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Ambassador

September 2023

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**ENCORE
ISSUE**

JUDGE NOT?



The following is a letter to a local church from its founding pastor:

I received a report of scandalous sex within the church family, a kind that wouldn't be tolerated even outside the church: One of your men is sleeping with his stepmother. And you're so above it all that it doesn't even faze you! Shouldn't this break your hearts? Shouldn't it bring you to your knees in tears? Shouldn't this person and his conduct be confronted and dealt with?

I'll tell you what I would do. Even though I'm not there in person, consider me right there with you, because I can fully see what's going on. I'm telling you that this is wrong. You must not

simply look the other way and hope it goes away on its own. Bring it out in the open and deal with it in the authority of Jesus. Assemble the community--I'll be present in spirit with you and Jesus will be present in power. Hold this

man's conduct up to public scrutiny. Let him defend it if he can! But if he can't, then throw him out! It will be totally devastating to him, of course, and embarrassing to you. But better devastation and embarrassment than

damnation. You want him on his feet and forgiven before God on the Day of Judgment.

Your flip and callous arrogance in these things bothers me. You pass it off as a

the church. Or with crooks, whether blue- or white-collar. Or with spiritual phonies, for that matter. You'd have to leave the whole world to do that! But I am saying that you shouldn't act as if everything is just fine when one of your Christian companions is promiscuous or crooked, is superficial with God or rude to friends, gets drunk or becomes greedy and predatory. You can't just go along with this, treating it as acceptable behavior. It is not my business to judge those who are not part of the church. God will judge them. But you must judge the people who are part of the church. The Scripture says, "You must get rid of the evil person among you."

**Read More on this topic from Pastors
Bob Ouzts and Greg Mansur on page 15**

small thing, but it's anything but that. I wrote you before that you shouldn't make yourselves at home among the sexually promiscuous. I didn't mean that you should have nothing at all to do with people like that outside



**How's the Fruit?
by April James**

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**10 Biblical Rules
for a Happy Marriage**

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THE AMBASSADOR

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The Ambassador

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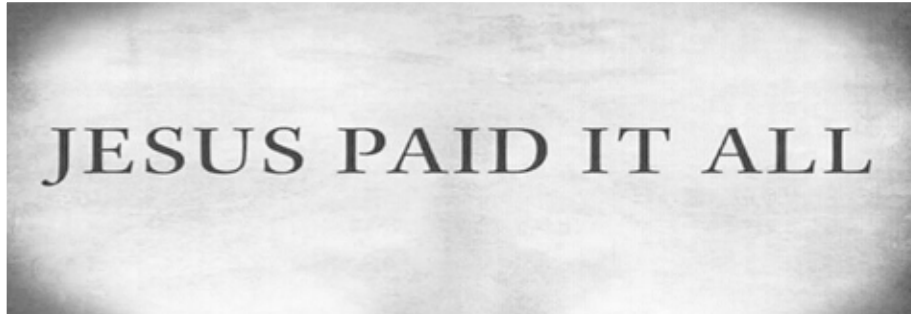
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INSPIRATION

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A Great Debt - Who Can Pay?

By: Gregory Koukl
Stand to Reason Ministries
Str.org



An illustration showing the great gift we have in the death and resurrection of Jesus. He came to pay a debt that we could not pay.

Harry Ironside used to tell about a young Russian soldier. Because his father was a friend of Czar Nicholas I, the young man had been made paymaster in one of the barracks. The young man meant well, but his character was not up to his responsibility. He took to gambling and eventually gambled away a great deal of the government's money as well as all of his own.

In due course the young man received notice that a representative of the czar was coming to check accounts, and he knew he was in trouble.

That evening he got out the books and totaled up the funds he owed. Then he went to the safe and got out his own pitifully small amount of money. As he sat and looked at the two he was overwhelmed at the astronomical debt versus his own small change. He was ruined! He knew he would be disgraced.

At last the young soldier determined to take his life. He pulled out his

revolver, placed it on the table before him, and wrote a summation of his misdeeds. At the bottom of the ledger where he had totaled up his illegal borrowings, he wrote: "A great debt! Who can pay?" He decided that at the stroke of midnight he would die.

As the evening wore on the young soldier grew drowsy and eventually fell asleep. That night Czar Nicholas I, as was sometimes his custom, made the rounds of the barracks. Seeing a light, he stopped, looked in, and saw the young man asleep. He recognized him immediately and, looking over his shoulder, saw the ledger and realized all that had taken place.

He was about to awaken him and put him under arrest when his eye fastened on the young man's message: "A great debt! Who can pay?"

Suddenly, with a surge of magnanimity, he reached over, wrote one word at the bottom of the ledger, and slipped out.

When the young man awoke, he glanced at the clock and saw that it was

long after midnight. He reached for his revolver to shoot himself. But his eye fell upon the ledger and he saw something that he had not seen before. There beneath his writing: "A great debt! Who can pay?" was written, "Nicholas."

He was dumbfounded. It was the Czar's signature. He said to himself, "The czar must have come by when I was asleep. He has seen the book. He knows all. Still he is willing to forgive me."

