

THE NEWSLETTER

A Ministry of Cornerstone Fellowship of Coatesville Pennsylvania

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VOLUME 34, Number 8

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015

YOU CAN'T DRINK GRAPES!

In the Lord's Supper, two symbols are used: bread and wine. The bread symbolizes Christ's body; the wine His shed blood—but you knew that, didn't you? But where did that juice come from? You're thinking – DUH — where do you think the juice came from? It came from grapes, luscious and ripe, harvested from the vine. But what had to happen for those grapes to become liquid? They had to be CRUSHED so that all of the juice would flow out of them.

Do you see the parallel in the life of our Lord Jesus? To fulfill His purpose for coming to this earth, he too needed to be CRUSHED. He came to pay the penalty for our sin. That price was death, a sacrifice He paid when He died on the cross. Even though Roman soldiers carried out the execution, the penalty was exacted by God the Father Himself. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise [crush] Him."

It's true. You can't drink grapes. They must be crushed to give forth juice. And that is exactly what happened to Jesus. He bled and died that we might have eternal life. That's why we drink the juice when we celebrate communion. It symbolizes the blood of One who was wounded for our transgressions and bruised [crushed] for our iniquities.

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**Natural life came by God's breath;  
Eternal life comes by Christ's death!**  
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READ YOUR BIBLE

Continuing to provide suggested passages to help you toward achieving the discipline of studying God's Word, please use the following as your guide for the months of August & September. We will never understand how to walk the Jesus way unless we immerse ourselves in the guidebook He has provided -- the Bible.

August

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Isaiah 50:4-11 | 16. Revelation 5:9-14 |
| 2. Matthew 7:21-27 | 17. Psalm 46:1-11 |
| 3. Genesis 1:1-25 | 18. Psalm 121:1-8 |
| 4. Genesis 1:26-2:4 | 19. Isaiah 40:21-31 |
| 5. Job 38:1-18 | 20. Lamentations 3:25-33 |
| 6. Psalm 19:1-6 | 21. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 |
| 7. Psalm 65:1-13 | 22. 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 |
| 8. Psalm 104:1-35 | 23. Philippians 4:4-20 |
| 9. Isaiah 40:12-24 | 24. Job 19:13-27 |
| 10. Psalm 24:1-10 | 25. John 11:20-27 |
| 11. Psalm 42:1-11 | 26. 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 |

12. Psalm 139:1-24
13. Psalm 145:1-21
14. Isaiah 6:1-13
15. Revelation 4:1-11

September

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Psalm 32:1-11 | 16. Isaiah 42:1-9 |
| 2. Psalm 92:1-15 | 17. Isaiah 43:1-13 |
| 3. Isaiah 12:1-6 | 18. Isaiah 51:1-11 |
| 4. Isaiah 35:1-10 | 19. Ezekiel 34:7-16 |
| 5. Luke 15:1-10 | 20. Hosea 11:1-11 |
| 6. Luke 15:11-32 | 21. Joshua 23:1-13 |
| 7. 2 Samuel 12:1-15 | 22. 1 Samuel 12:13-25 |
| 8. 2 Kings 7:3-10 | 23. Matthew 6:19-24 |
| 9. 2 Chronicles 7:11-22 | 24. Luke 14:15-24 |
| 10. 2 Chronicles 36:11-21 | 25. John 6:53-69 |
| 11. Isaiah 5:1-7 | 26. Philippians 3:1-16 |
| 12. Malachi 3:6-12 | 27. 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 |
| 13. Matthew 25:14-30 | 28. Genesis 28:10-22 |
| 14. Psalm 47:1-9 | 29. Exodus 3:1-17 |
| 15. Psalm 67:1-7 | 30. Exodus 13:17-22 |

A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

Thoughts based on Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Through the simplicity and power of this passage we are challenged to live a life of service through the simple challenge to continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God. Do you know why?

Because GOD IS APPROACHABLE

Jesus called God "Abba." The Aramaic word *Abba* means "Daddy." God, the Creator, is approachable in the most intimate way, as our heavenly Father. That approachability gives us strength because God calls us to himself even as we are sinners. God welcomes us, meets us where we are, forgives us, and calls us to be more like Christ. The good news is that through the Spirit, we can fulfill our calling to be like Christ.

