praying for something I 'wanted or desired'. But I don't think God meant it for that self serving purpose. I believe that He is revealing to us here in this scripture(along with many others)how we come to find true joy in Him, by delighting in Him. So how does a person delight themselves in God? His Word shows us; meditating on His Word, quality time in prayer and fellowship with Him,

seeking Him and the relationship Jesus died to restore to us after we had fallen short through our sins. Joy is a fruit of The Spirit that is given from God, we can't produce it of our own volition. Joy is a gift given by God to those who seek after Him with their whole hearts, whose delight is found in Him. It comes through meditation on who God is and what His attributes are, what He did through Jesus at Calvary. As we hunger and seek to behold the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ He reveals Himself in scripture. This causes our hearts and minds to rejoice and be glad in Him. Our rejoicing and gladness gives way to praise and adoration. It's here we begin to find joy, because God delights in the praise of His people and He loves to give good things to us... what better gift that 'The Joy of The LORD'.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sat, 13 Aug 2016 22:29:29 GMT
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james wrote on Sat, 13 August 2016 22:59Finding Joy...

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Hi James,

One of my favourite scriptures, thank you. I see that as we draw close to the Lord, over time His desires become our desires.

Now even though I have been busy over on `Worthy` Christian Forum, sharing some of what I wrote here (in eschatology) I still pop in from time to time.

Always ready for a chat or have a discussion with the bros, here.

God bless, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 14 Aug 2016 18:16:50 GMT
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More Thoughts on Finding Joy...

Psalms 1:2 says that the man who is blessed is the man who delights in God's Word, meditating upon it both day and night. Delight and joy are very closely linked words when we see them in The Word of God. When our desires line up with The Word (yes, when His desires become our desires) we become delighted in Him. We begin to 'see' with our spiritual eyes the glory of God through the revelation of Jesus in Scripture (The Gospel, and what sacrifice was given for our reconciliation unto God) But we mustn't lose sight of the fact that none of this joy/delight/being blessed/desire/seeing eyes comes without God opening our eyes and changing our hearts. It's not through our efforts (though it does require effort, in fact it requires spiritual warfare daily to walk in the joy of The Lord and to delight in Him and His Word both day and night.) it's by His sovereign Grace., but He delights to give these good gifts to His children.

Delight means to affect with great pleasure. The unfolding of God's Word to the heart of a man who is a sinner, saved and humbled by God's Grace and Jesus' sacrifice brings tremendous pleasure and joy...Joy really that's unspeakable, I mean, how do you put into words how it makes the heart feel to understand that which was once hidden but has been freely opened to someone so undeserving? I can't, but I can give thanks and offer praise, I can tell of His great love to all who will listen, I can encourage fellow believers to do the same.

The Joy of The LORD is my strength...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 24 Aug 2016 16:34:00 GMT
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"Behold, what manner of love The Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."

I John 3:1-3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 04 Sep 2016 18:05:11 GMT
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The Ever Present Enemy of The Believer.....Works Salvation

It's been around since the Church began, we see it rear it's ugly head in the book of Acts. First the new Gentile believers were filled with joy at the good news of The Gospel and salvation by grace through faith in Jesus; then along came Jews from Jerusalem, still practicing the Law (though unable to keep it themselves), telling them they must be circumcised to be saved. Imagine their joy being sapped away as they wrestled with the two conflicting messages from two different groups men (Paul and the others supposedly from 'the' church in Jerusalem) who professed to be Christian.

Paul didn't waste much time in attacking this undermining of Jesus' work at Calvary (salvation by faith in Him...not faith plus circumcision). He went up to Jerusalem to meet face to face with the other Apostles, laying out the terrible thing being done to new Gentile believers by Jewish followers who were still wanting to follow the works of the Law.

Peter addressed them and stood up against this early cancer against the Body of Christ explaining how God had sent Him to Cornelius (Gentile) and how The Holy Spirit was given them by God. Then James reinforced this truth by reminding of the OT prophesies concerning the Gentiles being brought unto The Lord. This account can be found in Acts chapter fifteen. Imaging the joy the new believers had when the letter that was sent from Jerusalem was read and in which contained nothing about having to be circumcised. The Apostles just told them as Christians they should abstain from fornication (sexual immorality) and blood and strangled foods and foods offered unto idols, which Paul had already taught them that as Christian they should bring forth fruits unto righteousness. (live as examples of Christ and not as they had while living a pagan lifestyle)

It's still an issue in The Body of Christ today. Can and can't do laws and regulations. Heresies and false teachings abound all around believers today. Satan was undermining The Gospel then and he is doing it today. Blue jeans on a woman or Nike shoes on a guy or cooking cakes from boxed

ingredients doesn't have anything to do with a persons heart before God. The legalistic laws I've witnessed (and even helped perpetrate upon myself and others) were nothing but a ploy by Satan to hinder Christian growth and to bring condemnation on young, immature, zealous believers. It worked quite well as my memory serves me. It took me many years to understand Grace and get that legalistic form of religion out of my life.(still working on some of the after effects)

Today we sang an old hymn that every believer over 50 knows very well; "It Is Well with My Soul". I couldn't help but rejoice in my heart when the lyrics came on the screen...

"Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own Blood for my soul.

My sin--Oh, the bliss of this glorious thought--
 My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to The Cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise The Lord, praise The Lord , O my soul."

BTW: William, I remember years ago "ABIDING" wrote how this was one of her favorite songs...I recalled that as I wrote this. God is SO merciful and gracious, salvation provided freely unto us at such a great cost to Him...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Tue, 06 Sep 2016 15:08:47 GMT
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Yes, that is a great song especially when you read about the background and circumstances that were involved when it was written!

The other thing you mentioned --legalism... now that is something that has plagued religion throughout the ages. Even reading the OT one gets the impression that God himself was the author of legalism. However, when we look a bit deeper, and consider those scriptures that show that God was more interested in the heart of the person than outward compliance to regulations, there seems to be an expectation that His people should know better.

Thoughts?

William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 06 Sep 2016 20:09:31 GMT
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I wasn't aware of Spafford's background and the trials his family endured until I did a little reading on him. Amazing faithfulness to God despite all he went through.

Yes, absolutely we should know better. Yet look at Paul's letters to the churches and how often he admonished them concerning legalism; those epistles are as relevant today as when they were written. It's hard for many people to wrap their heads around such a gift as we're given without feeling something should be done to earn it. It is so contrary to our human mind and our thought process, that God would go to that extreme sacrifice to redeem man without requiring something beside faith in Jesus for salvation.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 13 Sep 2016 15:06:49 GMT
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Repentance and Faith...

"And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand, repent ye, and believe the Gospel."
Mark 1:15

Jesus said to repent (turn/change mind) and to believe (exercise faith)...the gospel(the good news of The Messiah<Himself> coming to save sinners). He was calling for a change of mind from rejecting Him as The Messiah and Saviour to believing that He was whom He declared Himself to be; to turn from sin unto The Saviour for salvation.

There is a false teaching going around today that says repentance isn't necessary; that it wasn't taught for the 'church'; that repentance only applied to the Jews. This 'cheap grace' goes against God's Word and what was taught throughout The Bible. Repentance goes with faith, you can't have one without the other. You can't believe unto salvation without changing your mind about Jesus (repenting), nor can you repent without believing (having faith). John the Baptist taught repentance; Jesus taught repentance; Peter taught repentance; Paul taught repentance. And they also all taught to believe upon The Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. Paul went to great lengths to

expound to followers of Jesus that we're ONLY saved by grace through faith...not of ourselves, it is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8-9). That there is salvation in no other than Jesus Christ. Yet he constantly exhorted followers to turn from/flee/ abstain from sin and anything that would hinder our purpose in life which is to glorify God.

When a person is deceived into thinking all God requires is believing without a changed heart about sin(confession/turning from/grieving when we sin) they are exactly where Satan wants them. Taking grace and using it to excuse an unchanged heart and life is a major deception and false doctrine. Did not James write in James 2:19-20 that even the demons 'believe', but believing without evidence of a new man (changed mind/actions/ fruits of righteousness) is a dead faith.

As has often been pointed out, no amount of good works will save a sinner, yet a sinner who has been saved will produce good works. The evidence of a Christian is a changed life; there will be fruits of the spirit starting to grow (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith, temperance) and the fruits of the flesh will soon disappear as we grow in godliness/holiness. The fruit of the spirit doesn't instantly become mature (just as fruit growing on trees take time to mature), nor does all fleshly fruit disappear instantly (fleshly sins/habits sometimes require time/prayer/deliverance to die) but as we seek The Lord daily and put to death(mortify) the deeds of the flesh, we grow spiritually and evidence is forthcoming in the form of spiritual fruit and a changed life. The world can witness this by observing the love believers have one for another and love for God displayed by obedience to Him.

Walking through life just saying you're a 'believer' bound for heaven without ever repenting and turning to Jesus with the demonstration of a changed heart resulting in godliness/holiness and spiritual fruit is the biggest deception one could be under. Imagine thinking that there wasn't any need to seek forgiveness or confess our sins when 1 John 1:9-10 and 1 John 2:1-2 plainly state we should.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 30 Sep 2016 19:36:34 GMT
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Examples Given of Mercy and Forgiveness for Our Encouragement...

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."
Romans 15:4

God is a just God who doesn't ignore sin in our lives, yet He is a merciful God who forgives us when we confess our sins and doesn't hold them against us. He restores fellowship and will use us if we're willing to submit to His will. This is displayed throughout scripture from A to Z (Adam to

Zacchaeus) After Adam and Eve disobeyed God He didn't give them what they deserved but rather disciplined them in love and blessed them with children and long life. Abraham wasn't perfect, he lied about Sarah being his wife to protect himself; yet He became the father of a multitude of nations. Moses disobeyed God's instructions and it cost him entering the promised land with Israel; still he was allowed to enter into the very presence of God and speak person to person with Him. David murdered Urriah the husband of Bathsheba and committed adultery with her; still God spoke of him as a man after His own heart and blessed him exceedingly.

In the NT we're shown through scripture that Zacchaeus was a dishonest tax collector getting wealthy at others expense, but when Jesus came to visit him and changed his life he immediately began displaying fruits of repentance by restoring to those he had taken from. Peter denied Jesus and look at what happened after The Holy Spirit entered Peter's life, boldly proclaiming Christ as Lord and Saviour, healing and instructing believers in righteousness. Paul went about persecuting Christians before Jesus revealed Himself unto him and then look at the results, the Gentiles were presented with The Gospel of Grace unto salvation through his ministry.

All these examples and many more reveal the characters of men, but even more importantly, it reveals the character of God. It shows us believers today how God's mercy and grace has always been evident in the lives of those we look to as examples (both of what to do as well as what not to do) and as men we will sin (miss the mark) but that God is a God of multiple chances and that gives us hope. Encouragement from fellow believers is edifying and we're told to do so, but encouragement from God's Word is even more so edifying and builds hope and patience.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 03 Oct 2016 17:13:57 GMT
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Promised Persecution and Suffering...

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
II Timothy 3:12

"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."
I Peter 4:16

"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake."
Philippians 1:29

So how did so much of modern day Christianity come up with the mindset that if you were 'really saved' life was always hunky dory?

How did people who were in leadership over the sheep of God get it idea that 'real faith' kept sickness, disease, pain, death, sorrow, poverty, depression, at bay from Christians?

"The real problem is not why some pious, humble, believing people suffer, but why some do not." C.S.Lewis

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Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Mon, 03 Oct 2016 21:26:48 GMT
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Hi James,

Good thought. Was it just a rhetorical question, or were you looking for replies? You asked -

So how did so much of modern day Christianity come up with the mindset that if you were 'really saved' life was always hunky dory?

How did people who were in leadership over the sheep of God get it idea that 'real faith' kept sickness, disease, pain, death, sorrow, poverty, depression, at bay from Christians?

I would say that a section of the religious organisation is teaching that we are now moving into the era when we are to take `dominion` of the earth by the 7 `mountains,` (education, health, arts, sports, science etc) & be leaders there. Thus you see `health` is one of those areas that we are supposedly to `take dominion` of.

Pure heresy. But of course appeals to the carnal mind. These are `partnering` with the world system to transform the world. (as if...)