The young soldier then rested on the word of the czar, and the next morning a messenger came from the palace with exactly the amount needed to meet the deficit. Only the czar could pay, and the czar did pay.

We compare [God's righteousness] with our own tawdry performance, and we ask the question: "A great debt to God! Who can pay?" But then the Lord Jesus Christ steps forward and signs His name to our ledger: "Jesus Christ." Only Jesus can pay, and He did.

WHOLE-HEARTED DEVOTION

By Marie Carney
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."



I once had a special dog named Shelli. Shelli was a Cocker Spaniel I found at the animal shelter. She was extremely thin and her coat was dirty and matted, but I could see how beautiful she could be with some grooming and regular meals. I overheard someone else saying that they wanted to adopt her, so I made sure to arrive at 6:30am for the "first come, first served" adoption process. From that day, she devoted herself to me. She followed me around the house. When I sat, she sat, when I moved, she moved. She would wait patiently for me to pet her or comb her luxurious coat. She often looked at me with a tilted head as if to say "What are we going to do now?" When I took her for a walk, she was so excited that she would run around in circles and make it difficult to attach her leash. She loved to walk with me. The most impressive thing I remember was how she would sit on the end of my bed when I suffered from a migraine headache and refuse to move or eat until I was better (sometimes as much

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

THE AMBASSADOR

- ✂ **The Ambassador** is a free, monthly publication promoting unity and revival among the local Yuba-Sutter area Bible-believing churches
- ✂ **The Ambassador** has a circulation 3,700 - 5,500 and is distributed in local churches and businesses in the community.
- ✂ The purpose of **The Ambassador** is to pursue the great commission of Christ by making disciples and to encourage, inform, challenge and connect the local body of Christ.
- ✂ We believe in the inspiration and authority of the Bible as the written word of God. We believe that God exists as One, in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ✂ We believe that the atoning work of Christ (His death) on the cross and His resurrection is the ONLY means of salvation and the only way to Eternal Life in Heaven.
- ✂ We welcome editorial content from anyone wishing to promote the mission of **The Ambassador**. All articles and advertisement content is subject to the approval of the editor.
- ✂ Views expressed in *The Ambassador* do not necessarily reflect those of our sponsors or advertisers.

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INSPIRATION

**Cont'd From Page 4:
"WHOLE-HEARTED DEVOTION"**

a two days later). To me she was a perfect dog.

My son remembers Shelli quite differently. He points out that she had horrible bad breath; she would lose control of her bladder if she was excited or frightened and she had an irritating, persistent bark when someone came to the door. Those things were definitely true, but to me they didn't matter because Shelli was my dog. She had chosen to devote herself to me.

I want to be "Shelli" to Jesus. I want Jesus to feel my devotion. I want to go where he goes and do what he does and wait patiently at His feet in tough times. It's only through my love for Jesus that God can ignore my many imperfections and see me as a perfect child. The only way I can achieve such a lofty goal is by loving the ones Jesus loves. It's not an easy task at all. I daily get caught up in the stresses of work and family and disconnect from the presence of Jesus. I become impatient with people and stressed by time and financial pressures. I can take a lesson from Shelli and sit when Jesus sits, walk when Jesus walks and look questioningly into his eyes when difficult situations arise and say "What now, Lord?" and listen for his loving command.

How's the Fruit?

By April James

Have you ever made plans for your day, scheduled everything out just perfectly, to only have them fall apart due to unforeseen delays or events?

What purpose is there to unforeseen circumstances in life? Missed flights, stuck in traffic, long wait at the doctor's office or in line at DMV, a sick child or pet; do they serve any purpose? Or, do they simply exist and have no cause or affect?

Does how we handle the unexpected circumstances perhaps reveal something about ourselves? Do we have reactions that surprise us? Are there things inside we don't like to see surface or want exposed in such times?

When our plans go awry, are we able to give thanks in the middle of the situation? Do we remain calm and peaceful or become irritated and upset? Does our happiness quickly fade away? Are we still pleasant to deal with or become intolerable? Does our language change?

Are things going askew happenstance, the work of an enemy force, or Divine intervention? Whatever the cause, if God is good and works all things out for our good,



can we stop in the midst of unplanned situations, and take a moment to examine how we are reacting to what is taking place? Are we reacting with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control; or does some of our fruit (of the Holy Spirit) need to ripen a little more?

If we respond in a manner not so pleasing, don't be discouraged, we are all a continual work in progress as we are being molded into the image of Jesus Christ. So let's take a deep breath and thank the Lord for showing us what still needs some work in our lives, ask him to help us in areas of shortcomings and take some corrective actions. First, we can begin with a humble apology

to those we may have shown a less than Christ like attitude to and ask for forgiveness if necessary. Then, give an invitation to the Holy Spirit to search the inner most parts of our being and reveal to us what is not pleasing to the Lord. Next, pray as King David did "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" Psalm 51:10. Finally, take action, with the Lord's help, on what he shows us needs to be changed.

Perhaps the next time we have an unexpected delay in the midst of a hectic day, we can relax, even enjoy the moment, smile and say "Okay, Lord, looks like I have some extra time, what's on Your mind?"