Because GOD TAKES UP PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN US

There was a little boy who greeted his preacher by putting his hand on his heart and saying, "Jesus lives in MY heart."

The preacher smiled and asked how he knew. The boy said, "Cause I feel him bumping around in there."

When we truly accept Christ, he takes up residence in our hearts. He isn't a temporary guest, but a permanent resident. He said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." Christ is with us

always and we become “a sacrifice of praise to God.” Our actions become “the fruit of lips that confess his name.”

Because **GOD'S PRESENCE CREATES A MUTUAL LOVE**

Paul writes, “Let mutual love continue.” When love takes up residence in our hearts it transforms our lives and we want to share it with others. That sharing transforms us into the likeness and living image of Christ.

There were two brothers, who were likable enough but they had a bit of a wild streak. It got so wild they became sheep thieves, earning their money off the local farmers. As happens to all thieves, one day they were caught. Rather than kill them, the villagers decided to brand the two brothers on the forehead with the letters S.T. for sheep thief. The action so embarrassed one young man, he left and never came back. The other brother was so remorseful, he chose to stay and reconcile himself to the villagers he had wronged.

At first they were skeptical. Most wouldn't have anything to do with him. But he was determined to make reparation for his offenses. Whenever there was sickness, the sheep thief was there to help care for the sick. Whenever work needed to be done, the sheep thief showed up to help. It made no difference whether the person was rich or poor, the sheep thief was there to lend a hand. Soon he was an integral part of the community, never accepting pay for anything. His life was lived for others. He became a well-respected friend of all.

Years later, a traveler came through town. He sat at the sidewalk café eating lunch and noticed the respected old man, with the strange brand on his forehead, sitting nearby. It seemed everybody in town stopped to play or give and receive an affectionate hug. The stranger asked the café owner about the old man. “What does that strange brand, ‘ST,’ on his forehead stand for?” The café owner, a contemporary of the old man, thought for a moment then said, “It happened so long ago that I don't rightly remember. But I think it stands for Saint.”

No matter what has happened in your life, no matter what you have done or left undone, it's never too late to change. God wants a personal relationship with you. Know the forgiveness of your sins. Open your heart, give him your life, and let it become a “sacrifice of praise.”

Keep on loving each other...

Do not forget to entertain strangers...

Remember those in prison...

Marriage should be honored by all...

Keep your lives free from the love of money...

Remember your leaders...

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

JUDGING! REALLY?

Do you know the favorite Bible verse of those who DO NOT believe in the Bible's authority? Think about it. It's not hard. The favorite Bible verse of those who do not believe in the Bible is: “Judge not, that you be not judged.” Now these folks cannot tell you where this verse is in the Bible, because they don't read it. But they have heard it is in the Scriptures somewhere, so if they don't like something you say when you pronounce something right or wrong, they whip out Matthew 7:1, and that is supposed to be the end of the discussion.

One of the problems is, if you tell others they have no right to judge someone else, you have thereby judged them for judging. You have done precisely what you claim to be against – judging.

That makes you a hypocrite.

But that then begs the question – why is it wrong to be a hypocrite? Who made that judgment? We just assume that to be a true statement, which is a pre-supposition. But pre-suppositions need a foundation to be authoritative. For example, the teachings of Jesus Christ are authoritative for those who believe He is the Son of God.

Each one of us has a world-view on which we base our lives, pre-suppositions we operate under and make decisions on. Because of our country's Christian heritage, most Americans, either consciously or subconsciously, derive their pre-suppositions about life and morality from the Bible.

Ask an average man on the street if lying is right or wrong behavior, and he is going to tell you it's wrong. Ask him who decided lying was wrong, and he will either say, “It just is” or “My parents taught me it was wrong” or “The Bible says so.” However, “It just is,” is not an answer to the questions; it is an opinion. Neither is “My Parents taught me.” Parents are an authority figure, but they do not define morality in any absolute way because they are humans whose opinions are subject to change. The Bible says so,” is a legitimate answer because if you believe the Bible is God's Word, then you want to obey God so you don't fall into disfavor with a supreme being who controls your eternal destiny.

Many Americans will say they subscribe to the idea that a person should be free to do whatever he wishes “as long as it does not hurt anyone else.” This view is based on the pre-supposition that freedom is good, and it is morally wrong to hurt someone else. But Who made the rules? Who says freedom is morally superior to bondage? And why is it wrong to hurt someone else? Who says? To injure or hurt someone else goes against biblical teaching. That is where the idea of it being wrong to hurt someone comes from in the first place. The Golden Rule was given to us by Jesus Christ.

