

# THE NEWSLETTER

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## EFFECTIVE WITNESSES

*You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and the ends of the earth Acts 1:8*

*...that you may show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light 1 Peter 2:9.*

When a certain wealthy man died, 40 sundials of various shapes and sizes were found among his collection of antiques. They were stored in a windowless room, displayed in special cabinets or standing on the floor. No one could tell the time by looking at them because they were kept inside. Only the sunshine can make sundials functional.

We Christians have been called out of the gloom and darkness of sin to bear witness to those about us of our Savior's love, mercy and forgiving grace. If you will, we are called to be **Sundials**, becoming functional when the **Son** shines on us and through us. To be of value to the lost we must keep ourselves close to God and never let the things of the world come between ourselves and Him. Only as the glory of Christ shines through us, can we remind sinners that the hours of life's earthly day are quickly passing. Soon the night is coming when the opportunity for salvation and service will end.

As God chose a nation to reach other nations (Israel), His Son has chosen us to reach other people. We will never meet anyone who does not need Jesus more than he or she needs anything or anyone else. All people need Christ, and Christ came to serve all people. Are we a help or a hindrance to Him?

There is no greater power on earth than the power of the Holy Spirit. There is no greater task on earth than to witness with the Spirit for Christ.

Christ-like personalities are imperatively required if the Christian message is to reach our needy world. Nothing can take their place. Words are empty unless the speaker is Christ-like. Works are meaningless unless the doer is Christ-like. It's no wonder then, that at the very beginning of the Christian era we find the promise of Acts 1:8.

So, we believers must avoid the danger of wasting our potential by just being useless "sundials" hidden in the darkness of spiritual indifference. Today, this moment, we are called to be shining witnesses, impressing on those about us that now is the accepted time to receive Christ and seek to live for His glory. To so live, so that as people get to know us better they will get to know Christ better. We are called to be effective witnesses. The

power of the Holy Spirit made the early disciples effective witnesses. Their witness was to operate in an ever-expanding circle, first in Jerusalem, then through Judea and Samaria, and then to the ends of the earth.

**A witness is one who says "I know this is true."** In a court of law a person cannot give as evidence something that was told to him; it must be a personal experience. A witness does not say, "I think so." He says "I know so!"

**A real witness is not a witness of words, but of deeds.** When H.M. Stanley discovered David Livingstone in Central Africa, and when he had spent some time with him, he said, "If I had been with him any longer, I would have been compelled to be a Christian and he never spoke to me about it at all." The sheer weight of the witness of the man's life was irresistible.

**The Greek word for witness is more accurately translated "martyr."** A witness means to be loyal no matter what the cost.

To be effective witnesses today we must live close enough to GOD TO HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL. Witnessing is not primarily what God can do for others, but what He can and will do for you. It is not primarily hearsay, rumor, gossip, idle-tale, or quote; but rather the relating of a personal, private, intimate, individual, particular daily relationship (for example, the man born blind said, "once I was blind, but now I can see").

To be effective witnesses today we must live close enough to THE WORLD TO HAVE SOMEONE TO TELL. We need to realize that basically people's real needs are not for money or material things, although we may have to begin there. But their real need is for the gospel message. Jesus was known as the friend of sinners. He ate with them, walked with them, socialized with them, talked with them, companied with them, conferenced with them, befriended them, loved them. And because he befriended and loved them, they came to him for help. Before one can be won to Christ, he usually must be won to an individual. He/she must be befriended by someone else. An effective witness is a "well of water springing up," not something pumped up. Our witness must be seen. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men.

To be effective witnesses today we must live close enough to CHRIST TO BE EMPOWERED TO TELL. The Holy Spirit is power which came upon the Apostles at Pentecost as cloven tongues of fire. Fire generates heat and produces energy. Jesus began preaching after "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me." At Pentecost "the Spirit gave them utterance." Prior to that they

were dumb and mute and had not a word to say about the gospel. The prophet Joel promised "I will pour out my spirit and they shall prophesy." After the disciples on the way to Emmaus said, "Did not our hearts burn within us?" they rushed back to Jerusalem to TELL about the resurrection. Jeremiah had to preach because there was a fire in his bones. St Paul said, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel."