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ONGOING EVENTS

ROAD TO RECOVERY - Sundays, 7:00pm
Christian 12 Step support group
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

GRIEF SHARE - Mondays at 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Praise Chapel Church 398 Aylor Ave.
A grief support program that meets weekly to help give encouragement after the death of loved one. Anyone can attend on any week because each class is "self-contained." For more information about GriefShare you can go to www.griefshare.org or contact the church at 530-870-0511.

PRAYER FOR THE NATION - Every Tuesday Night 7PM - 8:30PM
Church of Glad Tidings
1179 Eager Rd (Building 200) - Live Oak, CA 95953
(530) 671-3160 - info@churchofgladtidings.com

GRIEF SHARE; GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - Wednesdays, 6:00pm,
For those dealing with the loss of a loved one.
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

EMBASSY HOUSE OF PRAYER - Every Thursday Night 7PM - 8:30PM
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"My house shall be called a house of prayer." (Matt. 21:13). The church today is in an all-out war against the evils of darkness. The body of Christ is called to step up and be aggressive in their prayer life.

FREEDOM NIGHT - 2nd Friday of each month
Church of Glad Tidings
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Join us for a night of worship, prayer, and freedom

BETHESDA HEALING WELL - 3rd Saturday of the Month 10AM - 12PM
Church of Glad Tidings
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(530) 671-3160 - info@churchofgladtidings.com
Come to receive prayer and be refreshed while soaking in an atmosphere of worship and praise. Sorry, No Childcare.

• **What Do You Need?** •
• **Find it Here** •

• Prayer List for September 2023 •

- 1-Sept **Pray for teachers, children, and parents** to adjust to the new school year
- 2-Sept **Pastors-** That God would give them strength, courage and wisdom to speak the truth from the pulpit
- 3-Sept **Pray for China, Sudan, North Korea and other nations** that God would intervene and the leadership would restore civil rights
- 4-Sept **Revival-** Pray that the college student revival would continue and spread to the nation!
- 5-Sept **World Affairs-** Pray about international activities that point to the Last Days
- 6-Sept **The Persecuted Church around the world.** Pray that believers would stand strong in the midst of brutal persecution
- 7-Sept **Singles, Single Parents, Divorced, Widowed-** pray for those experiencing loneliness and overwhelming burdens
- 8-Sept **Human Trafficking-** Pray for the freedom, healing and restoration of survivors and for traffickers to repent
- 9-Sept **Race Relations-** Pray for Race relations in our nation. Pray for understanding and collaboration between races and an ease of racial tension
- 10-Sept **Global Revival-** Pray that our global chaos would lead multitudes to repent and follow the Lord!!
- 11-Sept **Homeless- Safety, health and provision-** Twin Cities Rescue Mission, other local homeless ministries. Safety from summer heat
- 12-Sept **Marriages-** Pray that relationships would grow and families would seek the Lord together
- 13-Sept **Local Ministries-** Pray for continued financial support and volunteers to meet needs (see page 3)
- 14-Sept **California-** pray for our Godly representatives (including James Gallagher and Doug LaMalfa) to fight against liberal and harmful state policies.
- 15-Sept **Pray that fathers would give Godly wisdom** and have a positive impact and influence on the lives of their children
- 16-Sept **Disabled-** that they would receive the assistance and support they need
- 17-Sept **Mental Illness-** Pray for those who dealing with Mental Health issues or suicidal thoughts
- 18-Sept **Life-** Pray that abortion clinics would be shut down that people would choose life for their babies.
- 19-Sept **Addicted-** pray for those under the control of substances that they would surrender and get the treatment they need
- 20-Sept **Discipleship-** Pray that believers would seek to follow Jesus and become more like Him every day!
- 21-Sept **President-** Pray that God would show Himself to Pres. Biden and he would radically change his life and leadership
- 22-Sept **Pray that children of fatherless homes** as well as those in foster care would feel loved and protected by adults as well as the Lord
- 23-Sept **Health Care Workers and First Responders-** Pray for physical protection and endurance
- 24-Sept **Israel-** Pray for safety from violence, and for the Peace of Jerusalem
- 25-Sept **Restore America!** Pray against the divisiveness and violence in this nation
- 26-Sept **Pray for each of us to be bold by the Holy Spirit** to speak and act in accordance with God's Word and His Way!
- 27-Sept **Unity of Churches/Global impact-** Pray for churches to unite and influence the world!
- 28-Sept **Seniors and Elderly-** Pray for renewed physical and mental strength.
- 29-Sept **Local city/county leaders-** Wisdom for leading our community
- 30-Sept **Pray for your neighbor-** for opportunities to serve them, pray with them and share the Gospel with them!

CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

ISAIAH 61 - Spiritual Warfare & Deliverance
Church of Glad Tidings - 1179 Eager Rd., Live Oak, CA
Adventure Church- 876 W Onstott Frontage Rd., Yuba City
October 9th-13th, 6:30 pm
"Come and Experience the Anointing of Isaiah 61"
Come hear the amazing testimonies and life changing stories.
You will find out first hand what an impact your donations and
your prayers are making.