Some societies use an atheistic state government as the agent for defining what is right or wrong behavior. It's called totalitarianism for a reason. In Muslim countries, Islamic law and teaching dominate the people's behavior. Islam defines good and evil, wrong and right. Most European countries have what's left of the Christian heritage to guide them, although the continent today is mostly secular with Islam rising as a possible replacement to secularism in the coming decades.

It is a healthy exercise to ask ourselves where we get the moral values that govern our lives. Is it each person for himself, or do we acknowledge a higher power with authority to declare such? God calls on all men to submit to His will and authority. Let us pray that America will become a God-fearing people again. In Matthew 10:28 Jesus declared, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both body and soul in hell.” *afajournal June 2015*

BY FAITH

Sometimes we may think of our spiritual heritage as if it were a delicate piece of lace gently handed down to us through many generations. Instead, the faith of our fathers is a tear-stained and blood-spattered tapestry. The fabric was not woven hastily or easily.

Sometimes we make the mistake of talking of our spiritual ancestors too much and their faith too little. Who was Abraham, alone? Separate him from faith and its works and he was

nothing. Who was Stephen? Who was Priscilla? These people must be remembered because they had faith and because of what they did by faith.

Some people think faith just “appears” like a thunderbolt from the sky. Some may have it; others may not. Others believe they have reached the limits of their faith; they can simply go no further, and they will not attempt to grow in faith. The Bible says that faith comes from hearing God’s Word. Is God limited? Is His Word limited? Then who limits our faith? Only we do the limiting when we stop growing by not studying the Bible.

Faith is belief in unseen things. Our fathers had faith, so they acted. The book of Hebrews gives a long list of heroes of faith. These people were not content to merely believe, but their belief was strong enough to move them to action. Faith without works is dead because it is alone. Abraham could say he believed God had a new land for him, but if he had never moved toward that land, would we think he really believed God?

Moses could have lived a life of ease in an Egyptian palace, but rather he chose to suffer with the people of God. “By faith he forsook Egypt” (Hebrews 11:27).

The faith of the ages is centered around the cross. The cross is the focal point of Christianity. God sought man and man sought God, and they met at a tree on Calvary.

The cross divided men of faith. The Jews were on the dark side of the cross, but when they offered their sacrifices in faith they looked forward to God’s own sacrifice.

Christians live on the light side of the cross. We can look back to Calvary and see the sacrifice. We can appreciate it because God has given us so much revelation in the Christian age. Our basic faith is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who died, was buried, and rose again. Immersion is a wonderful symbol of our death to sin, burial with Christ, and resurrection to a new life. The Lord’s Supper reminds us of the price that was paid for our salvation, and we look forward to Jesus’ second coming.

The Christian faith has conquered time and death because it is of God. Only He knows the long list of martyrs who by faith have died for the faith. He knows the ones who have continually given themselves that the gospel could be told and retold. Our faith should be revolutionary, not for revolution’s sake, but for Christ’s sake. We do not claim that this faith is from earth, so we should never allow it to become entangled with things of earth. We must always be energetic to deliver to the new generation the faith which was once for all given to the saints.

The faithful men and women of the past have often been called fools, but let us be thankful for them. And let us grow in faith that we may give it to others.

A to Z

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know

Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to thee
Move out of “Camp Complaining”
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To “thank” is a command
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky
We’ll run the race with gratitude
Xalting God most high
Yes, there’ll be good times and yes some will be
 bad, but...
Zion waits in glory... where none are ever sad!

DID YOU KNOW?

You were planned for God’s pleasure. The moment you were born into the world, God was there as an unseen witness, smiling at your birth. He wanted you alive, and your arrival gave Him great pleasure. God did not need to create you, but He chose to create you for His own enjoyment. You exist for His benefit, His glory, His purpose, and His delight. Bringing enjoyment to God, living for His pleasure, is the first purpose of your life. When you fully understand this truth, you will never again have a problem with feeling insignificant. It proves your worth. If you are that important to God, and He considers you valuable enough to keep with Him for eternity, what greater significance could you have? The Bible says *Because of His love God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children – this was His pleasure and purpose* (Ephesians 1:5).