Is there power and energy in your life? Does the joy and love of Christ shine through you. Are you a bright Sordial for the Savior? You can be, as the power of the Holy Spirit controls you instead of you controlling you. Want to know how? Speak to the pastors about surrendering your will to God's. Only then can you become an effective witness for the Lord.

### LAMP TO MY FEET & LIGHT TO MY PATH

What does the Bible mean to you? Does it contain the truth of the world, the wisdom of the world? Do you agree with the great poet, John Greenleaf Whittier?

*We search the world for truth. We cull  
The good, the true, the beautiful,  
From graven stone and written scroll,  
And all old flower-fields of the soul;  
And, weary seekers of the best,  
We come back laden from our quest,  
To find that all the sages said  
Is in the Book our mothers read.*

The Bible is great because it is God's revelation to man. The world has looked for God in many ways – through philosophy, through science, and pagan religions. In the Bible God says, "Here I am." The Bible builds greatness because men become great when they draw near to God.

Too many people do not read the Bible, and they give the excuse that they cannot understand it. If God is able to create us, He is able to make himself understood to us through His Word. Read the sacred books of the world's religions. They are confused, wordy, mysterious volumes. In comparison with the Bible, they are flickering lights beside the brilliance of the sun. The Bible says of itself that it teaches, rebukes, corrects, and gives instruction in righteousness. All it takes is intelligent reading and study.

The Bible is not a magic book that can be opened at any place to give rules binding for our lives. The Bible is God's revelation to two groups of people – the Jews and Christians. The Hebrew laws of sacrifice are not binding on us, though they are contained in the Bible. In some cases the Bible records the devil's speeches. Should we follow his advice because it is in the Bible? This would be ridiculous. The Bible must be read intelligently. We should ask ourselves, who wrote the book? To whom does the writer speak? To what age did he belong, Jewish or Christian? A careful study of the Word brings understanding. This is what is meant by "rightly dividing the word of truth."

The Bible is not just a collection of ancient history, proverbs, and sermons. It can be a light to our feet because it has unity. Bartholdi's statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World" stands at the approach to New York Harbor. It holds a torch that is lit at night by an immense electric light. The statue was cast in portions in Paris. The separate pieces were very different, and taken apart, were of odd shapes. Only when all the pieces were brought together, each in the right place, could the complete Statue of Liberty be seen.

This is an illustration of the Bible. We do not always see the object of certain portions; yet each has its place, and the whole

is a statue of Jesus Christ, who is the true "Liberty Enlightening the World," casting bright rays across the dark, rocky ocean of time, and guiding anxious souls to safety.

The Bible is a light to the individual because it shows him the way to God. It gives comfort in sorrow, wisdom in ignorance, freedom in slavery. In the denominational confusion of the world, the New Testament reveals the church which Christ built. The Bible is a lifetime guide.

A Bible-reading people can never become enslaved, for the Book contains truth, and truth means freedom. During the past hundred years, communism crept across much of the world. Nations fell to it through moral, spiritual and physical weakness. Not one of those fallen nations was known for its devotion to the Bible. Communism does not conquer where the open Bible is on the pulpit, on the family table, and in the heart. It is a strange thing that while the Bible continues to be a best seller, above all other books, it is neglected so much.

The Bible should not be worshiped as a sacred, but mysterious Book. It should be read with understanding to bring the heart to Christ. The Bible is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path only when it is read and followed.

### ONE NATION, STILL UNDER GOD

"America is still a religious nation. Unlike every other industrialized, educated nation in the world today, the religious commitment of adults in this country remains practically as strong today as it was in 1940. The Gallup Institute asks an annual series of questions on religion in America that relate to the public's perception of the importance of religion and its influence in society, as well as measures rates of church attendance and membership. Consider the most recent results: 60% of the people in this country say that religion is "very important" in their lives. An additional 23% regard religion as "fairly important" for their lives. The only other country with comparable results, although not nearly as developed as the United States, is India, where 6 in 10 adults affirm religion as "very important."