A WOMAN'S FRIEND ANNUAL BENEFIT BANQUET
"Marvelously Made"
Adventure Church- 876 W Onstott Frontage Rd., Yuba City
October 20, 6:30 pm
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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10 Ways You Can Help The Ambassador Ministry

1. Pray with us and for us to not only sustain but to grow in impact. Pray for our health and for spiritual protection
2. Read it yourself – You will be enriched by reading it.
3. Share a copy or an article with someone- you will have someone in your life benefit from an article in every issue, cut it out and send it to them, or send them the whole issue
4. Leave a copy of The Ambassador when you're having coffee or a meal or waiting for your car. Use it like a tract. It may be less intimidation.
5. Monitor The Ambassador at your church: assure its presence and visibility
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7. Find new locations- ask businesses that you frequent to take some papers, deliver and monitor them
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9. Give financially as an Individual partner, business partner, churches/ministries partner (every dollar helps to impact the community)
10. Talk to your like-minded Christian friends, family, business associates and church leadership, about helping as well.

*If you would like to help, please contact
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email editor@ambassadornewspaper.com*

**I CAN ALL THINGS
I DO ALL THROUGH
CHRIST
WHO STRENGTHENS ME.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

Kug's Kolumn

If You Don't Know By Now...

...then you haven't been reading this monthly column. It is my heartfelt desire to see Christians live totally committed lives to Jesus Christ. I personally have experienced the radical transformation that occurs when you move from compromise to commitment. And now I want nothing more than to encourage others to take that step as well. I will package my testimony as follows: "I got saved in 1992 and serious in 1997." Many of you know exactly what that means. Then there are those who are still trapped in the world of compromise. There is a way out and God is committed to making that happen provided there is a desire on the part of the believer to repent and step away from the "practice" of sin.

To put it bluntly, American Christianity is sick. Here are some disturbing statistics from George Barna on the state of Christianity in America. As you read these stats, keep in mind that nearly 80% of Americans say that they are Christians.

- 43% of Americans said it doesn't matter what religious faith you follow because they all teach the same lessons; 54% of Americans disagree.
- Half of Americans (50%) believe that all people are eventually saved or accepted by God no matter what they do, while 40% disagreed. And this last statistic is the most telling as to why Christianity in America is on life support.
- Only about 3% of all self-identified Christians in America have surrendered control of their life to God, submitted to His will for their life, and devoted themselves to loving and serving God and other people. How can you be a follower of Jesus Christ and not be completely committed to Him at the same time? It does not make sense! Let's commit our lives completely to Christ and encourage other believers to do the same.

David Kugelman is the president of the Christian Community Network which meets each Tuesday at noon at various locations. Dave welcomes your questions or comments on this article at drkug@comcast.net

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GEARS AND SPRINGS

By Lee Roberts

The clock on the mantel always intrigued me. For years Cliff and Darleen had been faithful and gracious hosts of our home Bible study and I always looked forward to the special time spent in their living room. As wonderful as those times were, however, I was mesmerized by the clock.

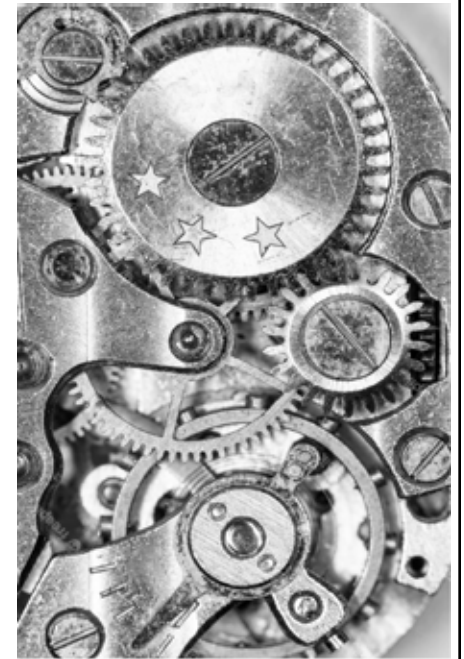
Perhaps you have seen one like it. It was covered by a glass dome, the shiny, golden works visible for all to see. In the lower portion of the clock was a contraption spinning four times one direction. Then four times the opposite direction. Then another four times in one direction, only for it to spin the opposite way four more times. Over and over it would spin, only to repeat again and again.

Then there were all the gears and springs. Some were large and some quite small. Some moved quickly and others slowly. Some moved clockwise and others counter-clockwise. And some didn't seem necessary for they didn't appear to move at all. Quite an amazing piece of ingenuity that clock was!

Obviously, it was designed with the goal of displaying the correct time. Everything that happened within it contributed to that end. No wasted motion. No wasted parts. Every part working for a common cause. A unified purpose.

That almost sounds Biblical! In Romans 8:28 we read, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

As we consider the various aspects and events of our life, they resemble the gears and springs of that clock. It is clear how some parts of life can be used



for His purpose. It makes sense that God could be using certain things. We understand that logic. But what about the other things? The frustrations? The hardships? The discouragements? The things we would rather do without? How can God use THOSE things for His purpose?