THE BLESSING OF THORNS

Sandra felt as low as the heels of her shoes as she pushed against a November gust and the florist shop door. Her life had been easy, like a spring breeze. Then in the fourth month of her second pregnancy, a minor accident stole her ease.

During this Thanksgiving week she would have delivered a son. She grieved over her loss. As if that weren’t enough, her husband’s company threatened a transfer. Then her sister, whose annual holiday visit she coveted, called saying she could not come.

What’s worse, Sandra’s friend infuriated her by suggesting her grief was a God-given path to maturity that would allow her to empathize with others who suffer. “She has no idea what I’m feeling,” thought Sandra with a shudder.

“Thanksgiving? Thankful for what?” she wondered aloud. For a careless driver whose truck was hardly scratched when he rear-ended her? For an airbag that saved her life but took that of her child?”

“Good afternoon, can I help you?” The shop’s clerk approached startled her. “I...I need an arrangement,” stammered Sandra. “For

Thanksgiving? Do you want beautiful but ordinary, or would you like to challenge the day with a customer favorite I call the Thanksgiving Special?" asked the shop clerk.

"I'm convinced that flowers tell stories," she continued. "Are you looking for something that conveys 'gratitude' this Thanksgiving?"

"Not exactly!" Sandra blurted out. "In the last five months, everything that could go wrong has gone wrong." Sandra regretted her outburst, and was surprised when the shop clerk said, "I have the perfect arrangement for you."

Then the door's small bell rang, and the shop clerk said, "Hi Barbara... let me get your order." She politely excused herself and walked toward a small workroom, then quickly reappeared, carrying an arrangement of greenery, bows, and long-stemmed thorny roses. Except the ends of the rose stems were neatly snipped... there were no flowers. "Want this in a box?" asked the clerk.

Sandra watched for the customer's response. Was this a joke? Who would want rose stems with no flowers?! She waited for laughter, but neither woman laughed, "Yes, please," Barbara replied with an appreciative smile.

"You'd think after three years of getting the special, I wouldn't be so moved by its significance, but I can feel it right here, all over again," she said as she gently tapped her chest.

"Uhh," stammered Sandra, "that lady just left with, uhh... she just left with no flowers!" "Right... I cut off the flowers. That's the Special... I call it the Thanksgiving Thorns Bouquet." "Oh, come on, you can't tell me someone is willing to pay for that?" exclaimed Sandra. "Barbara came into the shop three years ago feeling very much like you feel today," explained the clerk. "She thought she had very little to be thankful for. She had lost her father to cancer, the family business was failing, her son was into drugs, and she was facing major surgery." "That same year I had lost my husband," continued the clerk, "and for the first time in my life, I had to spend the holidays alone. I had no children, no husband, no family nearby, and too great a debt to allow any travel."

"So what did you do?" asked Sandra. "I learned to be thankful for thorns," answered the clerk quietly. "I've always thanked God for good things in life and never thought to ask Him why those good things happened to me, but when bad stuff hit, did I ever ask! It took time for me to learn that dark times are important. I always enjoyed the 'flowers' of life, but it took thorns to show me the beauty of God's comfort. You know, the Bible says that God comforts us when we're afflicted, and from His consolation we learn to comfort others."

Sandra sucked in her breath as she thought about the very thing her friend had tried to tell her. "I guess the truth is I don't want comfort. I've lost a baby and I'm angry with God." Just then someone else walked in the shop. "Hey, Phil!" shouted the clerk to the balding, rotund man. "My wife sent me in to get our usual Thanksgiving arrangement... twelve thorny, long-stemmed stems!" laughed Phil as the clerk handed him a tissue-wrapped arrangement from the refrigerator.

"Those are for your wife?" asked Sandra incredulously. "Do you mind me asking why she wants something that looks like that?" "No...I'm glad you asked," Phil replied. "Four years ago my wife and I nearly divorced. After forty years, we were in a real mess,

but with the Lord's grace and guidance, we slogged through problem after problem. He rescued our marriage. Jenny here (the clerk) told me she kept a vase of rose stems to remind her of what she learned from 'thorny' times, and that was good enough for me. I took home some of those stems. My wife and I decided to label each one for a specific 'problem' and give thanks to Him for what that problem taught us." As Phil paid the clerk, he said to Sandra, "I highly recommend the Special!"