The nation is split on religion's influence, perhaps reflecting world events such as the war with Iraq and the September 11 attacks. 46% of Americans say religion's influence is increasing while 48% say it's decreasing.

Church membership and attendance figures remain remarkably stable. 65% of American adults report membership in a church, synagogue, or other faith community; since 1940 the annual membership statistic has hovered around 7 in 10. Similarly, over the last 6 decades, approximately 4 in 10 Americans report attending church within a given week. In 1940, 37% of adults said they attended sometime during the last seven days, and in recent years, 38% of adults claimed the same.

These recent results offer encouraging news in many regards: Contrary to popular thought, religious commitment remains a robust part of most Americans' lives. In addition, the fact that these religious trends have remained relatively constant over the last 60-70 years is astonishing given the enormous changes that have occurred in other social dimensions. HOWEVER, they also reveal a degree of superficiality with regard to Americans' faith lives. If the United States leads the world in terms of religious commitment as attested in national surveys, why do we also lead the world in violent crimes against our fellow citizens? If church membership and attendance figures haven't changed dramatically in the last half-century, why have the number of

divorces and number of children born out of wedlock grown exponentially over the same period?

Perhaps the problem isn't that Americans refuse to believe in anything; the problem may be that Americans believe in everything. For example, Gallup data reveals that self-described Christians are nearly twice as likely to say they believe in focus – communicating with the dead through another living person – than the general population. They are also more likely to believe in astrology and in witchcraft.

So the news is encouraging as well as challenging: Americans profess high levels of religious commitment, suggesting the relevance of faith for most people and its salience in wider contemporary culture. The challenge facing pastors today is to help congregations channel the free-floating, vague interest in matters of faith espoused by so many into sincere, real-life religious conviction.”

–D. Michael Lindsay  
consultant for religion and culture to *The Gallup Institute*

(The truth of this article is why we, at Cornerstone, are committed to *Seeking the Lost and Growing the Found*. We want the reality of faith in God to become the number one priority in all of our lives, not just a superficiality – for in that is great blessing for us, for our community and for the world!)

### THE MASTER'S CARD

“There are some things money can't buy, for everything else there's MasterCard.” I'm sure you've all received their applications in the mail. However, I'm here to advertise a different card. You see, my life is a product for others to see. I'm a card carrying representative for **The Master's Card**. That's right, **The MASTER'S CARD**.

Let me tell you about it. There are no finance charges, no payments due. My bill has already been covered... it's a pre-paid deal. I couldn't afford the price, so Jesus stepped in and paid it for me. My name is written on the card for all to see. It is accessible twenty-four hours a day from anywhere in the world.

**The MASTER'S CARD** has so many benefits it's hard to list them all. Let me share some of them with you... you might want to apply for a personal card yourself. Just for starters there is **UNLIMITED GRACE**. That's right, there is no pre-set limit to the amount of grace you receive from **The MASTER'S CARD**.

Have you been looking for love in all the wrong places? Then, look no farther than **The MASTER'S CARD**. It offers the greatest rate on love that has ever been offered. Jesus Christ died for YOU!

**The MASTER'S CARD** gives you access to many “members only” benefits. Want real joy despite the difficulties of life? Apply for **The MASTER'S CARD**. Want a lasting peace? Apply for **The MASTER'S CARD**.

Looking for something you can always rely on in a jam?  
**The MASTER'S CARD** is perfect for you.

Another great thing about **The MASTER'S CARD** is that it never expires and will never be canceled. Once you're a member, you're a member for life... eternal life, that is. Membership has its privileges, you know, so why not apply today? It's only a prayer away.

### THE FIGHT OF THE DAY

by Carl F. H. Henry

(Dr. Henry was a world-renowned & well-respected theologian, one of the founders of *Christianity Today* and former and beloved professor of Dr. and Mrs. Jensen.)