I don't really know how to answer that question other than to say, the fella who designed that clock saw a need for parts I did not understand. It made no sense to me, but to the designer, that extra gear and spring was perfectly logical. Likewise, to our divine Creator (or Designer), what makes no sense to us is perfectly logical. His divine wisdom recognizes a need for something that may seem counter-productive to us but is in reality eternally necessary.

In essence, if it is logical to the One who is the "Giver of every good and perfect gift" (James 1:17), shouldn't that reality give us peace as we faithfully endure what we may not understand?

I would think so!

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Dad's Corner

By Bill Hannold

Superintendent Faith Christian Schools

"The glory of children are their Fathers..." Prov. 17:6

Dads, knowing our children go through challenging and often traumatic emotional development stages, we must become aware of specific pressures which we can minimize or help them through.

One pressure which no one escapes is the pressure of insecurity. This pressure reoccurs throughout life. The intensity often relates to how well we learned to handle the pressure as a child.

Insecurity comes from unsure conditions. What are some of those conditions?

Child frequently left with babysitters
Father/mother travels for long period of time

High level of conflict between parents
Careless threats

Moving to a new community

Immediate family illness or death...

And there are others which lead to insecurity. It's that feeling of not knowing what you can hold on to if something goes wrong. Just as when we train our children to ride a two-



wheel bike...they lost their confidence when they find our hand is not on the seat. We must provide the same "balance" for them as they learn to handle the pressure of insecurity.

Dads, the main balance will come with a reasonable amount of consistency in the home. When we see that there must be a departure from the routine, we must be sure to communicate to our children about what is to happen and how they can deal with their feelings or fears...not belittling them or putting them down, but encouraging them that God is in control and can "work all things together for good to them that love Him..."

"Lord, I need your prompting to recognize my children's tendencies toward insecurity. Help me to be sensitive to their feelings and fears and to point them to you and your Word as their ultimate source of security. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Ten Biblical Rules for a Happy Marriage



1. Never bring up mistakes of the past. Stop criticizing others or it will come back on you. If you forgive others, you will be forgiven (Luke 6:37).
2. Neglect the whole world rather than each other. And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? (Mark 8:36)
3. Never go to sleep with an argument unsettled. And don't sin by letting anger gain control over you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry. (Ephesians 4:26).
4. At least once a day, try to say something complimentary to your spouse. Gentle words bring life and health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit (Proverbs 15:4).
5. Never meet without an affectionate welcome. Kiss me again and again, your love is sweeter than wine (Song of Solomon 1:2).
6. "For richer or poorer" - rejoice in every moment that God has given you together. A bowl of soup with someone you love is better than steak with someone you hate. (Proverbs 15:17).
7. If you have a choice between making yourself or your mate look good, choose your mate. Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them (Proverbs 3:27).
8. If they're breathing, your mate will eventually offend you. Learn to forgive. I am warning you, if another believer sins, rebuke him; then if he repents, forgive him. Even if he wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, forgive him (Luke 17:3,4).
9. Don't use faith, the Bible, or God as a hammer. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it (John 3:17).
10. Let love be your guidepost. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged (1 Cor. 13:4,5).

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9/5 Colby Middlebrook
9/12 Becky Harrison
9/19 Prayer
9/26 TBA

*Schedule subject to change

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Becoming World Changers

By Paul Bryan

Staff Pastor/Church of Glad Tidings

Reading about amazing people of the Bible and their stories makes me wonder, "What do they all have in common that allows God to use them supernaturally?" For example, in 1 Kings 18:46 Elijah out runs a chariot, in Acts 9:40-41 Peter raises Tabitha from the dead, in Esther 8:5 Esther saves the Jews in all the kings' empire, in Daniel 6:20 Daniel survives the lions, and in 1 Samuel 17:49 David defeats Goliath with huge faith.

What do all these amazing people have in common that allows them to be used by God? Their relationship with God, their supernatural strength and their faith birthed out of intimacy with the Father is the common ground. Instead of looking at their circumstance, they choose to look at God to overcome their circumstance.

David's life is a great example of him looking at God instead of circumstances. He had great excuses for not overcoming his circumstances. In his early years, he was assigned to watch over the sheep. This job was given to the least



valued in the family.

In addition, his brothers were verbally abusive to him. This would cause most of us to have our minds bombarded with thoughts like, "No one cares about me!" or "Why do I have to do this and not my brothers?"

Not David, he made the best of his situation. All of his spare time was spent worshiping God and building his relationship with his heavenly Father. He did not allow his situation to distract him. He chose to use this time to allow God to prepare him for his future. For example, when a lion or bear came to steal his sheep, he would club them to death and take back his sheep (1 Samuel 17:34). Wow, most of us would have

allowed the lion to take it, gone home and complained, "Sorry Dad, another lion came and took a sheep today." Not David, he completely trusted God because of their relationship.