God bless, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 04 Oct 2016 11:11:30 GMT
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Hello Marilyn,

Replies are always welcomed, my comments were made in hopes of causing people to look to God's Word and to 'think'. I have no clue what the Christian community 'down under' is being assaulted with, but here in America the TV waves are flooded with false teachings by showboating, high profile, money hungry charlatans, especially among the charismatic circle. The quote/unquote "faith message" has run off the tracks and has become a haven for the false prosperity message. Included in that message is several other teachings that appeal to those who are looking for 'the easy way'. Blessings without any cost, no trials or tribulations; no suffering (and if you do it's because you're not 'in faith'). Cheap grace ('believing' without any change in behavior<repentance>); giving <sowing 'seed' for the purpose of 'getting for self'>.ect. ect.

I guess the 'dominion' crowd are included in that group as well, though I don't really have any interaction with anyone who caters to that error. I remember the Peter Wagner group of 'new wave apostle reformers'??? were into that but I just read about it, I haven't been exposed to it. Could that work like germs and viruses, you only get it from 'exposure'?

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Wed, 05 Oct 2016 07:19:58 GMT
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Hi James,

Thanks for replying & nice to chat again after so long. Though I do drop in from time to time.

Yes the charlatans get all the airplay, but we know that the Lord the Head of the Body, by His Holy Spirit is moving in all the believers lives, daily, & doing the great work of building up the Body, encouraging, exhorting & edifying each other.

Now `down under` we have all those errors too, & as far as the `germs` go I would even venture to say that if you are in a denominational organisation meeting then you will highly be likely to exposure. You may not realise it but most of the songs nowadays have dominion false teaching through them.

Take our `Hillsong` here in Aussie land which is spreading over the globe & most fellowship would sing or play their music. Some of their older music, (Geoff Bullock, not there now) is good but the last few years it is teaching dominionism.

Saying that I will have to get some examples ay.

Have you heard of them & their music?

God bless you bro, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 05 Oct 2016 13:43:41 GMT
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Yes, I've heard of Hillsong and Brian Houston. In fact they just got their own 'channel' on TBN (Trinity Broadcasting Network) 24/7 Hillsong from their many locations and various conferences. Some of their music is good, though I don't care to 'watch' the videos, too much like a rock concert... I have listened to a couple of his sermons, like eating fish, ya have to watch for the bones. I've not heard anything at the place I worship that sounds like it's promoting 'dominion'. But I agree that lyrics are important and so many lyrics today are not taken from scripture, just 'feel good' acceptable music that appeals to the masses. The church I attend is pretty good about making sure the songs are true praise and worship unto God and the musicians are reverent and humble in their demeanor while leading worship.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Thu, 06 Oct 2016 06:44:03 GMT
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Hi James,

Glad to hear your fellowship is standing strong against the tide of error. Now have you heard of `False Spirits invading the church?` Andrew Strom posted some videos of this on his site, (Revival School) (that was where I met Gary.) They are also on Utube.

He,(Andrew)explains how in that false move of God back in the `90`s there was an invasion of evil spirits into people. He shows how the manifestations are the same as in the Hindu religion where they invoke the Kundalini spirit, (demonic) & people shake uncontrollably etc.

I also saw unbelievers talking of this Kundalini spirit in themselves & how it is an awakening of energy in their bodies. They give the steps of this awakening. One of the final steps, to me looked like they had given over their wills to this spirit.

I connected this to what I have recently been reading in `War on the saints` by Jessie Penn Lewis, Mark was talking about that book recently. She identifies the effect of spirits, how they seek to bring a person into a passive state & not operate their wills.

Having said all that, many people we know here have been exposed to that `invasion` & we need to seek the Lord & repent of receiving (even in ignorance)these spirits.

Have you heard of any of what I have been writing about?

regards, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 06 Oct 2016 11:35:26 GMT
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Yes I've heard of the Kundalini spirit many years ago. We discussed it about 6-7 years ago on OO. If you go over to the "Rant & Rave" section and look under "Lakeland Revival/Todd Bentley" message #6654 on Jan. 14 2010 William posted a newsletter by Strom and there were a few comments concerning it.

The Lakeland revival and Todd Bentley brought attention to a lot of false spirits that were moving within charismatic circles that, at that time, I (and many others around the world) was unaware of, but by God's grace some peoples eyes were opened to these false spirits and heresies that had invaded the charismatic community. btw: Bentley is still out there propagating this stuff on those unwilling to search the scriptures and test the spirits looking for great signs and wonders and 'feel' experiences. There's a lot of info in that thread for someone willing to read the entirety of it...Sadly, not much has changed in those circles, deceivers go on deceiving and being deceived, fleecing the sheep and bringing shame to The Name of Christ.

I haven't read (that I can remember) the book 'War on the Saints' but I think somewhere over the years there's been discussion about it's contents.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sat, 08 Oct 2016 00:31:21 GMT
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Hi James,

Thanks for that link. I checked it out & read some of the discussion. Now I did know that it was a false move, however what I am becoming aware of is that those who were effected, came under this, although gone on with their Christian life, don`t realise that there is a demonic spirit at work in an area of their lives.

And this would include many thousands of Christians. The stages of this influence is discernible, but the person just puts it down to `illnesses,` or other people`s behaviour. Eventually, as I said previous, the person`s will is disengaged, & they just obey this spirit`s promptings, thinking they are obeying the Holy Spirit.

I`m having to address it over here with some friends. By that I mean sharing some of Andrew Strom`s videos & discussing the false revival, then letting the Holy Spirit expose any participation by them in it.

Obviously much prayer needed.

Blessings, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Sat, 08 Oct 2016 11:41:09 GMT
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james wrote on Mon, 03 October 2016 13:13Promised Persecution and Suffering...

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

II Timothy 3:12

"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."
I Peter 4:16

"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake."
Philippians 1:29

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"The real problem is not why some pious, humble, believing people suffer, but why some do not."
C.S.Lewis

Been thinking about this whole discussion going on here. I totally agree, but wanted to share some thoughts.

God's always has taken care of His people and provided for them.

Jacob and all his sons went to Egypt during a deadly famine. It was so bad that people (the Egyptians), spent all of their money, gave all of their livestock away, and then sold their land,everything they gave to Pharaoh so they could get food to survive.

During this time Jacob and his family was given the best land, (Goshen)and had plenty of food for their families. You could say they had prosperity. Esau on the other hand was left in Canaan to try and survive during the famine along with everyone else outside of Egypt.

All through scriptures God always gave the best to His people. Even Jesus said; those who followed Him would receive houses and lands with persecutions.

I know certain groups have carried this to the extreme, with getting material things. The problem

with wealth and riches is that, its "deceitful", as we see in the parable of the sower. If nothing else its a time robber and distracts us from what is really important in life, while choking out the word of God, if we let it.

I have been going back into the Old Testament taking a look at what did God say to Abraham, because we see in the New Testament that we have been redeemed from the curse of the law, so that we may receive the inheritance and blessing that was promised to Abraham through Christ.

Is this scripture talking about the curse of the law (Gals.3:), found in Deuteronomy? Or does it have some other meaning? We know what the curse of the law was and included; "all sickness and poverty", put on mankind because of sin, (Deuteronomy 28:). What does the promise made to Abraham include?

Mankind received a curse in the garden, God makes a covenant with Noah, then Abraham receives a promise. Being "called" into the Kingdom of God, "of course" is the greatest blessing, but I don't think God stops there. Is this curse in Gals. 3, that we've been redeemed from, speaking of the Adamic curse or of the curse given in the law, or does it have some other meaning?

Again, I realize people carry certain verses to the extreme, as we see the modern day charismatics doing.

I'm not trying to endorse a prosperity gospel attitude, like I said, scriptures show riches are "deceptive". But at the same time God does bless us, with abundance in all things. The scriptures do show that He has always blessed His people. They weren't striving for it, but it took place.

Anyway when we receive "salvation" something does take place, concerning the promise, where God provides abundantly throughout our lifetime, not everything is "hunky dory" as the church world preaches, but He is for us and not against us.

Beloved I pray that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sat, 08 Oct 2016 21:25:10 GMT
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Hi Gary,

Good to chat with you again. I`ve been busy on other forums but have popped in from time to time. Hope you have been well. We are coming through winter, so wet, but am seeing the sun shining, promise of things to come.

Speaking of promise, I believe the promise in Galatians is the promise of the Holy Spirit.

` ..that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.`

I also believe that the `riches of Christ` are not material things, but His divine nature as Peter says -

`...by which have been given to us exceedingly great & precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature,...` (2 Peter 1: 4)

What are your thoughts?

All the best, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Sun, 09 Oct 2016 15:15:18 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Sat, 08 October 2016 17:25Hi Gary,

Good to chat with you again. I`ve been busy on other forums but have popped in from time to time. Hope you have been well. We are coming through winter, so wet, but am seeing the sun shining, promise of things to come.

Speaking of promise, I believe the promise in Galatians is the promise of the Holy Spirit.

` ..that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.`

I also believe that the `riches of Christ` are not material things, but His divine nature as Peter says -

`...by which have been given to us exceedingly great & precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature,...` (2 Peter 1: 4)

What are your thoughts?

All the best, Marilyn.

Hi Marilyn,

I hardly have time to get on the internet anymore. I don't know where time goes it seems to have picked up speed and there's very little of it to spare. Once in a while I stop by in the mornings to read posts if there are any, or to see if every ones still alive. LOL

The riches of Christ is a whole different ball game and yes its all that is in Christ in the eternal state.

If you had a child that ask for a piece of bread would you give him a rock. I believe as adults care for children and always want their well being that our heavenly Father always wants the best for His children. I think the use of the word "prosperity" has many facets, and everyone sees the side they want to see. When I think of prosperity its not visions of flying in a personal Lear jet with a Mercedes waiting in the parking lot, thinking God is going to give me this stuff. This is the difference, some see it as material things, and like I shared riches are deceitful and choke the word.

Any way was not trying to split hairs on prosperity but make a point there is a balance. Living in a monastery with just a bed and Bible does not make someone closer to the Lord, its mere works of piety. Enough said, except, I am blessed and cannot reverse it.

I was at a gathering last night and the subject of Hill song church came up, a number of people spoke highly of it and said they enjoyed the worship. I have not heard much of this church, but on the Christian radio station they mentioned the name Hill song lately, I thought it was because of the music.

I did read an article this morning written by the Pastor of Hill song who said: gay people were welcome in his church as members but they were not to have a place of leadership.

I guess he does not believe a little leaven,, leavens the whole lump. While were not to treat

sinners rudely, allowing any sin to thrive in a church I believe is an abomination to the Lord. Its contrary to the whole Bible message. The Bible says: A perverted man is an abomination to the Lord, and his path is full of thorns and snares. God is Holy and His people are holy through the shed blood of Jesus. Someone who chooses to live a life of sin and think God is blessing them, is deceived.

If a minister is deceived then the whole church is open to all forms of deception, it does not matter how good the rock band is.

The whole church system in these last days, is being invaded by demons, and allowing the world to make decisions for them. Like Jesus said; some want the praises of men rather then the praises of God. In other words the church many times wants the praise of the world around them. And in the last days we are told, God will send a delusion, and they will turn their itching ears from the truth and believe the lie.

The persecution that James mentioned in this post will come upon true believers who will not bend to the ways of the world. The church system will join in with them and will persecute true believers with the world, because it makes them look bad if someone quotes the Bible and "practices" it. If Jesus said something in His Word, who are men to try to make it sound like He didn't mean what He said. Mark it on your calendar, persecution is coming to true believers who refuse to bow the knee to Baal.

Well have to go for now, probably will not be back for a while, I have to guard my time, like I said, it seems to be flying by too rapidly.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 09 Oct 2016 17:53:06 GMT
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Gary wrote on Sun, 09 October 2016 10:15
I did read an article this morning written by the Pastor of Hill song who said: gay people were welcome in his church as members but they were not to have a place of leadership.

Gary I read the same thing a while back but thought he'd said welcomed as guest but not membership or leadership. But I reread it today and you're correct, he did say welcomed in membership.

"So if you are gay, are you welcome at Hillsong Church? Of course! You are welcome to attend, worship with us,
and participate as a congregation member with the assurance that you are personally included and accepted within our community."

Brian Houston
August 4, 2015

I can't conceive how someone can be so knowledgeable about so much of scripture and preach it for 40 years and fail to see/discern/understand the pattern of the church as shown throughout the NT and the holiness God demands and expects. I know what Pauls' response would be based on his letter to those at Corinth. But that's what is happening, the culture of the world today is blurring the line between right and wrong and it has invaded most of the church(at least a lot) today. Yes it's demonic spirits, it's love of the flesh, and it's a desire to get along (a false unity that isn't Gods unity as promised). Cheap grace give way to a false 'love' where few are willing to stand up and declare "this is the way saith The Lord, walk ye in it."