The Apostle Paul is concerned lest we be asleep when we ought to be on guard duty. We have a fight on our hands, he says, and we need to be awake and primed for it. *Phillips Modern English Version* paraphrases his comments in Romans 13:11-14:

*The present time is of the highest importance – it is time to wake up to the reality. The night is nearly over, the day has almost dawned. Every day brings God's salvation nearer than the day in which we took the first step of faith. Let us therefore fling away the things that men do in the dark, let us arm ourselves for the fight of the day... Let us be Christ's men (and women) from head to foot, and give no chance to the flesh to have its fling.*

**Three emphases seem to me to rise from this text in our present life-situation: first, American culture is sinking toward sunset; second, Christian believers are stretching toward sunrise; and third, we are warriors with a mission in the world.**

At the opening of the epistle to the Romans, Paul unveils God's anger over the depths of Gentile rebellion. Three times we hear that dreadful refrain, *God gave them over*. We read that, because of their persistent wickedness, God *gave them over to the “sinful desires” of their hearts* (Romans 1:24), that God *gave them over to “shameful lusts”* (Romans 1:26), and that God *gave them over to “a depraved mind”* (Romans 1:28).

**Exegetes have long noted a progression here; desires, lusts, mindset.** As the channel of sin runs ever deeper, God's compensatory judgment moves ever closer to final abandonment and inescapable doom. The first chapter of Romans closes in fact with a warning of doomsday ahead for those who in their own consciences know that all who live wickedly deserve God's death penalty, yet who nonetheless defy God and even encourage others to do so (Romans 1:32).

**I have a heavy heart about America. American culture seems to me to be sinking toward sunset.** I do not, like some, call America the epicenter of evil in the world. But we have fallen far from the lofty ideals for which this land came into being. To be sure, there is a godly remnant – not simply a tiny band but a godly number – for which we may be grateful. **But it is surely not America at her best when we chart the massacre of a million unborn children a year, the flight from the monogamous family, two and half million persons trapped in illegal drugs and alcohol** (our country now has a larger drug problem than any other industrialized nation in the world), **the normalizing of deviant sexual behavior, the proliferation of AIDS to twenty-five thousand persons, more than half of whom have already died, with reportedly 10,000,000 infected with the virus.**

What is underway is a redefinition of the good life, a redefinition that not only perverts the word “good” but perverts the term “life” as well. What is “good” is corrupted into whatever promotes self-interest even at the expense of the dignity and worth of others. In that fantasy-world of sinful desires, shameful lusts, and a depraved mind, sexual libertinism is good, coveting and stealing are good, violence and terrorism are good.

Worse yet, such perversion of the good is connected with what

is called “the life.” All that the Bible means by life, a life fit for eternity – is emptied into an existence fit only for beasts and brutes.

**They gave up God, says Paul, and therefore God gave them up – to be playthings of their own foul desires in dishonoring their own bodies, they “deliberately forfeited the truth of God and accepted a lie, paying homage and giving service to the creature instead of the Creator, who alone is worthy to be worshiped for ever and ever. God therefore handed them over to disgraceful passions” (Romans 1:24).**

**Western society is experiencing a great cultural upheaval. More and more the wicked subculture comes to open cultural manifestation. More and more the unmentionables become the parlance of our day. More and more profanity and vulgarity find expression through the mass media. The sludge of a sick society is rising to the top and, sad to say, the stench does not offend even some public leaders. Our nation increasingly trips the worst ratings on God’s Richter scale of fully deserved moral judgment.**

God who shook the earth at Sinai, God who is a consuming fire warns of one more shaking, that final and decisive shaking: *Yet once more will I make to tremble not the earth only, but also the heaven.* This means, as the author of Hebrews says, that in this final ‘shaking’ all that is impermanent will be removed... and only the unshakable things will remain (Hebrews 12:26-27). The world will be asleep when doomsday comes, Peter warns, banking its life on the premise that “everything continues exactly as it has always been since the world began” (2 Peter 3:4). “But the Day of the Lord will come,” he emphasizes, “and the earth and all that is in it will be laid bare” (2 Peter 3:10)

When that great meltdown comes, where will you be? Trapped in Sodom? **In the bleak twilight of a decadent culture, where will you be?** Overtaken, like Lot’s wife, looking back at the citadels of sin? “Wake up!” says Paul; “wake up!” American culture is sinking toward sunset.