When it came time for him to step out of being a shepherd and into his destiny, he was totally prepared because God had used his situation to prepare him for his future. What are you doing to be prepared for your future? Are you building your relationship with God or

are you allowing your circumstance to distract you? Choose where your strength will come from - God or man.

Realize this, don't focus on where you live or what you look like, i.e. things that cannot keep you from your destiny, but instead focus on your relationship with God which is the key to you being launched. The real question is, "How badly do you want it?" When was the last time you shut everything off and spent an hour with God? God is calling a generation that will lay everything down for him, a generation that does not look to man for their inspiration or their approval, and a generation that will totally abandon themselves to God through relationship with him. Will you answer the call? Start now by finding God daily, by looking to him in every circumstance. World changers prepare for their destiny in this manner - one day at a time, one choice at a time. The time to seek him is now!

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Romans 8:38-39



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Bible Trivia



TRUE OR FALSE

1. _____ Eleazar succeeded his father, Aaron, as priest.
2. _____ The Israelites were commanded to bring firstborn animals to God for sacrifice.
3. _____ Og, the king of Bashan, had a bed made of iron.
4. _____ On the mountain of Nebo, Moses was given a view into the Promised Land.
5. _____ During the time of Moses, the city of Jericho was also known as the city of palm trees.
6. _____ God buried Moses in the land of Moab.
7. _____ The Israelites mourned Moses for seventy days.
8. _____ The Lord tells us to honor our mother and father.
9. _____ God described the Israelites as being stiffnecked.
10. _____ The book of Ecclesiastes says laughter is madness (NKJV)
11. _____ In Ephesians, sleepers are told to rise from the dead.
12. _____ Paul recommended the Holy Spirit as a substitute for food.
13. _____ Adah was Esther's Hebrew name.
14. _____ Esther was an orphan.
15. _____ Haman was angry with Mordecai because he stole his calf.
16. _____ Haman planned to destroy all the Jews.
17. _____ Tamar was the wife of Haman of Persia.
18. _____ The Egyptians made the Israelites into slaves.
19. _____ Pharaoh made a false confession to Moses and Aaron.
20. _____ God blew a strong west wind and stopped the locust plague.

Answers Page 16

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



Bible Word Search



Bible Wordsearch

Matt 6:5-18

The Lord's Prayer

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

AGAINST	BREAD
BABBLING	DAILY
CORNERS	DEBTS
DELIVER	DONE
DISFIGURE	DOOR
FATHER	EARTH
FORGIVE	FACES
HALLOWED	HEAD
HEAVEN	HEARD
KINGDOM	LEAD
KNOWS	LOVE
OBVIOUS	NAME
PAGANS	PRAY
RECEIVED	ROOM
REWARD	SEES
SECRET	SHOW
SOMBER	SINS
STANDING	TELL
STREET	TRUTH
UNSEEN	WASH

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Answers Page 16

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Continued for Page 1: "Judge Not"

If you are not familiar with the letter above or the Pastor who wrote it, it is part of a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the church at Corinth (1 Cor 5). Our culture, through the influence of the Enemy and incorrect teaching has trained us to *"mind our own business"*. We are told *"Don't Judge"*. In fact, the world sees the church as judgmental and condemning to the point that many don't want anything to do with the church or Jesus Christ. They do have a point. We have been judging wrongly. First, scripture tell us not to judge the world since it is judged already (I Cor 5:12-13). God will deal with those who are not in the Body of Christ. Paul says in I Cor 5 that we ARE to judge those IN the church. This is usually where people get uptight. Remember, we are not to judge others' motives or issues of the heart, simply because we do not know them for sure. We assume a lot, but our assumptions are not necessarily correct. In fact, it is those assumptions, when discussed with other people, that become gossip, the "sin of choice" for the Christian community. Often done in the name of *"prayer requests"*, gossip is considered as *"wickedness"* (Rom 1:29) and worse than much of what is being gossiped about! No, we cannot judge the motives of the heart, because



God alone knows those motives and thoughts. However, we can and SHOULD judge the fruit of a person's walk by the actions and behaviors they display. For example, if someone seeks a position of leadership in the church, shouldn't the current leadership discern that person's maturity and commitment? If he or she is inconsistent in attendance, and harsh with their family, shouldn't this be considered? I Timothy lists some *"pre-requisites"* for leadership. Yet scripture also says "Don't Judge lest you be judged" and "According to

how you judge, so you will be judged". We should judge based on scripture and we will then be judged by scripture. The danger of the *"Don't Judge"* mentality is that there will be no standard and the church will become even more anemic and weak than it is now. We are to judge, but how we handle judging is critical. We are given a procedure in scripture for handling church discipline in Matthew 18:15-20. Restoration and reconciliation is always at the heart of the redemptive purpose of God. How often have you witnessed this

scriptural procedure in your church? Is it because there are none sinning in our local assemblies, or is it because it is an uncomfortable, painful, heartbreaking process? It is, of course, understandably difficult. However, without properly discerned judgment of sin in the Body of Christ, the church will become less and less effective. It is much like an untreated infection, will result in a worsened condition or possible death. Another problem with *"undiscerned"* judgment is that it does not allow for repentance. Again, the goal of judgment is restoration, not condemnation. Too often, people are judged for things for which they are ignorant. They simply may not know or understand that their behavior is sinful. They need to be taught to *"rightly divide"* scripture. We must not be so quick to judge *"motives"* but we need to judge actions if they are in clear violation of scripture. Jesus tells us not to judge without looking at our own walk. (Matthew 7:3). If I am knowingly sinning and point to another person sin, then I am a hypocrite. I must examine my own life first and if I'm walking with Christ well, then I can lovingly point out a brother or sister's sin with humility and prayer in order