"I don't know if I can be thankful for the thorns in my life," Sandra said to the clerk. "It's all too... fresh." "Well," the clerk replied carefully, "my experience has shown me that thorns make roses more precious. We treasure God's providential care more during trouble than at any other time. Remember, it was a crown of thorns that Jesus wore so we might know His love. Don't resent the thorns."

Tears rolled down Sandra's cheeks. For the first time since the accident, she loosened her grip on resentment. "I'll take those twelve long-stemmed thorns, please," she managed to choke out. "I hoped you would," said the clerk gently. "I'll have them ready in a minute." "Thank you. What do I owe you?" asked Sandra. "Nothing," said the clerk. "Nothing but a promise to allow God to heal your heart. The first year's arrangement is always on me." The clerk smiled and handed a card to Sandra. "I'll attach this card to your arrangement, but maybe you'd like to read it first." It read:

"Dear God, I have never thanked you for my thorns. I have thanked you a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my thorns. Teach me the glory of the cross I bear; teach me the value of my thorns. Show me that I have climbed closer to you along the path of pain. Show me that, through my tears, the colors of your rainbow look much more brilliant."

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1. It is a fact that **God loves you** (John 3:16).
2. It is a fact that **you are a sinner** (Romans 3:23).
3. It is a fact that **you are now dead in sin** (Romans 6:23).
4. It is a fact that **Christ died for you** (Romans 5:8).
5. It is a fact that **you can be saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ** (Acts 16:30,31).
6. It is a fact that **you can be saved and know it** (1 John 5:10-13).
7. It is a fact that **you are now a Child of God and you are to obey Him** (Acts 5:29).

GOD CAN USE YOU

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember...

Noah was a drunk
Abraham was too old
Isaac was a day dreamer
Jacob was a liar
Leah was not attractive
Joseph was abused
Moses had a stuttering problem
Gideon was afraid

*Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
Rahab was a prostitute*

Jeremiah and Timothy were too young

David had an affair and was a murderer

Jonah ran from God

Naomi was a widow

Job went bankrupt

John the Baptist ate bugs

Peter denied Christ

The Disciples fell asleep while Jesus was praying

Martha worried about everything

The Samaritan Woman was divorced, more than once

Zaccheus was too small

Paul was too religious

Timothy had an ulcer... AND

Lazarus was dead!

NO MORE EXCUSES! God can use you to your full potential
Remember.. You aren't the MESSAGE! You are the messenger!

JESUS CHRIST LIVES

Each and every Sunday, Christians all around the world gather to once again reaffirm our faith in the **RISEN CHRIST!** No belief among Christians is more basic or more universally treasured, for upon it depends the very essence of faith, of hope and of love. For if he who was the fullest expression of the selfless love of God did not arise from the dead, then we are truly of all men most miserable. If Jesus Christ remained in the grave, then not only is hope dead, but love also.

BUT HE DID NOT REMAIN IN THE GRAVE, and because he lives, we live also. Because he lives, we have hope of life eternal. Because we have this assurance and this joy, we have a message to share, a gospel to proclaim, a life to offer to the world. From the empty tomb springs into power the world mission of the Christian church.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE LIVING CHRIST

The Gospel writers never claimed that any man saw the resurrection of Jesus, nor do they attempt to describe it. But they do set forth with amazing simplicity a convincing record of those experiences which were connected with the resurrection and which antedated the written records by at least two decades. The earliest written account seems to be that of Paul in 1 Corinthians 15. Perhaps the latest is that of John 20-21. The accounts agree on an empty tomb and on the fact that Jesus made several appearances to his disciples after his resurrection.

It is the appearances of Jesus that established the truth of his resurrection. Matthew's combination of the fact of an empty tomb with an account of these appearances give his record much weight. The synoptic writers list the appearances as follows: (1) to the two Marys at the tomb at dawn; (2) to the eleven in Galilee some time later; (3) Luke reports that Jesus Christ appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and also to Simon Peter; (4) to the eleven and their companions in Jerusalem. Of these, Matthew includes only the first two.