The remarkable thing about Paul’s exhortation to awaken from sleep is that it is addressed to Christians. It apprises them not of encroaching doom but of daybreak, of the imminent sunrise, of the full dawning of God’s Kingdom. “Let us arm ourselves for the fight of the day,” he writes, “[and] be Christ’s men and women from head to foot.”

**Christians have duties in the cultural upheaval around us. God has not told us to build an ark or to escape the floodwaters by taking to the hills. If there is hope for America, it will come through the vigorous proclamation and application of the Christian message.**

The early Christians knew the fierceness of the battle. They knew Gentile wickedness at its worst; it was the moving spirit of the society in which they were reached for the gospel. “You were spiritually dead through your sins and failures, all the times that you followed this world’s ideas of living and obeyed the evil ruler of the spiritual realm... We all lived like that in the past,” writes Paul, “and followed the desires and imaginings of our lower nature, being in fact under the wrath of God by nature, like everyone else... We were dead in our sins” (Ephesians 2:2,3).

Don’t for a moment forget that we ourselves were dug from the sludge of a sick society. When recently I wrote *Confessions of a Theologian* it had a double exposure – first, on the world from

which Christ rescues even those who become theologians and pastors and deacons, and second, on the world to which Christ lifted me, the eternal world to which He lifts prostitutes and drug addicts and homosexuals and other redeemed sinners. The risen Christ is in the moving and lifting business. How far has He removed you from the old life and lifted you to divine service? How high has Christ lifted you?

It is one thing to run away from sin; it is yet another to run up a flag for faith. “Fling away the things that men do in the dark,” exhorts Paul, and “give no chance to the flesh to have its fling... Be Christ’s men & women from head to foot... Let us arm ourselves for the fight of the day. God wants your mind. He wants your will. He wants your heart – the whole self. “Christ in you” is Paul’s great theme in the letter to the Colossians. Where your feet go, does Christ walk with you? Where your mind reaches, is the mind of Christ yours also? In whatever you will embrace, is Christ’s will astride your own?

**Be Christ’s men and women from head to foot!**

Christian duty requires of us more than personal piety and devotion, important as that is. It’s not enough to say “no” when the culture holds that fornication is a morally acceptable option and that we may abort the unborn child if it’s unwanted or take hallucinatory drugs if we are minded to do so.

Are you aware of the cultural challenges we face? Or are you yourself debilitated by the shoddy secular values of our time?

**The fight of the day** – are you aware of what that entails?

**In the battle between good and evil**, are you armed and engaged in “the fight of the day?”

**In the battle for the minds of men and women, boys & girls**, are you armed and engaged in “the fight of the day?”

**In the battle for the will of humanity**, are you armed and engaged in “the fight of the day?”

**In the exhibition of a Christian mindset**, are you armed and engaged in “the fight of the day?”

**In the deployment of Christian countermoves**, are you armed and engaged in “the fight of the day?”

Just as there are depths of depravity in human life, so too there are levels of dedication. And just as God progressively abandons renegades to their rebellion, so too He rewards the righteous in their spiritual renewal. When ancient Rome fell, it was the godly Christian remnant that walked head-high into the future. When medieval Christianity compromised its Biblical heritage, the Protestant Reformation emerged to bring great blessing to Europe and the world. When the post-Enlightenment era spawned an anti-Biblical mindset, the eighteenth century evangelical awakening in England spared that nation the travesties of the French Revolution. What will be the final verdict on the evangelical confrontation of today’s radically secular humanism? What spiritual situation do we bequeath not only to those who follow us, but also to our contemporaries?

Christianity is qualitatively different or it has nothing distinctive to offer the world. The real arena in which we are to work and witness and win over others is the world, or we have ceased to be light, salt, leaven. Christian duty requires courageous participation at the frontiers of public concern – education, mass media, politics, law, literature and the arts, labor and economics,

and the whole realm of cultural pursuits. We need to do more than to sponsor a Christian *subculture*. **We need Christian counterculture that sets itself alongside the secular rivals and publishes openly the difference that belief in God and His Christ makes in the arenas of thought and action. We need Christian countermoves that commend a new climate, countermoves that penetrate the public realm.** To live Christianity involves taking a stand for God that calls this world's caesars to account before the sovereign Lord of the universe, that calls this world's sages to account before the wisdom that begins with the fear of the Lord, that calls this world's journalists to account before The Greatest Story Ever Told. **We must strive to reclaim this cosmos for its rightful owner, God, who has title to the cattle on a thousand hills, and for Christ who says to the lost multitudes, "I made you; I died for you; I ransomed you."**