CONTINUE ON PAGE 16

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"JUDGE NOT" PASTOR BOB OUZTS



Pastor Bob Ouzts
The Bride Church, YC

"Judge not that you be not judged", Mathew 7:1. This is one of the most misquoted verses in all of scripture and often the most memorized! Used by both believers and non-believers in opposition to judgement. Often it is packed around like ammunition ready to be discharged like a firearm against any judgment at all. Jesus in the "Judge not" passage goes on to say "first remove the plank out of your own eye and then gently remove the speck from your brothers eye." Jesus is not asking us not to judge, Jesus is warning us to be careful and not to forget to include ourselves in any judgements. We are commanded to turn from evil and do good, in order to do that God gives us the grace to make righteous judgements. Consider this quote from Jesus. "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment". John 7:24.

So, what is unrighteous judgement? Consider this quote from Charles Spurgeon, "None are more unjust in their judgments of others than those who have a high opinion of themselves". We error when we compare ourselves to others, we must never judge others on a scale measured against ourselves. When we weigh matters before the scale of Gods Holiness let us hope that we are quick to discover that we all fall short! Perhaps one of the most pitiful words spoken in scripture was when the Pharisee read his resume to Jesus and then pointed across to another and said "Thankfully I am not like him". Luke 18:11. Lord help us to remember that our only boast is in Christ.

I want my brothers and sisters to feel free to judge. In fact, since the fall, we are naturally inclined to judge, but it takes a savior to teach us mercy. When mercy triumphed over judgment at the cross, we see the judgment placed on the penalty of sin yet at the same instance is God's mercy and forgiveness. As we stand before our risen Lord, I don't think any of us will cry out for judgement, but instead a cry for mercy. Let us remember the words

CONTINUE ON PAGE 16

"JUDGE NOT" PASTOR GREG MANSUR



Pastor Greg Mansur
Adventist Church, YC

Perhaps one of the most quoted passages from the Bible is from Matthew 7. The first verse says, "judge not, that you be not judged." In our ultra-sensitive society, many have, of course, interpreted that to mean "leave me alone; you have no right to tell me what to do." But is that really what it's saying? Are we really supposed to simply "live and let live?" An understanding of the context of this passage, along with the whole of Scripture, paints an entirely different picture.

All of life is about relationships – our relationship with God and our relationships with other people – and the Bible is full of teaching about them. God expressed His desire for us to be brought back into a right relationship with Him by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Christ

took our penalty and punishment upon Himself so we could be redeemed. His resurrection demonstrated His victory over sin and death, and now all who call upon His name will be saved. (Romans 10:13)

The Scriptures go on to teach about the value of restoration in our interpersonal relationships as well. Galatians 6:1 says, "Brothers, if anyone is caught in a transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted." To answer Cain's question from Genesis 4: yes, we are our brother's keeper! We are to pray for, encourage, uphold, and yes, sometimes hold one another accountable when the situation arises. This is the very definition of "iron sharpening iron." (Proverbs 27:17)

So back to Matthew 7, if you read it in context, you will discover it completely reinforces the broader teaching in the Bible related to our relationships. It's illustrated in a very compelling way: the speck and the log. How can we see a speck in someone else's eye, or help them with that speck, when we have a log in our own eye? The answer: we

CONTINUE ON PAGE 16

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CONT'D FROM PAGE 14: "JUDGE NOT"

to restore them. Finally, a Christian television program called "Wretched" shows the importance of leaning on the authority of scripture and not our own values. When host Todd Friel talks to unbelievers on the street he continues to tell them that "It's not my rules, values

or ideas; it's what God's Word says". It is difficult to be one that everyone considers "judgmental" but rightly discerned and administered judgment is a gift to the Body of Christ. Compromise and Tolerance of known sin will destroy the Church!