Guess I'll stop with these comments since it may be months before they're read. LOL

Time does go by faster it seems as we get older, but there is still 24 hours in a day.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 09 Oct 2016 19:50:32 GMT
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Where's The Fear?

False spirits and doctrines invading the church as been mentioned by Marilyn, Gary, and myself the last few posts. As I read Acts 19:11-19 how when Paul was displaying the gifts of The Spirit in healing people and casting out evil spirits there were those who sought to counterfeit the gift for personal gain (not to glorify God or to see souls delivered and set free), either for fame and prestige of men or financial gain. We see how they were exposed as not being empowered by God and everyone around them saw it and realized the power of God and The Holy Spirit wasn't for sale or to be misused for personal gain. The impact of this public humiliation convicted people

to search their hearts and lives and to repent; and in this instance they destroyed/burned all that was an offense to the Holiness of God. Fear gripped the hearts of men as they were convicted of their sins and they confessed and turned to The Lord.

As the spread of coverage of the internet and television stations like TBN grows the money made available by hundreds of millions of viewers has become mindboggling. People are exposed to so many false doctrines and messages designed to get a financial response from viewers in order to fill the pockets of men and organizations that are no different than the vagabond Jews and the seven sons of Sceva.

My question is, where's the fear? The fear of a Holy, Just, God who has to be grieved by the twisting and manipulating of His Word? How a man stand before TV cameras and look people in the eyes and tell them for X amount of 'seed/gift/offering/donation' they will send them 'special' holy water from Israel; or a special anointed prayer cloth that will heal; or that a miracle will happen financially or loved one will be saved...all for the giving to 'their' ministry.? They have no fear, God hasn't struck them down for their greed nor has He caused them to become a mute so they can't speak the lies, so therefore they continue deceiving and being deceived, robbing and fleecing, giving false hope that will ultimately destroy peoples hope. Where are the godly men who should be standing up and exposing this blight against Christianity? Why aren't teachers and pastors shouting out warnings to the sheep? I think it's because the fear of The Lord is lacking. Yes, God loves us; yes, Jesus died and rose from the dead to set us free; but His Holy Word shows throughout that He will judge sin. I pray for the people doing this, who should know better, to become convicted of their lack of reverence and fear of The Lord and repent.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sun, 09 Oct 2016 21:46:30 GMT
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Hi James,

It was nice to see Gary even for a short time & know that he is fine & busy doing what the Lord would have him do.

Thanks for that quote as regards Hillsong. Now I have just discovered the reason why they let Homosexuals etc as members. Hillsong organisation is a member of ACC, Australian Christian Churches (AOG & Apostolic - my former denom) & they have signed the `Global Freedom Network Declaration.` Over 1,000 other churches have signed also.

It was an interfaith venture with Christianity, Judaism, Islam & Buddhism. The `smoke screen` is that it is to free slaves, however its statement includes `every human being is entitled to freedom and equality, to live with dignity and to be treated with respect.`

On the face of it we`d say, fine, freedom from slavery, but it includes every human being .....equality, thus incorporating the GLBT...(& 100`s of other letters) Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans...etc So organisations are signing this to SHOW that they are `loving, kind, etc` & believe (wrongly) that GLBT... people will come to know the Lord in the atmosphere of their services & being accepted & included.

As to your other thought, `Why don`t ministers stand up against the false teaching etc we see on TV.` I can assure you I see many who do. Some examples -

Discernment Ministries, inc
Kjos Ministries (crossroads)
Carl Teichrib. (Forcing Change)
Brannon House.
Creation Ministries.
James & William of Overcomers.
Worthy Christian Forums.
& believers in their everyday life.

& many more I do not know of.

Blessings, Bro.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 13 Oct 2016 18:55:05 GMT
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"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Mark L on Sat, 15 Oct 2016 15:09:54 GMT
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"So if you are gay, are you welcome at Hillsong Church? Of course! You are welcome to attend, worship with us,
and participate as a congregation member with the assurance that you are personally included and accepted within our community."

Brian Houston
August 4, 2015

Wow I didn't know that. I just like some of their music. The result of that could easily be some weak bro getting pulled down.

I'm not sure the bulletin board is right spot for this but anyway.
Homosexuality (male or female) is caused by a spirit (demon). They find an open door in someones life who has father issues. Deep hurts caused by fathers. More rarely there is a strong demon who gets into someones life and just overpowers them (over time) and forces their will on them until they just finally give up.

My personal opinion on the whole issue is this. In the church we set membership. Outside the church in the world they can live the same as the rest of us. They are still people who just want to live the same way the rest of us do. Even if do I think it is weird strange odd unhealthy and queer. I guess my point is out in society we should just leave them alone. I just wish they would get out of the headlines.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 17 Oct 2016 17:37:36 GMT
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Who Is My Neighbor?

From childhood we're taught the Golden Rule, to treat others the way we want to be treated. As

followers of Christ we're told the fulfillment of the Law is to love The Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength...and to love our neighbor as ourselves. A man once asked Jesus how he might inherit eternal life and when Jesus asked him what was written in the law, the man (lawyer) quoted this and Jesus told him it was the right answer and for him to go DO it. The man sought to justify himself by asking Jesus the above question, "who is my neighbor?"

This is when Jesus gave the parable/illustration of the man from Samaria who stopped to help the man going from Jerusalem to Jericho. The man was beaten and robbed and left for dead and a priest came by and passed by on the other side of the road, as did a Levite. But a man from Samaria stopped and showed compassion and helped him. This can all be found in Luke 10:25-37.

Jesus then asked the lawyer which of the three people mentioned was the neighbor to the injured man. He answered by saying the one who showed mercy. Jesus' reply was this, "Go, and do thou likewise."

Remember the question the lawyer asked was about eternal life (going to heaven), notice Jesus didn't say to believe upon The Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved; He didn't tell him to repent and be baptized, although we know both of these instructions are given for coming to salvation. He didn't talk about 'the other side' or heaven; Jesus told him to go live out salvation through actions. (I'm not speaking of works salvation)

How do we live out this command, "Go and do thou likewise."? From this parable as well as life's experiences as Christians we can see that loving our neighbor means loving everyone. Those of different races, religion, political viewpoints, gender, lifestyles, and plain out hard to love people. Loving others isn't selective or when it fits within our schedule. It almost always requires effort and sacrifice, hardly ever convenient, and always costs us something. Living out this command will certainly change our own lives as we learn to care about others. (we have to start caring before we can begin loving)

This is shared from someone who hasn't always obeyed this command nor have I 'arrived' there now, but I do seek to walk in this love for my neighbor through actions that reflect this love, both spiritual by sharing the good news of The Gospel and showing compassion and mercy to people needing it. Everyone, anywhere, anytime, whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 25 Oct 2016 16:06:42 GMT
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Rejoicing in Trials...

We're told by Paul, James, and Peter that we're to rejoice in the midst of trials and suffering. Doing this seems like something that within our natural thought process is impossible. It's considered to be a paradox.

Paradox: Something (such as a situation) that is made up of two opposite things and that seems impossible but is actually true or possible.

Paul writes in II Corinthians 6:10 that though he is sorrowful he's always rejoicing and while poor he has everything. James writes in James 1:2 that we're to rejoice when we fall into various trials and temptations. Peter tells us in I Peter 1:6 also that we should rejoice, even if we're going through temptations and trials. There's more than a single reason for trials and there's more than just one benefit that comes from rejoicing while in the midst of them.

James tells us that we're taught patience and are brought unto perfection by them. Peter says ..."if need be...", sometimes it's needful in our learning to trust The Lord. There are times we go through things that are for our correction (chastisement), yet still we should be joyful in our hearts knowing that our heavenly Father loves us and is doing it for our own good.

It's possible to be feeling pain or sorrow, or to be undergoing stressful situations and still have a heart attitude of rejoicing. That's not discounting that the pain and suffering isn't real, but it's learning to rejoice while going through it because we know God is faithful. We have joy because we know we're saved, that He has adopted us as sons and daughters, that we have eternal hope regardless of whatever we go through in this life.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 sums this attitude up, he says regardless of the circumstances he will rejoice in The Lord, and joy in the God of his salvation.

It's part of our Christian growth in The Lord, bringing us into perfection, total trust in Him.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 01 Nov 2016 13:42:37 GMT
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"But I Say Unto You..."

In Matthew chapters five through seven we find Jesus giving instructions on how followers of Him are to conduct their lives. He reminds them of what they had been trying to adhere to (and failing), the Law from OT scripture and passed down to them through oral reminders by their forefathers.

He spoke of "ye have heard" and "it hath been said" in reference to OT scripture, but then He tells them what is required of them (us). But I say unto you is calling for more than outward actions, it's calling for total obedience from the heart. It's also calling us to go beyond the 'law' and the 'letter' of the law.

They were living in a society (Jewish) where their actions could be justified by what had be deemed acceptable. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth was what they went by, but Jesus comes along and says..."but I say unto you..." that we resist not evil, to turn the other cheek. He says that they have 'heard' to love our neighbor and hate our enemies, but He says to love our enemies and to bless those that curse us and pray for them.

Today's society we live in has things that are acceptable and 'lawful' just as they had then. But according to the Words of Jesus they are not acceptable for followers of Him. Legally Americans can kill their unwanted unborn children; people of the same sex has the legal 'right' to be married and live as such; people can change for one gender to the other through medical procedures and it's perfectly acceptable; everyone has the legal right to do any of these within this society...Yet, Jesus is speaking to us just as much now as He was then to them and saying...But I say unto you...What are we going to do with His words? At the end of chapter seven of Matthew He tells us of the end for those who DO (obey) His sayings and those who don't. We can judge ourselves by an honest evaluation of the fruit in our lives; let us choose wisdom and to build upon the foundation of Jesus Christ and what He has said unto us.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 14 Nov 2016 14:32:12 GMT
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Assurance From God's Word...

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but The LORD delivereth him out of them all.

He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

The LORD redeemeth the soul of His servants: and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate."

Psalms34:19,20 &22

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 13 Dec 2016 14:39:45 GMT
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"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."

I John 4:7

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 31 Jan 2017 16:09:35 GMT
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I was thinking upon reasons for gladness of heart, and we know there can be lists that goes on forever, but I wanted to list one that came to mind from scripture.

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of The Lord." Ps.122:1

The opportunity to worship together with fellow believers, both with singing unto The Lord and the hearing of His Word is a privilege we shouldn't take for granted. Not only should we be grateful, it should bring joy and gladness to our hearts.

I'm first to confess that I'm not always as appreciative as I should be and as joyful and glad, but I am thankful for the freedom to assemble and worship God with others with the same desire. Not every believer has this opportunity and freedom in this world, so let's be diligent to the thankful and glad when Sunday morning gets here. And of course we also know that thankfulness, gladness of heart, and gratitude isn't something we express just one day a week, it's a state of mind in which we should live at all times.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 06 Feb 2017 18:41:10 GMT
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Jeremiah went through a lot both physically as well as spiritually. In Lamentations chapter three he describes his troubles and how peace is far removed from him and bitterness has overtaken him. He said he had forgotten the prosperity of the past; but then he recalled who God was and His mercies and it lifted his spirit.

"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

It is of The Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore I will hope in Him." Lamentations 3:21-24

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 14 Feb 2017 14:32:54 GMT
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"This is the day which The LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalms 118:24

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 21 Feb 2017 16:17:29 GMT
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"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

The love of God, take a few moments to meditate upon this scripture, let it sink in. The sacrificial love of God in Christ Jesus, dying for us while we were yet buried in our sins and delivering us...All a display of His Great love. Take time to thank Him, shower Him with praise and worship, bless His Holy Name. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! There is no other name given under heaven whereby we might be saved.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 02 Mar 2017 20:25:23 GMT
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God's Love Is Forever ...

Even when we're chastened by The Lord His plans are for our good, and His love is not

diminished. Israel, because of disobedience, was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar into Babylon. Even while they were there God extended His love to them and encouraged them, promising to deliver them after seventy years. But in the mean time He told them to be productive where they were. He commanded to build houses, plant gardens, get married and have children so that even though they were being punished He didn't want they decrease. He told them to pray for the place He had them in, (Babylon) and to not listen to any other voices offering anything more or less than what He had decided for their punishment (70 yrs). This is the WORD of The Lord unto His people giving them hope...