We may not know all the answers, but we know some absolutes at least. Each of us must find his or her proper station and platform in "the fight of the day" and use our God-given talent to reflect the truth and justice of God into the world of public affairs. Everywhere around us is strewn the philosophical wreckage of those who rely only on the voice of conscience, on social utility, on aesthetic gratification, on majority consensus – on everything but the sure Word of God. If you are still wavering between the God of the ages and the spirit of the age, listen to Paul's warning summons. **American culture is sinking toward sunset. Christian believers are stretching toward sunrise. We are warriors with a mission in the world. Have you enlisted, winsomely and courageously, in what Paul calls "the fight of the day?"**

(From *Twilight of A Great Civilization* by Carl F.H. Henry, copyright 1988, pp 39-44. Crossway Books, a ministry of Good News Publishers)

## MY PEOPLE HAVE CHANGED GOD

guest article by Thomas Wang

(Dr. Thomas Wang was born in Beijing, China into a third-generation Christian family. He came to America in 1958 to serve as a full-time minister. He has a deep conviction and hope that America will be a God-fearing nation and a channel of God's blessings to the world.)

*Has a nation [ever] changed its gods, even though they are not gods? But my people have changed God, their glory, for that which does not profit - Jeremiah 2:11.*

Prophet Jeremiah was born about 100 years after Isaiah. He was called by God to be a prophet in the nation of Judah.

For over 40 years, Judah was oppressed and repeatedly plundered by Babylon. Jeremiah tried in vain to call the Jewish people to turn away from idolatry and come back to God. In desperation, and on behalf of Jehovah God, the weeping prophet cried out to his people:

*For you have as many gods as you have towns, O Judah... Does a maiden forget her jewelry, a bride her wedding ornaments? Yet my people have forgotten me - Jeremiah 2:28, 32.*

What a pity! Prophet Isaiah was able to save Jerusalem from the hands of the Assyrians in 701BC, but Jeremiah was not able to save his people from the hands of Babylon. Thus began the 70 years of exile and captivity.

Look at our world today. America and the West are showing signs characteristic to pre-exilic Judah. **One by one, the Western countries today are turning away from God.** Most churches in Western Europe are empty. Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, the Scandinavian countries, the United Kingdom and Canada have all legalized behaviors abhorrent to the Lord God. **Many of these countries have become not only non-Christian but in many areas actually anti-Christian.**

Is America following suit? Many elements in this country are hard at work both openly and covertly for the total secularization and paganization of America. They are experts in manipulating public opinion and brainwashing people's minds by using noble and virtuous words but with a twisted meaning and hidden purpose, such as:

**Tolerance:** Tolerance of different views including tolerance of evil; otherwise, you are a hate-monger.

**Freedom:** Free on everything; otherwise you are a bigot.

**Multi-lateralism:** All isms and religions are equal and none could claim unique.

**Unity:** We will have unity, if you agree with my ideology.

**Peace:** We will have peace, when you adopt my lifestyle.

**Pro-choice:** In reality, it is pro-murder.

**Love:** Love is sex and sex is love. One should be free to have sex with anyone, anytime, anywhere and any number; otherwise you are restrictive, archaic and therefore harmful to human well-being.

Having said these, are we being "judgmental" or "self-righteous"? No, absolutely not! What we have mentioned here are merely a drop in the bucket of all the dark schemes of the other side in their well-planned, well-financed and well-"lawyered" all-out war to tear down brick by brick this great Christian nation founded by God through Christians!

**America has been and still is the major deterrent force against evil powers in the world ever since World War I. This is why Satan has been concentrating his effort in bringing this nation down.** Because if he can dismantle America morally, ethically and particularly in her Christian faith, there will be no other nation in the world who has the strength and the will to stand in his way.