Luke has the most complete account, although he does not include an appearance in Galilee. One-half of his report is given to the Emmaus story. All of the appearances that he records are near or in Jerusalem, and the disciples are commanded to stay in the city. There are no appearances recorded as having taken place at the tomb. Luke's emphasis upon the gospel being for the whole world is borne out by his report of the wider circle who experienced the resurrection appearances. Luke alone reports an appearance to Simon, and a promise of Christ to the disciples that they should receive "power from on high." All of these

experiences occur on the day of the resurrection. He concludes his Gospel with a brief narrative of the ascension of Christ. In his second volume (Acts) he provides a more complete story of this event in the life of our Lord (Acts 1:6-11).

The artistry of Luke in telling of these great events so concisely is remarkable. The Emmaus companions tell the eleven what happened out of a full heart. They had actually been with the One who revealed to them the loving and forgiving God. They were completely persuaded that he was alive in the world. Even as they talked, Jesus appeared (Luke 24:36). His words were most appropriate and typical of his ministry: "Peace be unto you." Luke dispels any idea that the Christ was a ghost by his comment that the disciples erroneously supposed "that they had seen a spirit" (verse 37). The risen Christ then offered visible evidences that he was there before them in body. It was all too good to be true, and they disbelieved for joy (verse 41)! The Savior had restored peace and happiness to these men by his presence, which brought purpose back into their lives. This is what people still need today. **AND JESUS IS STILL THE PERSON WHO CAN DO IT!**

THE MESSAGE OF THE LIVING CHRIST

The passage in Luke 24:44-49 is possibly the earliest form of the Great Commission. Certainly, it provides a rich background for the mission which Christ entrusted to his church. The Risen Lord reaffirmed his former teachings, now made especially plain because of the resurrection. He drew upon Moses, the prophets, and the psalms. The messianic psalms were very important to the early church for they provided a rich devotional literature which spoke to them about Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the promises of old. Jesus opened their minds to the prophetic meaning of the Old Testament basis for their faith. The Scriptures had foretold what had happened (verse 46) and what was still to come (verse 47). The universality of the gospel is made clear in verse 47: "that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." This is the good news that was destined to change the world.

The personal challenge in Jesus' message was that these disciples were to be the witnesses of these great events. But they were not to undertake their mission in their own strength. They were to wait in the city until they "are clothed with power from on high" (verse 49).

THE MEANING OF THE LIVING CHRIST

There are several implications of the resurrection. First, the resurrection gives every person of faith the assurance that he serves a living Christ. The uniqueness of the Christian revelation is that its fullest unveiling of truth about God is in an eternal Person, not simply in a set of dogma.

Second, the resurrection confirms our hope of eternal life. The risen Christ has meant hope for countless millions of people. The by-products of the Christian influence have been tremendous in the realm of humaneness – mercy to the sick, the blind, the maimed, the insane, the prisoner of war and even the prisoners of the state. The by-products in behalf of peace have been developing slowly. To be sure, we still have wars, but warfare is not accepted as the only and best method of settling disputes as it once was.

Third, the new value placed on human beings as persons – on children, on women, on the poor as well as the rich, on people of all colors – this has come about because Jesus Christ came into

the world to show men the worth of the human soul. Yes, the perspective of history is changed because of the Christian gospel. To speak of the Christian Era is not to use an empty term. And the end is not yet. For this same Jesus whom the disciples saw ascend into heaven shall come in like manner as he was seen to go (Acts 1:11). History which began with God will end with God's victory.

Fourth, the resurrection gives mission to the church. It is inconceivable that men and women with such a message to share should require persuading to support the mission of the church. Yet that is often the case. Not because the gospel is at fault, but because so many who bask in the sunshine of the divine presence and who reap the fruits of the Christian fellowship feel so little responsibility to do their part. To that end, we need to remind ourselves always of the words of our Lord, "The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." And also, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." In our case, we are to be his witnesses in Coatesville, Downingtown, Elverson, Exton, Wagontown, Honey Brook, Morgantown, West Chester, Gap, Lancaster, Thorndale, Sadsburyville, East Fallowfield, Modena, Suplee, Chester County, Lancaster County, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, the United States and the world.

If we really believe in our hearts that Jesus Christ is risen, THEN WE MUST BE LOYAL FOLLOWERS OF OUR LORD. May He find us faithful!!

TAKING THE CROSS

Read Matthew 10:24-39

The cross. We see it today as the rough, wooden instrument of death for Jesus Christ.

But before His followers had even a faint idea that Jesus would die that way, He spoke of the cross. As He stood near the Sea of Galilee preparing the disciples to reach "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 10:6), Jesus told them, "He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:38).