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith The Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. "
Jeremiah 29:11-13

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 13 Mar 2017 16:59:45 GMT
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Finding Strength...

As a person grows older the strength required for daily tasks become more of an issue, things readily available in our youth become evasive as we age. Scriptures take on new meaning, or at least for some people we start quoting them more often. <grin>
I have always been physically fit and active in sports and outdoor activities, now as I am going through the 'senior citizen' years I find myself challenged to do what I once could do with ease. Almost daily faced with aches and pains of some sort or another I find myself crying out unto The Lord and meditating on His Words about finding strength in Him. Scriptures like "the joy of The Lord is my strength" and what God told Paul when he was crying out for deliverance, "My grace is sufficient for you, and my strength is made perfect in weakness."

When God says that His strength is made perfect in our weakness, He is telling us that when we come unto Him totally unable to cope/deal with/make it happen/find it within ourselves and

humbling ourselves before Him and seeking His strength to overcome the problems we face, He is there to grant everything we need for the situation facing us. It's in Him, not ourselves, that we are victorious.

Meditating daily on verses from His Word, especially in Psalms about strength from God and praying always is the key to overcoming weakness and finding strength.

Am I saying that there will be no more pains or problems, weakness and lack of stamina? No, I'm saying what He says, His grace is sufficient for whatever we face. His joy is our strength.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Mark L on Mon, 20 Mar 2017 14:18:54 GMT
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james wrote on Mon, 13 March 2017 12:59Finding Strength...
He is telling us that when we come unto Him totally unable to cope/deal with/make it happen/find it within ourselves and humbling ourselves before Him and seeking His strength to overcome the problems we face, He is there to grant everything we need for the situation facing us. It's in Him, not ourselves, that we are victorious.

Really agree with that. Jesus said without him we can do nothing.
Everything works better when we look to the Lord in all our life.

I've started claiming Ps 103/1-5 every morning.

In part . . . "My youth is renewed like the eagles". Abraham got it and I'm holding on for it too.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 28 Mar 2017 14:44:40 GMT
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More Scriptures Showing God's LOVE to Us...

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us,

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved;)

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Ephesians 2:4-9

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 12 Apr 2017 15:50:52 GMT
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"But NOW is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."I Corinthians 15:20

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 14 May 2017 18:40:57 GMT
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Traditions verses The Truth...or how washing something makes it dirtier

In the seventh chapter of Mark we see Jesus asked about His disciples not washing their hands before eating, as the Pharisees and Jewish traditions were. Nowhere did God command Israel to wash their hands before eating nor did Moses. They were constantly adding to the burden of the people with their own commands and traditions plus changing the ones God had given(honor father and mother verses 10-13).

Legalism (man made laws and traditions) brought bondage and with the bondage came blindness (spiritual). So although they were 'washing' their hands (and cups and pots) because of the legalistic mindset of outwardly following 'rules'; their hearts were unclean, and therefore even after the washing they were made dirtier.

I've lived and experienced this just as some of you have; peoples opinions were taken and made into laws, our own self righteousness and 'checklist' mentality often resulted in outward obedience without inward change.(speaking for myself)

The Truth will set a person free if we will just humble ourselves and seek Jesus and confess the Pharisee attitude.

It's one thing to voice our opinion on something(do's and don't's,) it's something else altogether to demand everyone to do as we think it should be. Actually that's adding to God's Word and it's bringing into bondage God's people, rather than freeing them.

Mark 7:1-13

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 12 Jun 2017 16:16:59 GMT
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Leaves or Fruit?

In Mark as well as Matthew the account of Jesus cursing the fig tree is given. Have you ever wondered why this was recorded when so many other important events were happening during the last days of Jesus' earthly ministry? We seemed to use Mark 11:22-24 as a quoted scripture regarding our 'faith' walk quite often back 'in the day'. But it can also be to point out other things Jesus was telling his followers, such as 'bearing fruit'. We know if He had really been want something to eat He could have just spoke into existence whatever He desired. Yet He choose a tree that had no fruit; plenty of foliage (leaves), but no fruit. It looked like it would be a productive tree from a distance because it looked healthy with full foliage, but it bore no fruit.

Notice in the next few verses we're told how Jesus came to the Temple and ran out the money changers because they had made God's house a place of finance rather than a place of worship. It appeared to be (from outward observance) to be busy with God's work going on (sacrifices, worship, prayer) but Jesus saw it as an offense against God. Remember in Jeremiah chapter seven where God spoke through the prophet about how the people were busy with their Temple worship and rituals and yet God was watching their hearts and saw what was really happening. Another example is found in Revelation when Jesus is addressing the seven churches, Sardis had the 'reputation' as being a healthy God centered church but yet Jesus had to point out their lack and what He had against them.

We know the scripture stating that man looks on the 'outward' appearance, but that God looks at our hearts and there are many other scriptures admonishing us to follow Jesus from our hearts

not just outward motions, to be doers of the Word and not just hearers only. The Word tells us that the eyes of The Lord are searching to and fro seeking those whose hearts are truly set upon Him; not who goes about 'looking' like believers, but followers of The Way, The Truth, and The Life...Jesus. Bearing fruit, not just looking like a healthy fruit tree.

Just something to meditate upon and examine ones heart about. (Mostly a reminder to myself...it's so easy to get caught up in just going through the motions of religion rather than guarding our hearts against becoming lukewarm and living on autopilot.)

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Fri, 16 Jun 2017 03:02:35 GMT
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Yep, that's some really good thoughts... so glad you posted!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 28 Aug 2017 16:39:53 GMT
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The Truth of The Gospel

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." I Timothy 1:15

The good news of God's Word is the revelation of His purpose in sending Jesus (to save sinners),

and the hope that can be found in believing this message to be TRUE.

Paul wrote to Timothy that what he was delivering was true and worth receiving/accepting/believing.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 26 Sep 2017 17:02:12 GMT
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God's Word to All Men...

"But what saith it? The Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith; which we preach.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth The Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Foe the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him."

Romans 10:8-12

Believing and confessing from our hearts that Jesus is whom He claimed to be (sinless Son of God) and that His sacrifice was atonement for our sins and that God raised Him from the grave and He is seated at the right hand of The Father and will come to earth again to gather us unto Himself, is the single most important thing any person could ever do. If you're reading this and haven't made Him your personal Saviour, why delay another day? Turn unto Him and believe The Gospel message, confess your faith in it to be true and receive this free gift of eternal life today. We've all sinned and came short of God's standard, there is only one way for us to have eternal life, it's through faith in Jesus Christ.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 30 Sep 2017 17:41:45 GMT
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Repentance...A Gift of God or All on Man

I was reading somewhere on a christian discussion about repentance being a gift from God or not. Some thought it was, others say that nowhere in The Bible does it say that repentance is a gift. So it got me thinking what does Paul mean when he's writing to Timothy concerning how a servant of

The Lord is to conduct himself. Timothy 2:25 says: "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth."

It has been my experience in my own life as well as observing others that no one can turn to God from themselves and their sins without God's working in our hearts. II Corinthians 7:10 speaks of Godly sorrow (for our sins) leading to repentance. For a person to have Godly sorrow for our sins we must first have experienced conviction from The Holy Spirit where we become aware of God's holiness and righteousness and our complete unworthiness. The Word of God (Bible) is where our eyes begin being opened to the truth. Someone instructing/preaching/explaining the Gospel is how God has ordained for this to happen. The Holy Spirit convicts and reveals, both God's standard and our failure to be able to live up to that standard without a new heart and that that new heart(regeneration) can only come from faith in Jesus, repentance, and making Him Lord of our lives.

Yes, we have to make the choice but we would never choose God/Jesus unless He calls us. (Eph 1:4) It's on us to receive these truths of God's plan of redemption through Christ Jesus, (faith/believe) but even this is a gift from God. (Eph.2:8)

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 05 Oct 2017 20:32:45 GMT
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Some Key Words from Scripture...

I was meditating on scriptures in God's Word that apply to fear, anxiety, worries/cares, ect. We know that when going through any of these that it's the peace of God we need and we know it comes from faith in Him and His Word.

Everyone probably has a handful of promises memorized such as Isaiah 26:3, Phil. 4:6-7, I Peter 5:7.
But as I was meditating concerning the key to actually receiving this peace from God or just quoting them without actually seeing what is being told for believers to do, I am reminded that we must apply actions.

In Isaiah we're shown: :Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Paul writes in Philippians to make our request know to God through prayer, supplication, with thanksgiving. Peter tells us to cast all our cares on Him.

Psalms 91 has key words like 'dwelleth', 'secret place', ' habitation'.

For me I've had battles with fear, anxiety, and worry more than I should have.....due to any number of excuses, but the truth is not walking in the spirit and allowing the enemy inroads. (and at times I've been my own worst enemy) So did The Lord give me that perfect peace that passes understanding when I sought it while in the midst of trial/chastening? Yes, but I had to apply myself to doing what He was telling me. Stay in His presence (usually start off with repentance for not already being there), I have to press in through prayer and being thankful.

Another key for me has been to remember...the examples of Israel's failure to remember; the reminder from Paul to take heed over and over. David encouraged himself when facing the giant by remembering what God had faithfully done in delivering him from the lion and bear, it gave him confidence that He would deliver him once more. Same for us today, remember all we have to be thankful for and know our Father loves us and it's His will give us His peace and comfort our hearts.

We will go through adversity Psalms 23:4 (He is with us) Is.59:19B The enemy will come in like a flood, BUT The Lord will raise up a standard. Everything we need He has already provided, every answer we seek is already given.

Jesus said in John 14 that He was leaving us with His peace as well as The Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into all truth and so we wouldn't be comfortless. We're to comfort ourselves (remember) with these truths at all times, especially when being assaulted by fear, worry, anxiety.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sat, 07 Oct 2017 09:46:02 GMT
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Hi James,

I was very encouraged by your thoughts there bro. My hubby, Trevor had just been taken off to hospital with a suspected stroke. I visited him today and he is able to move and talk, somewhat, and they will do tests on him tomorrow.

BTW I turned 70 yesterday. Cannot really believe that!

Still pop in now and then. Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 10 Oct 2017 15:42:16 GMT
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I will be praying for Trevor and you as well. God loves us and is for us, He will never leave or forsake us, He's with us always. Take comfort in these truths, knowing He always keeps His promises.

Happy birthday, and with the health issue Trevor is going through it probably wasn't the 'happiest' birthday you've ever had; but draw strength from the joy of The Lord.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 10 Oct 2017 15:54:36 GMT
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"Come unto me, all ye that labour 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.11:28-30

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Wed, 11 Oct 2017 05:56:15 GMT
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Hi james,

Thank you for your thoughts, scriptures and prayers. Trev is still having tests so we continue in the Lord`s hands.

Always appreciate the scriptures you post regularly. Faithful servant.

regards, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 24 Oct 2017 14:44:57 GMT
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The Most Expensive Purchase Ever.....

Over the last few years there has been a TV ad that plays off the word 'priceless'. Often we see a clip on TV or internet about someone purchasing something for a huge amount of money. But there is one thing that money can't buy, our souls. Not only can we not buy salvation with any amount of money, we can't purchase it with our lives due to the sins we have all committed.

Only Jesus, The sinless sacrificial Lamb of God, could purchase our salvation and He was in heaven with God The Father. But He willingly chose to take on flesh and come to earth to pay the price God required to atone for our sins [death]and make salvation possible to mankind to whom there is no other way apart from faith in Him. (Acts 4:12) Take some time this week to meditate on this truth and this sacrifice of LOVE that was made for you and me, all ALL who will receive it through faith, knowing and understanding that it is by God's GRACE alone that we are offered this precious gift. This was/is/and always will be most expensive purchase ever made, and the price has been paid in full and is offered freely to us.

Here are some scriptures showing these truths: If you are someone who doesn't know Jesus as YOUR Lord and Saviour, read carefully these scriptures and allow God's Grace and Mercy to convict your heart and believe in Him who gave Himself for YOU. I invite you to click on these links and meditate upon them.

John 3:16

I John 4:10

Rom. 3:23

Rom.5:8

I Tim. 2:6

I Corinthians 6:20

Is. 53:5

Eph. 1:7

John 15:13

Rom.4:25

Col.2:10-15

Gal.3:13-14

Rom. 10:9-10

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 23 Dec 2017 20:42:25 GMT
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"But God..."