*Return, return O Shulamite; return, return that we may look upon thee - Song of Solomon 6:13.*

The God of love is calling! Calling America to return to her first love, return to the One who died for her on the cross. America, O America, return to Jesus Christ!

## READ YOUR BIBLE

*As summer rolls on, let's continue to receive the blessing of Almighty God by reading His Word through from beginning to end. May God bless you more and more as you immerse yourself in His word.*

The month of July

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Ecclesiastes 1-2, Psalm 150  | 17. Isaiah 27-29, Psalm 16    |
| 2. Ecclesiastes 3-5, Psalm 1    | 18. Isaiah 30-31, Psalm 17    |
| 3. Ecclesiastes 6-8, Psalm 2    | 19. Isaiah 32-35, Psalm 18:1- |
| 4. Ecclesiastes 9-12, Psalm 3   | 20. Isaiah 36-39, Psalm 18:   |
| 5. Song of Solomon 1-3, Psalm 4 | 21. Isaiah 40-42, Psalm 19    |
| 6. Song of Solomon 4-6, Psalm 5 | 22. Isaiah 43-45, Psalm 20    |
| 7. Song of Solomon 7-8, Psalm 6 | 23. Isaiah 46-47, Psalm 21    |
| 8. Isaiah 1-4, Psalm 7          | 24. Isaiah 48-50, Psalm 22    |
| 9. Isaiah 5-7, Psalm 8          | 25. Isaiah 51-52, Psalm 23    |

- 10. Isaiah 8-10, Psalm 9
- 11. Isaiah 11-12, Psalm 10
- 12. Isaiah 13-14, Psalm 11
- 13. Isaiah 15-18, Psalm 12
- 14. Isaiah 19-21, Psalm 13
- 15. Isaiah 22-24, Psalm 14
- 16. Isaiah 25-26, Psalm 15
- 26. Isaiah 53-54, Psalm 24
- 27. Isaiah 55-58, Psalm 25
- 28. Isaiah 59-61, Psalm 26
- 29. Isaiah 62-64, Psalm 27
- 30. Isaiah 65-66, Psalm 28
- 31. Jeremiah 1-2, Psalm 29

**DID YOU KNOW?**

As we look towards the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, here is some interesting information.

Did you know that at military funerals, the 21 gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Did you know the following regarding the ceremonial folding of the American flag?

The 1<sup>st</sup> fold is a symbol of life.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4<sup>th</sup> fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decaur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The 6<sup>th</sup> fold is in honor of the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The 8<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that they might see the light of day.

The 9<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to Fathers, for they, too, have given their sons and daughters for the defense of our country.

The 11<sup>th</sup> fold represents the power portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12<sup>th</sup> fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13<sup>th</sup> fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers

who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why."  
 - [www.ushistory.org](http://www.ushistory.org)

**BLOOD DRIVE  
 ON Thursday, July 19  
 TIME: 2-7 pm**

Please make an appointment!

We need all the help we can get to meet our goal!!! Ask your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family to come and give blood.

**SUMMER EVENTS**

Friday, July 13 - **Atkinson Shelter** (and ice cream) - for youth in grades 6-12

Tuesday, July 17 - **Philadelphia Zoo** - for youth in grades 6-12

Friday, July 20 - **Bubble Soccer** - for EVERYONE - Come and play or come and watch

Saturday-Sunday, August 4-5- **Beach Trip**

Friday, August 10 - **Slip-N-Slide Kickball** - for EVERYONE - Come and watch or come and play

Friday, August 24 - **Mini-Golf** - for youth in grades 6-12

Saturday, September 8 - **SOULED OUT for EVERYONE!!** Come and bring your friends and family

Youth - please sign up NOW for the youth events!

**CHRISTIAN CHARACTERISTICS**

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

- attentive
- blameless
- bold
- faithful
- fearing
- godly
- guileless
- holy
- humble
- just
- loving
- lowly
- meek
- merciful
- obedient
- prudent
- pure
- righteous
- sincere
- steadfast
- true
- undefiled
- upright
- watchful
- zealous

**DON'T FORGET - SOULED OUT 2018 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2pm TIL DUSK - INVITE YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY NOW!!!**