The men didn't associate the cross with Jesus' approaching death, but they knew what a cross signified. Crucifixions were a common method of execution. The disciples, undoubtedly, had a vivid picture of the agony, punishment, and misery that a cross represented. Taking a cross meant walking life's toughest road.

So why was Jesus promoting cross-bearing? Because He wanted disciples who were willing to face the difficulties it would take to serve His cause. Soon Jesus would be killed, and His followers would have to carry on His message alone. To stand against the forces that would seek to quiet the gospel would take total commitment.

That's still our challenge today. Are we willing to take the cross and serve Christ in self-denial? The task is great – but the reward is eternal.

After all that Christ has done for us, how can we do less than give Him our best?

CAN A MAN SATISFY MEN?

Jeremiah 8:22

Life seems to abound with problems. Perplexities stare us in the face. Physical ailments plague us. Death comes near us. We

search for answers to satisfy us, but we so often seem to draw a blank.

The humanistic culture around us claims it has the answers. Personal injury lawyers offer their services from bill boards. High-tech medical advances promise cures for the worst of diseases. Self-help organizations offer solutions.

Some of these may have some help. But often we are too ready to fall for hollow promises and artificial aid. Can a man satisfy all man's needs?

The disciples ended up where most of us do when we look all around us for answers. Their question reflected despair and doubt. How could there be a source of help to satisfy 5,000 people? A small boy's lunch, five small loaves and two fish divided by 5,000 people surely did not promise satisfaction! "No," they must have been thinking, "We have no source from which to supply the needs of all these people."

But in their midst was a Man who could satisfy men. He could take of the paltry efforts and resources that men possessed and wondrously multiply it to complete satisfaction. He was, in the words of this Man Himself, "the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever" (John 6:51).

Why do we so often forget, as did the disciples in Mark 8:14-21? Have we hardened our hearts to the resources of Heaven? God forbid. Let us look to the Man, Christ Jesus, as our first and primary source to satisfy the deep needs that we experience, lest we sink in despair at the inadequacy of man.

FIVE REASONS WHY A CHRISTIAN SHOULD NOT WORRY

God not only commands but gives reasons why worry is prohibited for the obedient Christian.

1. Prohibited - Jesus prohibited worry (Matthew 6:25, 31, 34) and Paul, writing by the Holy Spirit also prohibited worry (Philippians 4:6).
2. Person of God - God is our loving Father (Matthew 7:11). God is our supplying Father (Philippians 4:19).
3. Promises of God - He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). He gives many promises (2 Peter 1:4).
4. Past Providence - David's example (1 Samuel 17:34-37). Daily experiences (Philippians 4:12, 13).
5. Prophecy - Shows plan (Isaiah 46:10). Shows power (Isaiah 46:11).

FOUR REPLACEMENTS FOR WORRY

1. Believe Who God says He is and what He will do (Isaiah 46:10,11).
2. Obey God's plan for thinking (Philippians 4:8,9).
3. Obey God's plan for doing (Matthew 6:33).
4. Obey God's plan for peace (Philippians 4:6) - Praying and Praising
God offers full life (John 10:10) **LIVE IT!**
Stop worrying! Start praising your Father!

YOUTH NEWS

DON'T FORGET!!

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (grades 6-12) - WEDNESDAYS, 7-8:30 pm weekly (following the Mid-Week Worship Celebration)! Come and experience it! Bring your friends!!

YOUTH SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP - THURSDAYS at 7pm (EVERY YOUTH is invited!) This group is on hiatus until fall.

YOUTH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP - for Jr & Sr High - 9:30 am
Sunday mornings

Worship Celebrations - Sundays at 8:15 and 10:45 am and
Wednesdays at 6:30pm

PLEASE HELP US OUT!

EMPTY INKJET PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Please donate your empty inkjet printer cartridges to the youth group to be recycled. A container is placed in the **coat room** to receive your donations. **KEEP THOSE CARTRIDGES COMING!** We appreciate every bit of help we receive.

EVENTS:

Saturday-Sunday, August 1-2 - **BEACH TRIP and OUTDOOR CONCERT**

Saturday, August 8 - **POOL PARTY**

Saturday, August 22 - **WHITE WATER RAFTING**

CHILDREN'S NEWS

COOL KIDS - Children, 4 years old up through grade 3 are invited to participate in COOL Kids on Sunday mornings at both the 8:15 and 10:45 celebration services. Following the praise time and the reading of scripture in the Worship Center, kids are dismissed to ROOM 108. COOL Kids (Children Of Our Lord Kids) helps kids learn to celebrate Christ in a way they enjoy and become excited about.