I was thinking about the post I shared concerning the greatest gift ever and the price that was paid by Jesus, and grace and how it's grace and grace alone that allows someone like me (and you) to come to saving faith in Jesus.

You can do a word study on the two words "but God", and find that mostly it sums up the fact that man, because of our sins, was hopelessly lost and without ANY hope and at that point God steps into the picture and rescues us, time after time. And of course the greatest rescue of all was accomplished at Calvary by Jesus when He willingly sacrificed His life to redeem us from our hell bound deserving destination.

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall NO flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

But NOW the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets." Romans 3:20-21

"But GOD commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."Romans 5:8

I was also thinking about the point I was making concerning do's and don'ts and the laws we allowed ourselves to be put under years ago, and how clearly Scripture lays out for us the difference between works and grace. Man couldn't keep 'works/law' then, nor can we today (though we certainly liked to try). Hopeless, that's what we were, utterly hopeless...and then comes those two words, But God and everything changes. We have a Saviour, a deliverer, Christ the redeemer, Lord, King, friend, and life giver. A lost and hopeless mankind was given a pardon, set free from the just and earned sentence of death unto eternal life, ALL because of God's Love/Mercy/Grace for us..."For God SO loved the world..."

Dead, we were dead in our sins...BUT GOD...

Just a reminder, it's always about HIM, not us, Him. If He is not your Lord and Saviour, ask Him to become your Lord and Saviour, confess your hopeless state unto Him and ask for a repentant heart, believe upon Him and confess Him openly, salvation is offered to all who will put their trust in Him and Him alone, not your works or obedience to certain rules...

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 14 Feb 2018 16:59:04 GMT
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james wrote on Sat, 27 March 2010 10:40

It seems to me that today more and more professing Christians are crossing denominational lines(for lack of a better word).
I see many people partaking of Lent(non-Catholics), Methodist, Presbyterian, Anglicans, Episcopalians all have some form of 'self-denial' leading up to what they celebrate as Easter. It's odd, that if you talk with a person from these denominations, they'll denounce everything Catholic, yet they join in with them with these practices.

Someone I know has given up chocolate and Cokes for 40 days to 'show' Jesus that she wants to sacrifice like He did.....(and she ain't Catholic, and is quick to point out their faults such as praying to Mary and works salvation)

I never cease to be amazed by what I see going on around me in the name of religion/christianity.

Today as I was driving in to work I saw a man holding up a cardboard sign on the side of the highway, as I got close enough to read it I had to do a double take. He was advertising "ASHES TO GO" in front of a Lutheran church. They had a tent set up in front of the church with people passing out small containers of ashes as folks drove through (reminded me of Mickey D's).

So all the way to work I was thinking of what the heck people was going to do with ashes and what it had to do with Jesus. Then I heard on the radio that it was the first day of LENT (40 days leading up to Easter). After Googling some I see it's for rubbing on the forehead in the shape of a cross. Can you imagine the super spiritual effort it requires in order to give up chocolate on Valentine's day? Pleeeezzzz!

Giving up indulgences for 40 days in order to identify with Jesus' sufferings and the 40 days He was in the wilderness sounds spiritual but that came straight out of Catholicism...

Think I'll go have another cup of 'French vanilla' coffee. <smile>

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 02 Mar 2018 15:20:16 GMT
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THE WALL...

I was talking with a long time client (Christian) about the 'wall' president Trump wants to build and the reaction of people with different views and opinions on it. There are so many thoughts concerning how it should be done and who pays for it and when. I started thinking about another wall in another time, the wall that surrounded Jerusalem. There was a time when that wall was torn down and left in shambles for many years. The children of Israel were in captivity for their sins and rebellion in the land of Persia. Nehemiah was used by God to rebuild the walls, He had him go back, and in the face of adversity and ridicule, to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. What's amazing, even by today's technology, is that they were completed in 52 days.(and that's 2 1/2 miles of wall 40 feet high and 8 to 10 feet thick)

But Nehemiah stayed in Jerusalem for twelve years, why? Because it was never about 'the wall' being rebuilt, it was about God rebuilding His people. Restoring Israel to their home, reestablishing worship and service to Him. And after Nehemiah left to go back to his 'job' in Persia serving king Artaxerxes; the people and priests fell right back into disobedience. Marrying outside of God's will; allowing a Moabite, Tobiah, to have a dwelling place in the house of God.

So Nehemiah went back once again to straighten out the children of Israel. At the end of the book of Nehemiah he prays a prayer for Israel and then he ends by asking God to remember him for

good. After that there wasn't anything recorded (in the Bible) for over 400 years...then Jesus come into the picture, why did He come? to restore us unto Him, to save those which were lost...that's everyone.

So, is a wall around the southern border of america the answer to america's problems? Or, is the problem a spiritual problem with the hearts of people who need Jesus. Could God use the building of 'Trump's wall' to draw people together to serve Him? He's God, He can do whatever He wants to do, but we could build a wall all the way to the clouds and it won't stop crime, drugs, and illegal activity. Only a change in hearts of people will results in peace. Repentance and obedience to God, loving one another and actions that reflect that love.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Mark L on Sat, 03 Mar 2018 15:09:35 GMT
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Some good thoughts there James. Nehemiah is one of my favorite people in the bible. James Packer wrote a book about him that I really liked.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 26 Mar 2018 20:08:44 GMT
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How to Find Happiness...

Happiness, everyone wants to be happy. right? Ever heard anyone say they wanted to be sad or depressed, empty feeling or unfulfilled? Of course not. As Christians we're told by Jesus how to be happy; yet how many are willing to obey Him and find this true happiness.

John 13:1-17 lays out what He expects from His followers and He uses Himself to illustrate this. Here we find Jesus just a few days from going through the most horrific and painful experience any person could ever imagine, suffering the full wrath of God against sin. (and never forget, those sins were mine and yours that He died for, not His, He NEVER sinned.) Yet with all this weighing against His mind and spirit He once again took time to instruct His followers in how they/we were to live our lives. He stopped the meal and humbled Himself by first disrobing and then going from disciple to disciple washing their feet; although Peter had to have it explained to him first. Then He told them that what He had done was an example of how we are to live our lives, as servants one to another, just as He, The King of Kings and Lord of Lord had came as a humble servant laying down His life as a sacrifice on our behalf. We are to spend our lives serving Gods' Kingdom and the people of God.

Now most everyone who professes Christ as Lord and Saviour knows this passage of scripture, especially this week when most of Christendon celebrates His resurrection. But in verse 17 He says if you know these things, "...happy are ye if ye do them." The better translation would be blessed, we are blessed when we are serving the body of Christ. If you take the time to read this, please allow God's Word to speak to your spirit, pray and seek The Lord as how to begin to walk in God's blessing (happiness). Maybe take a moment to encourage a fellow believer, or share with someone the wonderful news that Jesus Christ has came to redeem them from their sins and set the captives free and the debt has been paid in full, that God LOVES them and this sacrifice was made on their behalf and through faith in Him they can have eternal life and live in His awesome presence forever.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 26 May 2018 16:46:39 GMT
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THE DISPLAY OF GOD'S LOVE...

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." I John 4:9-10

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 13:23:43 GMT
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Encouragement for Our Faith in His Faithfulness...

"The fight of faith often involves discerning the difference between our feelings and the Truth."

Matt Mason, senior pastor, The Church at Brook Hills

How true is this for a Christian! We were taught this truth many years ago by HEF. Yet, the battle continues throughout our Christian walk. The battle is often in the mind and thoughts; "I feel so alone and worthless..." one might think: God tells us in His Word that He is always with us, that nothing can separate us from the love of God, that we've been purchased by the Blood of Jesus,

that because of His great love for us He suffered and died in our place to redeem us unto Himself. "I feel guilty and condemned over sins of the past and present day struggles..." God's Word says that there is no condemnation to those in Christ, that He has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west from us and He remembers them no more. God says that Satan is a liar and for us to resist him and overcome him by the Blood of The Lamb and the word of our testimony. We're told to put on and keep on, the armour of God; to draw near to God in faith...that in all things through prayer and supplications, with Thanksgiving, to make our request made known unto God and He will give us peace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sometimes the battle is in the flesh involving physical pain and suffering, our body is aging and presenting symptoms that are real and become a daily battle to overcome. Yet even in these afflictions God promises to be with us. He doesn't allow us to be given more than we can deal with providing we are looking to Him in and through it. He teaches us patience, and gives us experience in His faithfulness to deliver us, resulting in a hope in Him that is unshakable. Chronic pain can lead to depression and anxiety, the enemy tries to influence our attitudes with thoughts of hopelessness...but God says He is our strength (The joy of The Lord is my strength) He over and over reminds us to REMEMBER His faithfulness in the past and draw strength from it (I like to reflect on David and how God delivered him from a bear and a lion as a young boy and how he remembered that when he went up against Goliath...I also use David as a example of God's love and mercy when it comes to forgiveness of sins when the enemy is accusing me of past sin and trying to bring condemnation, that even though David killed a man and committed adultery with his wife God still forgave and restored him...very encouraging.)

Discerning, that is the key word in the above quote; we must be able to know the difference between the truth and a lie, our 'feeling' will not discern correctly, they will mislead us; but God's Word is The Truth and with that Word hidden within our hearts and His Holy Spirit to remind us of those truths we can stand on them in the midst of whatever comes against us and have confidence/faith that He who made the promises is faithful to keep them...forever, until we see Him in all His Glory...Praise The Lord, Praise The Lord.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 24 Sep 2018 16:18:04 GMT
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Called To Make A Difference...

Matthew 5:13-16 is straight from the mouth of Jesus, it's to us, all who name the Name of Christ. So why is our (the body of Christ/church) witness/influence not bearing more fruit? Why is it that we don't shine forth like a light on a hill? Why aren't the lost convicted of their ungodliness by our life's witness?

Charles Spurgeon said this in a sermon over 100 years ago:

"I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church."

We (the church/body of Christ), look and act so much like the world that what light is there is just a flickering candle as opposed to a shining bright light giving hope to those lost and walking in darkness. Our lives should draw people to God and His Glory, showing the way for them to behold the wonder of God and His great love. Leading to faith and trust in Jesus and His work at Calvary to redeem lost sinners.

Again as with almost everything I post on this forum I'm writing first to remind myself, then if someone else can be encouraged/edified/exhorted/admonished to good works and reminded of what we all already know we should be doing (but so often aren't), then praise the Lord.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Mon, 24 Sep 2018 17:48:47 GMT
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Sobering passage.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Tue, 25 Sep 2018 07:38:26 GMT
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james wrote on Tue, 25 September 2018 02:18Called To Make A Difference...

Matthew 5:13-16 is straight from the mouth of Jesus, it's to us, all who name the Name of Christ. So why is our (the body of Christ/church) witness/influence not bearing more fruit? Why is it that we don't shine forth like a light on a hill? Why aren't the lost convicted of their ungodliness by our life's witness?

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Again as with almost everything I post on this forum I'm writing first to remind myself, then if someone else can be encouraged/edified/exhorted/admonished to good works and reminded of what we all already know we should be doing (but so often aren't), then praise the Lord.

Hi James,

`Let not your heart be troubled, bro....` The Lord is faithful and is well able to accomplish what he desires.

1. Israel. Jerusalem is the city that is set on the hill, a light to the world. (Matt. 5: 14)This will be fulfilled in the millennium. (Micah 4: 1 & 2)

2. The Body of Christ. The Lord is not about influencing or changing the world system but preparing it for judgment. (Ps. 110: 1)

The Lord is building up His body by His Holy Spirit, all over the world, (& down through the centuries). In every town, village and country, the Holy Spirit is bringing the Body to maturity in Christ - `...till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the fullness of the statue of Christ..` (Eph. 4: 13)

Man`s denominations, are joining ever closer with the world system and believers are leaving and gathering in small groups, encouraging, edifying and building each other up as by the Spirit of God. (Eph. 4:16)

Be encouraged bro the Body is holding fast to the Head -

`... from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase which is from God.`

Turn your eyes upon Jesus and believe He is doing what He said He will do.

regards, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 25 Oct 2018 19:52:57 GMT
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Marilyn,

What do you make of these scriptures: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15...Do you see this as only addressed to those eleven disciples there that day or do you believe it's a command for all believers throughout time until His return to present The Gospel (good news of Jesus Christ, the very good news) to every people group inhabiting this planet?

Yes, Jerusalem was/is and will be a light; but we're also told to be lights in this dark world. And I agree it's not our calling to change the world system and the controlling principalities over it; but we are told to pray for our leaders and to be examples of the love God has for mankind by our actions and interactions with them, loving them even as He has loved us and blessed us with mercy and grace that we no more deserve that they do. That's our calling, to pass on that awesome, life changing news. Gathering together to worship Him, disciple younger Christians, study His Word, and share His love one with another...yep, all the above...

But if the Gospel isn't to be taken to the nations by all believers for all time, then how did we come to this saving knowledge? Of course! We came to believe just like everyone else has...Romans 10:14-17 through the hearing of The Word. And if there weren't obedient followers sharing this new then we would still be lost in our sins without the hope given our hearts through the written revelation of God's plan of redemption for man. The faith to believe and the gift to repent are from God; and He IS sovereign in His selection of those He calls and chooses unto salvation, but from our side we are to plant the seeds, water, work the soil....and from His side He will get the increase He desires that will glorify Him.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 05 Nov 2018 22:34:31 GMT
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Five words that says it all...

"That I may know Him..." Philippians 3:10a

What higher goal or priority is there for a Christian than what these five words says and mean?

Our pastor is teaching a series from Philippians and he shared how 25 years ago he read these scriptures for the first time and it changed his life. All Christians confess and profess Jesus as their Saviour, and many have made Him their Lord; but to how many of us has He became our supreme treasure, the pursuit of our life? There are good books written about pursuing God (A.W. Tozer) and knowing God (J.I.Packer), and they're great (in fact I'm going to a men's Bible study and we're going through "Knowing God" one chapter each week) But the question and challenge offered is this... are we, as was Paul, sold out to knowing Jesus? Do we count all else as dung in comparison to to being know and knowing Christ? Paul had it all, the resume of all resumes, yet he counted them as nothing and didn't look back, he pressed forward to the mark for the prize...the ultimate prize/treasure, Jesus Christ.

Let this be the reason we arise each day, to know Him.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Tue, 06 Nov 2018 00:37:47 GMT
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Hi James,

So very, very true. I certainly remember when I made the Lord, Lord of my life. From then on it has been a revealing of areas that needed addressing, and of letting go.

Step by step, and over the years I realise that the `things of this world grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.`

The very heart of the good news, is to `know the Lord.` And that, like any relationship takes time and experiences.

all the best, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Tue, 06 Nov 2018 00:41:49 GMT
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Just thought - even the Apostle Paul went through a process -

He said `I am the least of the Apostles,`

`I am the least of the saints,`

`I am the greatest of sinners.`

See the progression. He also said that he learned to be content, and that is over time and experiences.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 06 Nov 2018 19:41:01 GMT
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Marilyn Crow wrote on Mon, 05 November 2018 18:41Just thought - even the Apostle Paul went through a process -

He said `I am the least of the Apostles,`

`I am the least of the saints,`

`I am the greatest of sinners.`

See the progression. He also said that he learned to be content, and that is over time and experiences.

Yes he did go through a process and experience..... one minute Paul (Saul)was filled with pride, zealous in his hatred for Christians, with a pedigree that fostered pride/confidence in his flesh, circumcised; a Hebrew; of the tribe of Benjamin; a Pharisee; faultless in his keeping of the law. He was pridefully traveling down a road leading to Damascus with the paperwork that gave him

the right by Jewish religious authority to persecute Christians.

The next minute he was on the ground, blinded, humbled, in the presence of Jesus Christ whom he was persecuting. He got a new name (Paul), a new heart, a new perspective, a new calling, and a new guide (The Holy Spirit).

Yep! Paul certainly had an experience...and he was NEVER the same, it all became dung to him, he KNEW he'd experienced God and nothing else mattered. Shipwrecks, beatings, imprisonment, cold, hunger, rejection ...none of it could steal the joy he'd found in Christ...he was content in whatever state he found himself in...He had Jesus...what else was there? Nothing!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 11 Dec 2018 15:59:14 GMT
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All our works are as filthy rags in comparison to to Jesusâ€™ sacrifice at the cross... Itâ€™s in Christ Jesus and Him alone that we can have any confidence of eternal life and salvation.

â€œBut God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.â€•
Galatians 6:14

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 15 Dec 2018 15:40:54 GMT
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Behold The Saviour...

â€œ...Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord.â€• Luke 2:10

Thank You Jesus...Thank you Father...Hallowed be Thy name in all the earth.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by james on Mon, 14 Jan 2019 22:21:35 GMT
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Hypocrisy, the blinding sin God hates...

"Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."Matthew 7:5

Judging others when we haven't judged ourselves by the same standard we use to judge them by is the height of hypocrisy, and it also reveals we have a major 'blind spot' in our own lives.(plus a lack of maturity and compassion) Jesus is pointing out not only are we going to be judged accordingly as we judge others, but we are ignoring and hiding how though we may appear clean outwardly, we are filthy on the inside. The sin we're pointing out in another pales in comparison to the sin in our own live, and because we're blinded by this, we fail miserably in the big picture, they have a toothpick sized sin while ours is the size of a 12x12 8 ft wooden pilling. We're cisterns that don't hold water, clouds that produce no rain, fig trees without fruit when we are guilty of this sin (and we all have been at one time or another).

This teaching by Jesus is like unto when He taught us to pray, He said to forgive those who trespass against us if we expect forgiveness from God. We daily seek God's mercy and forgiveness; we should daily be offering forgiveness and mercy to those around us. He said if we can't love those around us that we can see, how do we think we love God whom we've never seen? Another example of hypocrisy.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 01 Mar 2019 17:04:43 GMT
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PERSUASIVE VISION, ENDURING HOPE, SAVING FAITH...

Most of us who embraced the 'faith message' were totally expecting The Lord's return any day and we would be hard pressed to ever think we'd be here today (I didn't think we'd finish the 80's, the rapture would come), yet here we are (those that are left, many have gone on to be with The Lord) and I'm meditating on how important is it that we finish well, not taking our eyes off the vision God gave us those many years ago.

Hebrews 11:13 speaks of those saints of old who died in faith without receiving the promises, BUT, they had seen them from afar and were persuaded that they were going to receive them and held fast to that.

Romans 8:24-25 tells us that we are saved by hope, but even though we don't physically see the object of our hope if it's true hope/faith, we cling fast to it and patiently wait for it.

And now after all these years I see and understand things differently...not that God's Word has changed, we know that will never happen; but I now have a much better understanding and experience of God's Grace in relationship to 'faith'. I may be the only one, but my 'faith' was more about 'my' actions and abilities to 'overcome' rather than God's grace and mercy allowing me to. Ephesians 2:8-9 finally registered within my soul a few years back and it changed me...His GRACE changed me...and as Paul said in Philippians 3:12-14 I haven't arrived yet but I'm persuaded He who called me will keep me until I see His face.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 12 Mar 2019 13:18:23 GMT
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"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." I Peter 3:15

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 01 Apr 2019 01:12:03 GMT
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This post is a continuation of thoughts I was sharing in the March 1 post I made concerning Persuasive Vision, Enduring Hope, Saving Faith...

â€œWomen received their dead raised to life again: and OTHERS were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:
And OTHERS had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment....â€•Hebrews 11:35-36

In reading â€œthe faithâ€• chapter in context and believing what it says the teachings that many of us once received as truth doesnâ€™t bear up under plain reading of Godâ€™s Word, in my opinion.

Being taught that one canâ€™t die â€œin faithâ€• and overcomers with true faith â€œeovercame

â€œ whatever came against us doesnâ€™t reflect what Scripture teaches and records.

Faith is required to please God, but not faith in a quote unquote â€œfaith messageâ€• and formula, but rather faith in God. These â€œheroes of faith â€œ listed here in chapter eleven did all these things â€œby faithâ€• and many triumphed gloriously...
People brought back from the dead; escaped fire; stopped the mouths of lions;subdued kingdoms.....But OTHERS didnâ€™t....some died, some suffered persecution and some were killed, others wandered about destitute and afflicted and NEVER received the promises in their lifetime...yet, they ALL obtained a good report through faith, Why, because their faith was grounded in God and His Word and they remained faithful to Him unto death.
Someone misinterpreted scripture when they taught overcomers couldnâ€™t die in faith... and I believe many godly people lived with condemnation and false guilt because of it.

Christians going through sickness, disease, divorce, and other afflictions, trials, temptations shouldn't be brought under condemnation and alienation because they are experiencing hardships. Yes, absolutely God chastens those He loves for correction and for our good because we're His children.

He also says through Paul in Acts 14:22 we must endure much tribulation; and we're told in James 1:2-12 we will face adversity. I Peter 1:6 and 5:10 speak to the fact that believers will go through adversity to perfect us and that it is even necessary at times. But then comes this scripture of encouragement which we can cling to when going through temptations...

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man:
but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Corinthians 10:13

Hebrews eleven ends with this "God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." What is that better thing He provided? JESUS The cross, redemption, GRACE, one body, one people...no divide between Jew and Gentile, man/woman...no more law written on stone but His Word written on our hearts; our Great High Priest, The King of Kings and Lord of Lords...JESUS

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Tue, 02 Apr 2019 15:56:33 GMT
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I can't think of anything that exhibits true faith more than a person who goes through death's door while serving/trusting/believing Jesus. I mean, just think about it... trusting God through a death experience.

We say wow! when a person believes God in impossible circumstances and sees the object of their faith manifested, how much more to be found 'in faith' as you go through, and past, that impossible circumstance!

Thanks for the thoughts James!
Blessings,

William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Mark L on Wed, 01 May 2019 22:49:02 GMT
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I have to agree with a lot of what you said there James. Without disagreeing with you though I'd like to throw my thoughts in. Let me say this. I think the faith message taught our confession was to be faith to faith and nothing but faith but with an eye to the awareness there was something bigger than our faith and that is Gods will.

A perfect eg of that is Bro Freeman himself. As I have stated elsewhere on these pages I think his work here was done and for that reason and some others God took him home. That sure wasn't his confession and faith but there was something bigger than his faith. Gods will.

I've been listening to some of the old tapes lately (which someone is posting on Youtube). HEF was talking about that very subject on Numbering our days. Living/dying vs Gods will and how we always need to live with that awareness.

Anyway I just wanted to throw a comment in on what you said.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 11 May 2019 16:10:28 GMT
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FAITH AND HOPE...and GOD

There are many scriptures where hope and faith are explained, taught, encouraged, and made clear as required. But one central truth is found concerning godly faith and hope...they're given to us by God. Ephesians 2:8-9 explains it clearly. In I Peter chapter one we're told of the lively hope we have in Jesus' resurrection and that we're kept by the power of God through faith which we have been given, unto salvation. Also in this chapter Peter writes that we're to hope to the end for the grace that will be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
Again in verse 21 we're told that we believe that God by Him raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him Glory...so "that your faith and hope might be in God."

God's sovereignty and His predetermined (predestination) plan of redemption for fallen mankind reveal His Love for us...us who wouldn't have sought Him out in a million years...

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 21 May 2019 16:45:34 GMT
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Decision Making Words Starting with the Letter C found in Romans 7&8

COMMANDMENT (law)

CONCUPISCENCE

CONVICTION

CONVERSION

CONFLICT

CONSENT

CAPTIVITY

CONDEMNATION

CHRIST

First the commandments of God (law) are made known unto a person so that one knows what is sin (lust and concupiscence) verses 7&8

Then with the knowledge and definition of sin conviction comes as one sees the internal struggles and hopelessness of oneself to overcome and obey. v10&11

Leading to conversion (turning to Jesus in repentance)

With this new life comes conflict as the 'new spiritual man' seeks to follow after righteousness, while the 'old sinful fleshly man' seeks to continue to follow the flesh and it's lusts. v15-19

Paul describes in verses 20 through 23 the gut wretched struggles that every follower of Christ experiences in trying to understand the spiritual war within our minds...and the condemnation the enemy bombards us with.

But then comes the answer, Jesus Christ. Paul explains throughout chapter eight our position in Christ and the household of God and encourages our faith and delivers hope.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 19 Jun 2019 16:03:59 GMT
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It's summer and starting to get hot, shades are sought often during the heat of the day. I was thinking about one of my favorite psalms, Psalms 91 and how the writer uses God's protection offered as being under the shadow of The Almighty. A giant oak tree casts a big shadow (shade) and one can find relief from the oppressiveness of the days' heat by going and getting beneath it. But notice we have to take the action to GO and get under it, the tree doesn't come chasing after us to offer shade and protection from the elements.