SOULED OUT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Melinda Bienkowski will be asking for volunteers to provide food & help for **Souled Out 2015** on Saturday, September 12. Please be ready to sign up. Come for the food, come for the concerts, come for the fun, come for the fellowship – whatever the reason – **COME to SOULED OUT 2015**. Bring your friends and families!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUPS RESUME

Spiritual Growth Groups will resume in September. Currently, there are groups that meet Sundays at 2:30pm and 6pm; Wednesdays at 7pm; Thursdays at 10am and 2 groups at 7pm, plus 1 group at 7pm for YOUTH. SGGs are an excellent way to grow in our faith while forming wonderful relationships with other members of our fellowship. Watch for the sign up sheets and don't hesitate to sign up. Spaces are limited in each group. Spiritual Growth Groups resume Sunday, September 27.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS FOR MEN & WOMEN

Bible study groups for men and women meet each week. **Promise Keepers**, an open Bible study group for men meets each Tuesday at 7pm in Little House # 2. If you have questions, please speak to Glen Warren, the group's leader.

Monday Night Bible Study for Women, an open Bible study group for women meets on Monday at 7pm in Room 103. This fall's teachers are Ruth Parker and Lois Jensen. You won't want to miss a single week. This group resumes meeting on Monday, September 21.

MARKS OF FAMOUS MEN

Connect each man with a characteristic or event.

ABRAHAM	BELOVED PHYSICIAN
ADAM	BETRAYER
CAIN	DENIER
DANIEL	DESERTER
DAVID	DOUBTER
JEPHTHAH	FAITHFUL
JEREMIAH	FIRST MAN
JOB	FIRST MURDERER
JOHN MARK	LION'S DEN
JUDAS	MARTYR
LUKE	MEEK
METHUSELAH	MISSIONARY
MOSES	OLDEST MAN
NOAH	PATIENT
PAUL	PSALMIST
PETER	RASH VOW
SAMSON	STRONG
SOLOMON	THE ARK
STEPHEN	WEeping PROPHET
THOMAS	WISE

Find the words from above

K	F	N	A	M	T	S	E	D	L	O	L	U	R	K	R	A	M
E	R	I	R	P	A	T	I	E	N	T	U	H	S	E	W	D	S
E	I	A	R	N	A	M	T	S	R	I	F	R	T	E	T	A	M
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M	S	C	K	N	T	O	U	R	L	E	T	P	P	O	E	U	P
Y	I	I	O	R	H	M	E	T	H	U	I	E	H	J	K	S	S
R	M	A	W	S	A	O	U	E	W	N	A	T	E	E	M	T	E
A	L	N	O	R	D	E	J	R	G	O	F	P	N	R	B	R	S
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O	S	B	V	F	R	N	R	T	O	E	J	H	T	M	A	N	M
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I	A	L	E	I	N	A	D	J	E	P	H	T	H	A	H	A	H
M	L	T	L	O	M	S	M	R	R	R	E	I	N	E	D	E	R
L	I	O	N	S	D	E	N	O	M	O	N	O	M	O	L	O	S

FAITHFULNESS IN ALL THINGS

Souled Out 2015

**CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015
BEGINNING AT 2 pm**

Here at the church!

**Join us for a day of concerts, worship & prayer, and dinner on the grounds!
There will be children's activities, and continuous prayer.**

SOULED OUT 2015 SCHEDULE

RAYMOND LEE BAND

DEEP SEEDED

KINDRED CROSS

Speaker - The Reverend Mr. Robert W. Rice

THE CORD

AND DON'T FORGET -- THE BIZARRE BAZAAR

**Something will be missing
IF YOU ARE NOT HERE!**

PLAN NOW to be here! Fellowship with old friends, make new ones, enjoy good food, music and worship the LORD! INVITE EVERYONE YOU KNOW TO COME WITH YOU OR MEET YOU HERE!!!! Watch for the sign up sheets and volunteer to help!

You won't want to miss this special day!

RAIN or SHINE! 2pm until dusk

Flyers and hand-out invitations are now available!