God tells us in His Word that he (anyone) that dwells in the secret place of The Most High, shall abide under the shadow of The Almighty (God)...This is speaking of God's protection, but it isn't automatic, there's a requirement, one must dwell there in God's presence in order to be protected and under His shadow (like the analogy of the oak tree).

God's GRACE offers believer so much (in fact IT offers us everything we possibly need in order to live our lives according to His plan for us)...salvation, remission of ALL sins, His righteousness, protection, provision, healing, eternal life with Him, joy, peace, love, ect.....it's all there waiting for us, all we must do is BELIEVE in the Grace of God manifest in the person of Jesus (which is His death, burial, and resurrection) and turn from our self centered sins, which is to repent, and even to do this is a gift given by Him.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."Psalms 91:1

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 18 Oct 2019 19:34:42 GMT
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The Real Bread...

We live in a body of flesh yet we're told to walk in the spirit and not after the flesh. Throughout scripture we're taught that "bread" is representative of food. God provided bread from heaven (manna) for the children of Israel's physical bodies nourishment.

But when Jesus came He reveals the real bread, Himself. In John 6:32-58 Jesus explains the much deeper truth about what all men really need, Him, the bread of life as eternal life when all spiritual needs are satisfied in Him (hunger and thirst)

As much emphasis as we place on our daily physical bread ðŸ¥– How much more should we be diligently focusing on the real bread Jesus. His Words are life and given us freely to consume daily.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Fri, 18 Oct 2019 20:24:45 GMT
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Amen!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 03 Nov 2019 18:30:11 GMT
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Assurance...

Our pastor has been teaching on I John for several weeks, solid foundational truths. "How we can know " has been mentioned by many as the point of John's writing. Our Father wants us to know and understand our standing in Christ and be comforted by these truths. The last few verses of I John 3 gives us reminders of what Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary has accomplished for believers. Freedom from condemnation can only come when we learn to stand in faith on God's Word.

This quote from a book titled "Extravagant Grace" by a lady named Barbara Duguid helps by putting what Jesus did in perspective.

"If you are United with Christ today, the number of sins you will commit in your lifetime is a finite number, and they were ALL paid for in FULL before you emerged from your mother's womb."

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 10 Nov 2019 22:32:58 GMT
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Faiths Focus

I heard this quote recently and it has been on my mind.

"It's not the strength of your faith, it's the object of your faith that saves you."

Of course the object should be Jesus, not memorized "faith" passages or the ability to give a Biblical definition of the word. It's Jesus and unwavering trust in Him that saves.

Daniel 3:18 is an awesome example of faith in God. The three young Hebrew men committed themselves into God's hand and trusted the outcome to Him and His sovereignty. They refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image trusting God to deliver them; but they didn't know the outcome beforehand, and thus made this statement, "But if not"... meaning even if He doesn't deliver us we're still trusting Him. Their faith was in Jesus and obedience to Him was their choice regardless.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by james on Sun, 17 Nov 2019 19:32:12 GMT
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More on Assurance...

"Blessed assurance Jesus is mine,
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine
Heirs of salvation .....
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Saviour all the day long "

lyrics by Fanny Crosby

"Your faith will not fail while God sustains it; you are not strong enough to fall away while God is resolved to hold you."

J I Packer

"My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me:

And I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all:
and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

I and my Father are one,"

John 10:27-30

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sat, 30 Nov 2019 04:55:10 GMT
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james wrote on Thu, 25 October 2018 19:52Marilyn,

What do you make of these scriptures: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15...Do you see this as only addressed to those eleven disciples there that day or do you believe it's a command for all

believers throughout time until His return to present The Gospel (good news of Jesus Christ, the very good news) to every people group inhabiting this planet?

Yes, Jerusalem was/is and will be a light; but we're also told to be lights in this dark world. And I agree it's not our calling to change the world system and the controlling principalities over it; but we are told to pray for our leaders and to be examples of the love God has for mankind by our actions and interactions with them, loving them even as He has loved us and blessed us with mercy and grace that we no more deserve that they do. That's our calling, to pass on that awesome, life changing news. Gathering together to worship Him, disciple younger Christians, study His Word, and share His love one with another...yep, all the above...

But if the Gospel isn't to be taken to the nations by all believers for all time, then how did we come to this saving knowledge? Of course! We came to believe just like everyone else has...Romans 10:14-17 through the hearing of The Word. And if there weren't obedient followers sharing this new then we would still be lost in our sins without the hope given our hearts through the written revelation of God's plan of redemption for man. The faith to believe and the gift to repent are from God; and He IS sovereign in His selection of those He calls and chooses unto salvation, but from our side we are to plant the seeds, water, work the soil....and from His side He will get the increase He desires that will glorify Him.

Hi James,

I do agree with what you wrote. As to Matt.28: 18 -20, what specifically do you think that the disciples had to teach?

Sorry it took me so long to reply. I do have the time now to discuss, if you have time and want to do so.

Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Sat, 30 Nov 2019 06:29:38 GMT
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Quote:
Marilyn Crow

Quote:james wrote on Thu, 25 October 2018 19:52

Marilyn,

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Hi James,

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Sorry it took me so long to reply. I do have the time now to discuss, if you have time and want to do so.

Marilyn.

I think that James was referring to the situation (in some thread, somewhere!) where you "seemed" to be dividing the Body of Christ into separate entities with separate missions. (i.e. the Church, Israel, the body of Christ, Kings and Priests, etc.)

The Church encapsulates every born again believer whether he/she is an Israelite, or a gentile.

Mat.28 was the commission given to the Church and not just to the 11 Apostles.

To assume He was only referring to those present or even to the Israelites in general one would need to discount the gifts given to the Church (Eph 4:11f) which included apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers, who presumably will be teaching all of the world/nations about the propitiatory work of Jesus on the Cross (i.e. the gospel!). These gifts are for the equipping of the saints (all of us and Israel too!)

Hope you are doing well!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Sat, 30 Nov 2019 23:00:23 GMT
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Hi William,

Thanks for replying. Perhaps I should start an appropriate thread in a new section as I would like to discuss this topic.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 02 Dec 2019 21:28:03 GMT
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Hi Marilyn,

Wow! both you and Gary showing up at the same time, must be the turkey and dressing made ya'll miss your old OO friends. :)

I have lost the memory of whatever sparked my question a couple years ago, but I think William has the jest of my thoughts.

I tend to lean towards the simplicity of Jesus' teaching of loving God with all our hearts and our

neighbor as ourselves. All of Matthew chapters five, six, and seven are teachings of conduct, attitude, how to pray, how to give, how to fast, the principles of forgiveness, humility, ect. Obviously He taught them to present The Gospel of salvation through faith in Him and Him alone and baptism. He wanted them to teach and explain to those who believed concerning the end times and the signs that would precede His return.

But I'm thinking you have something specific in mind that your uncle taught you that you'd like to present, I could be wrong, but either way I'll head over to the thread you started and check it out.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 02 Dec 2019 21:49:23 GMT
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james wrote on Mon, 24 September 2018 16:18Called To Make A Difference...

Matthew 5:13-16 is straight from the mouth of Jesus, it's to us, all who name the Name of Christ. So why is our (the body of Christ/church) witness/influence not bearing more fruit? Why is it that we don't shine forth like a light on a hill? Why aren't the lost convicted of their ungodliness by our life's witness?

Charles Spurgeon said this in a sermon over 100 years ago:

"I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church."

We (the church/body of Christ), look and act so much like the world that what light is there is just a flickering candle as opposed to a shining bright light giving hope to those lost and walking in darkness. Our lives should draw people to God and His Glory, showing the way for them to behold the wonder of God and His great love. Leading to faith and trust in Jesus and His work at Calvary to redeem lost sinners.

Again as with almost everything I post on this forum I'm writing first to remind myself, then if someone else can be encouraged/edified/exhorted/admonished to good works and reminded of what we all already know we should be doing (but so often aren't), then praise the Lord.

Ok, I see this is what I posted last year that lead to Marilyn's post/reply that lead me to ask the question concerning Matthew 28 (The Great Commission)

I've tried to be consistent by regularly stating that most of what I have posted over the last 10-12 years on OO has been for the encouragement, edification, exhortation for fellow believers and that

I'm first and foremost speaking to myself, knowing full well of the Grace that's been bestowed on me and my need to be daily reminded of that fact, not in order to straighten anyone out.

So with that in mind and an open mind, start sharing Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Marilyn Crow on Tue, 03 Dec 2019 01:12:52 GMT
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Hi James,

Oh that is ....God...bringing us together again? we`ll see. and I do appreciate God`s gift in you of such encouragement, exhortation and edification. That is what builds up the Body of Christ. And as you have said, giftings, mine is also to encourage but also `exhortation/warning.` I see an `error` and then like to bring in the truth. This I know you all do here, so I appreciate you all giving me time and space to present what I see needs to be addressed.

I`m going a step at a time with the topic and appreciate any input.

regards, Marilyn.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 08 Dec 2019 19:23:17 GMT
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Significance of a tree in the life of believers. Think about this truth, the first Adam, because of his actions at a tree (disobeyed God) , brought condemnation upon all men.
The last Adam (Jesus), because of His actions ON a tree, brought redemption to all who will believe.
But it's the choice made that is really significant. And faith in Him who died for us on that tree is of uttermost significance to us.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Thu, 12 Dec 2019 08:25:23 GMT
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Isaiah 46:4 Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made,

and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

I am very Thankful for God's great salvation I cannot imagine what its like to go through life without having the Lord God carry us through day to day.

Gary

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sun, 22 Dec 2019 16:01:58 GMT
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Jesus loves me, this I KNOW
For the BIBLE tells me so.

John 3:16
John 15:9
Romans 5:8
Romans 8:35-39
Ephesians 2:4-8

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 24 Dec 2019 14:38:39 GMT
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"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:10-11

Good tidings
Great joy
To ALL people
A Saviour
Christ the Lord

JESUS

He came for one purpose, to save man (who could in no way save ourselves) from our sins. Before He could pay the price of our redemption through His sacrificial death, He had to be born. Yet Jesus never told believers to celebrate
His birth, only His death and resurrection (which is communion of the bread and cup, in remembrance and thanksgiving) Should Christians rejoice and be glad that He was born? Duh! Of course. We shouldn't ignore the birth of Christ, it should be a daily celebration in our hearts just as His sacrifice at Calvary and resurrection is daily on our minds. But what has evolved through the years that is called Christmas ðŸŽ„ with Santa Claus ðŸŽ… and all the trimmings celebrated by believers just can't be backed up in scripture.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 28 Dec 2019 18:07:32 GMT
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The Consequences of Sin...

How much did God love David? Scripture reveals that He loved him very much, that David was a man after God's own heart. God used him greatly to lead Israel and he was a man who was a worshipper, as revealed in the Psalms.
Yet, we know what he did with Bathsheba and unto Uriah , committed adultery and murder. (II Samuel 11&12) He repented and God forgave Him, but it cost him dearly. Four sons died, there was never peace in his house, he wasn't even allowed to build the temple he so wanted to build. His cry of repentance is recorded in Psalms 51, God forgave all his transgressions, iniquities, and sins; but the consequences of the acts were allowed to come unto fruition (sin brings death and pain, sorrow and regrets).

Thank God for His great love and mercy and grace...we don't deserve anything except the just punishment of a righteous God, death. But God, who is rich in mercy, sent Jesus to rescue and redeem sinners, which includes every person who's ever been born; if we'll just turn in faith to Him.

I was thinking about unanswered prayers and reasons why, one could be that God is allowing us to reap what we sow. David diligently sought The Lord for his son to live and not die, but though God forgave David completely, He didn't intervene.
Sometimes we are reaping the consequences of our sins (sins that have been forgiven by God) and we just have to acknowledge and understand we brought it upon ourselves and deal with it in faith and just trust in Jesus.
Sometimes the consequences we are experiencing are the results of just dumb or ignorant choices, I do believe we can expectantly pray for God to intervene in those situations.

Some examples, in my opinion, a person violates his own body by doing drugs or nicotine or alcohol and has been diagnosed with terminal disease, can God heal and deliver him? Yes, He is sovereign and can do whatever He chooses...but is He obligated to? I don't think He is.
A person commits a crime against society and is incarcerated, he comes to Jesus in prison, can he expect God to step in and release him like He did with Paul ? I don't think so, he will pay the consequences of his sin; forgiven? Yes! Going to heaven? Yes! But he will reap what he's sowed.
Adultery, divorce, children out of wedlock, sexually transmitted disease; forgiveness? Yes! God stepping in and fixing it all? Not likely.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 01 Jan 2020 14:56:32 GMT
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Beholding The Glory of God...

Seeing through the eye of faith is wonderful because if we couldn't "see" through faith then we couldn't have faith/hope/ confidence for what God has promised through Jesus. To behold the glory of God and Jesus with our physical eyes is something I long to do; the disciples did on a daily basis, what a privilege. But the day is coming when we too shall behold Him and what a day that will be... and it will never end, we'll worship Him forever more.

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth." John 1:14

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:9-11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 03 Jan 2020 13:51:50 GMT
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"For the Grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world:

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."
Titus 2:11-14

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Fri, 10 Jan 2020 19:03:40 GMT
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In John chapter ten Jesus gave the parable of the shepherd and his sheep, which those listening didn't understand, so He explains it clearly. Jesus is the good shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep; He is also the door unto salvation, the only door (way).
Then He clearly states that there are other sheep (believers- Gentiles) that He has that will hear Him and believe, and that we will all be one fold with one shepherd.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 18 Jan 2020 16:59:34 GMT
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A Way of Escape...

I have a app on my iPhone from Bible Gateway that has a daily scripture; today is I Corinthians 10:13

""There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye May be able to bear it."

I have been meditating on this scripture as I did my morning walk and all the ways God has given us instruction and wisdom in His Word as how to apply this to our daily lives. First He reminds us sin and the way Satan temps is is not unique to us(though often we might think this...nobody knows how hard this is to overcome, etc) Then He tells us that HE IS FAITHFUL and will not allow

it to be more that we're able to overcome...because there is always a way of escaping and with us TAKING that escape choice, we're able to bear it.

One of the most powerful temptations that's universal to all men is lust, I don't think there's a man who ever lived who hasn't been deluged daily with sexual temptation. We know what it did to David and other Biblical examples, it never turned out as planned. God gives us Proverbs 5-7 to warn and instruct us. Job made a covenant with his eyes not to think or look upon a maiden. Paul says to flee fornication and youthful lust. Joseph literally did this, running from Potiphar's wife. Yet so many people (me included) have ran toward the temptation/sin and have paid dearly for it. Broken marriages, children out of wedlock, STD's, generational curses, and yes, as Proverbs warns, death.

Fear is also a temptation that everyone experiences at one time or another. David said what time I am afraid I will TRUST in The Lord. Paul writes in Philippians when anxiety attacks to pray and give thanks to God. 23 Psalm says " ...I will fear no evil"; Paul in Timothy write that God has not given us a spirit of fear.

And every temptation begins in the mind, our thoughts and attitudes. We're told to walk in the spirit and not the flesh; we're told to cast down imaginations, strongholds, and bring every thought to the obedience of Jesus. We're to wear the whole armor of God; to resist the devil and draw near unto God; we're told to dwell in the secret place of the Most High. Faith, this is our escape...total trust in God's promises to do exactly what His Word says.

Everything we face that tries to draw us away from living in and doing the will of God is sin; and temptations that appear pleasing to the flesh or assaults the mind as tactics of the enemy to ultimately separate us from God. Jesus said to not fear, that He has overcome and defeated the devil, and as Romans 8 reminds us, nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 29 Jan 2020 19:55:18 GMT
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God's Way of Reconciliation...

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseeh you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."
II Corinthians 5:17-21

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 03 Feb 2020 16:53:13 GMT
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I haven't ever spent much time in thought about what heaven will be like because I know it will be so much more than what I could ever imagine; just the thought of no more pain and suffering, fear and sorrow, sickness and disease, temptations and sin, tears and broken hearts, and death makes me yearn for the manifestation of the promises of God. The thought of unending joy upon being in the very presence of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for time without end is a whole lot to attempt to process. Then to know that there's more than that, much more than that, prepared just for believers by our God who's boundless love for us...who so totally don't deserve ANYTHING from God The Father except judgment and eternal punishment...BUT He had a plan from the beginning of reconciliation through the sacrificial death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. I think of the free offer, believe upon The Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved...and remember what Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8; the faith to believe is a gift as well...What a God, what love, what mercy and grace.

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."
I Corinthians 2:9

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where

I am, there ye may be also."
John 14:2-3

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 02 Mar 2020 15:32:33 GMT
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The Rest That Faith Brings...

Romans is such an encouraging book, especially chapter five and verse eight. Everything a believer needs is there and is explained clearly.
Believing these wonderful truths brings peace from God that frees us from trusting in ourselves and our own works and allows us to rest in what Jesus has done at Calvary.
There's a hymn written many years ago (late 1800's) by a lady named Eliza Hewitt that has very deep yet simple lyrics. The title is,

"My Faith Has Found A Resting Place"

one verse says this;

"I need no other argument,

I need no other plea;

It is enough that Jesus died

And that He died for me"

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 23 Apr 2020 21:23:51 GMT
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Biblical stories of redemption...

David, in the OT has always been an example of redemption that I've drawn strength from when I've been tempted to listen to the accusations of Satan. He was nobody in anyone's eyes, a simple shepherd boy with some musical talent and a humble spirit. But God chose him to be His

instrument in ruling over Israel. His story leading up to being the king over God's chosen people is amazing, yet there he was on the roof of the palace looking down upon a beautiful woman named Bathsheba bathing. From there it was all downhill, a lustful glance turned into adultery, the adultery lead to murder to attempt to cover up the sin, compounding it. BUT , as we know God forgave David when he repented and used him once more. But we do know that there were consequences, the child died, his family suffered violence and sorrow, and he wasn't allowed to do the thing he so desired, build the temple. David is a wonderful example of God's redemptive grace.

Peter is another example of redemption in NT, he was a simple fisherman whom
Jesus chose as one of the twelve. He was part of Jesus's closest followers who repeatedly promised his allegiance unto The Lord. Yet when the time of the crucifying of Christ he abandoned Jesus and denied Him three times. Realizing what he had do in fulfilling Jesus' very words it crushed his heart. Yet Jesus forgave Peter and gave him the assignment to feed His sheep. Peter became a powerful, anointed, fearless, man of God preaching the first sermon concerning the revelation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was Peter's coming into his calling.
I love these two men and I'm thankful God had these men's lives recorded for our learning and encouragement. His love and mercy is displayed throughout scripture and I'm thankful for His Word to reveal to me that love.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 25 May 2020 17:06:13 GMT
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I recently joined Facebook and after a season of figuring things out a bit the things that I see as positive are more than I'd expected(family groups sharing the history of the family to young family members with stories and pictures) Reconnecting with old friends and schoolmates, etc.
The negative that I find myself surprised by is the political bickering by professing Christians. Right vs left, Trump vs Biden, Republicans vs Democrats ...hours and hours of arguments between the same folks about the same things. Corona virus is a hoax, a conspiracy, caused by Chinese, caused by Nancy Pelosi, caused by Donald Trump, wear a mask vs ain't nobody making me wear no masks...

So with a grieving heart I posted some scripture and suggested Christians pray instead of say (James 1:19 & II Peter 2:10) and bless their hearts some of the most vocal people that consistently do this click on the "ðŸ‘•" like button, in hardy agreement.
Well if my ivory tower wasn't glass I'd call them out.....ðŸ˜‡
Praying is better than saying many times.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Mon, 25 May 2020 19:31:10 GMT
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<red-faced> I confess, I clicked the like button!

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 25 May 2020 19:44:17 GMT
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Oh yeah? Well now Mr. Eaton...ðŸ˜‚ðŸ˜‚ðŸ˜‚,

We both know that doesn't apply to you...or any of us "overcomers" ðŸ¤-

Toby insists he hit you last....hilarious

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by william on Mon, 25 May 2020 20:18:34 GMT
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There's a new sheriff in town.

File Attachments
1) new_sheriff.jpg, downloaded 12332 times

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Mon, 25 May 2020 20:26:58 GMT
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That's funny, speaking of Barnie, Toby might be out of his allotted bullets, he came out firing but has gone silent. (it takes a minute to dig those bullets out of them official officers shirt pockets)

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 24 Jun 2020 19:50:39 GMT

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Lost Baggage...

I watched a pastor today give a brief word of encouragement from Philippians 3:13-14 and I'd like to share it if I may.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth into those things which are before,
I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

He was stressing the importance of "remembering to forget " those sins/baggage from the past that hinder
our moving forward (usually guilt). Forgetting the past isn't a loss of memory, it's a choice to shut the door on the condemnation/guilt/ weights/baggage and trust in the grace of God that it's under the blood of Jesus Christ and moving forward in faith.
Lose the baggage...

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Sat, 12 Dec 2020 14:08:47 GMT
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"Trust in The Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

I recall being told a few years ago concerning posted scripture by me on this thread, that anyone could quote a scripture and post it, but we should expound upon it and examine the text. I agree in most part, but some scriptures are self explanatory. Could a long discourse be made on these two verses? Certainly, but they are so direct and easy to understand that I will just encourage anyone reading (of the multitude out there) to place your trust in Jesus, and don't get caught up in the worlds distractions, they are nothing but Satans attempt to shake you and cause you to forget your first love , Jesus.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 03 Mar 2021 19:57:01 GMT
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"But let all those that put their trust in Thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because Thou defendest them: let them also that love Thy name be joyful in Thee."
Psalms 5:11

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by Gary on Fri, 05 Mar 2021 15:26:17 GMT
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james wrote on Sat, 12 December 2020 14:08"Trust in The Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
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Years ago, I told someone something the Lord showed me while studying His Word. The Reply was: We need to quit doing all this studying and get out and do something in the Kingdom for Jesus. A few months later I stopped into this persons house and he was busy watching a movie.

Satan walks around like a roaring lion speaking through men trying to take us from God's Word.

"But let all those that put their trust in Thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because Thou defendest them: let them also that love Thy name be joyful in Thee."
Psalms 5:11

Amen
With everything going in these last days We know that God is there defending us for He will never leave of forsake us.

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 06 Jul 2021 15:16:11 GMT
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"Herein is Love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."
I John 4:10

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Thu, 14 Oct 2021 14:22:25 GMT
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Encouragement From The Word of God

Paul prayed this prayer over the church of Ephesus:

"That HE would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man;

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

May be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Unto HIM be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Ephesians 3:16-21

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Wed, 24 Nov 2021 12:47:35 GMT
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Thanksgiving is for giving thanks, I'm thankful for God's everlasting mercy, grace, and love extended to me every day; mercies that are new every morning. I'm thankful for His truth that I can place my trust in for salvation, health, peace, and eternal life.

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.
For The Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations."
Psalms 100:4-5

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 26 Apr 2022 16:03:15 GMT
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Promises, Promises...

There are many promises in God's Word, they're all activated by a person's willingness to believe them. That belief is not a natural trait of man, in fact, it's our nature to doubt everything. The ability to believe is a gift from God that is called faith. Every action taken by God to redeem us from our hopeless state, brought on by our rebelliousness against God, has to be received through faith as we see it revealed in His Word. Here is a couple of scriptures that should bring assurance and build the faith of the reader...

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto The Father, but by Me.' John 14:6

"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25

Subject: Re: Bulletin Board
Posted by james on Tue, 31 Oct 2023 11:37:46 GMT
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Just wanted to drop in and say hi, it's the day that is made by The Lord, I will rejoice and be glad in it. Though the world (and most everyone I know celebrate it as Halloween) I refuse to believe Jesus is pleased with this day's revelry.
Trunk or Treat, Fall Festival, are names given by the church to describe this day's festivities; I've always believed that "if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it's a duck."
I've mellowed a bit on Christmas and Easter, I said a bitðŸ™„, but I can't find any Biblical ties to indicate a reason for followers of Christ to jump right into the world's celebration of Halloween. I heard said, but literally thousands of kids come through our church parking lots collecting candy, it might be their only chance to be exposed to Jesus and His love shown by Christians (dressed up like all manner of-----) giving out candy???
I pray ðŸ™•ðŸ•» I'm wrong and souls were saved and the church will be filled with neighborhood

kids next Sunday....
I know, preaching to the choir, or venting in vain!
Love you guys.â•¤ï¸•ðŸ™•ðŸ•»