CONT'D FROM PAGE 15: "JUDGE NOT - PASTOR BOB OUZTS"

of James 2:12-13, "Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

remember to point us both back to the cross. I pray we practice biblical truth in our judgements. After all, it appears that we are destined for it! Perhaps it is just preparation for what's to come? In closing consider this verse:

I pray that we would all remember that it is perfectly biblical to judge. If I fall short, and I do, then you have scripture to back up your judgment. Feel free to judge me but please

1 Corinthians 6:3 "Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!"

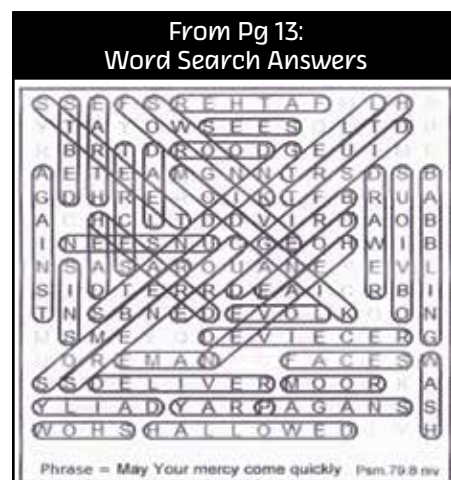
CONT'D FROM PAGE 15: "JUDGE NOT - PASTOR GREG MANSUR"

can't! So are we supposed to simply go on our merry way and ignore that person's speck? Are we supposed to let them continue on as if everything is OK? If we did, we would have to completely disregard what we read elsewhere about our responsibility to one another.

right in the text: don't be a hypocrite, but "first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." (Matthew 7:5) The key is to remove our "log" so we can help someone else with their "speck". What we find is the passage is not about judgment at all; it is about humility.

The truth and the application are found

JESUS LOVES YOU!



Bible Trivia Answers · From Pg 13:

1. True - (Deuteronomy 10:6)
2. True - (Deuteronomy 12:6)
3. True - (Deuteronomy 3:11)
4. True - (Deuteronomy 32:48-49)
5. True - (Deuteronomy 34:3)
6. True - (Deuteronomy 34:5-6)
7. False - They mourned for thirty days (Deuteronomy 34:8)
8. True - (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16)
9. True - (Deuteronomy 9:13)
10. True - (Ecclesiastes 2:2)
11. True - (Ephesians 5:14)
12. False - He recommended the Holy Spirit as a substitute for wine (Eph 5:18)
13. False - Hadassah was her Hebrew name (Esther 2:7)
14. True - (Esther 2:7)
15. False - He was angry b/c Mordecai wouldn't bow down to him (Esther 3:5)
16. True - (Esther 3:8-9)
17. False - Zeresh was his wife (Esther 5:10)
18. True - (Exodus 1:13)
19. True - (Exodus 10:16)
20. True - (Exodus 10:19)

SEPT 11: HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

By Amy Wingfield

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, most of our lives changed forever. Do you remember where you were that Tuesday morning? Like those that worked at the Pentagon and World Trade Centers, most were on their way to work or school. Moms and dads kissed their children goodbye at the daycare center, promising to, "see you soon." Wives kissed husbands and passed them their morning coffee with no knowledge that they would not be home for dinner that night. For the thousands of lives lost to the tragedy of 9/11, remember that most of them were just like me and you - middle-class Americans going to work, making a living and taking care of their family.

There is much to be passed down to those who don't remember the events of 9/11. Think of the unborn children who never knew their fathers who died on 9/11. Some children were still so little that they ask each year, "What happened on September 11?" As painful as it may be, (even I cannot view the video without breaking down, see sidebar), do it anyway. Tell the story every year just as the Israelites retell the stories behind Passover and Hanukkah and Christians retell the stories behind Christmas and Easter.

Teach the children and generations to come that this is a country that is built on, "In God We Trust".

There was a lot of hype over the pastor in Florida who planned to burn Korans in order to "send a message to Islam." Remember what Jesus told us while He walked this earth, "But I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" Matthew 5:44 (NIV). "But I tell you who hear me: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" Luke 6:27(NIV). Nothing will be overcome through hatred. Burning Korans will just create more hate.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 13:6-8 that "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

This is what all the men and women who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 taught us. We as Americans, all became one that day, unified in the fact that Islamic extremists considered us all unworthy and wanted to destroy us all. For the victims of 9/11, there was no distinction between race, creed, color or religion. It was out of LOVE for life and for fellow man that all the victims of 9/11 helped one another, even unto death.

"Greater love has no one than this, that



he lay down his life for his friends"

John 15:13 (NIV).

(22 years later), would you do the same today, if faced with that choice? Have you forgotten?

Amy Wingfield is a Freelance writer and stay-at-home, home-schooling mom to four children, Amy is an experienced and published author in the areas of Home Economics and Family Living.

BULLETIN BLOOPERS!

- The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water" The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.



JUST FOR LAUGH

An 80 year old lady was marrying for the 4th time. A newspaper asked if she wouldn't mind talking about her first 3 husbands and what they did for a living. She smiled and said, "My first husband was a banker, then I married a circus ringmaster, next was a preacher and now in my 80's, a funeral director. When asked why the 4 men had such diverse careers. She explained, "I married one for the money, 2 for the show, 3 to get ready and 4 to go."



Did You Know?

- The name "David" is mentioned 58 times in the New Testament. Despite some spectacular failures, David was "a man after God's own heart," and he became a model for Israel's future Messiah
- The word "abba" meaning "father" occurs only three times in the New Testament.
- The name "Teacher" given to Jesus (Mark 4:38) was often conferred upon people who passed on teaching to a group of disciples.
- The naming of "woman" by Adam is an example of the conferring of a name conveying status.
- Jerusalem is called by its shortened form "Salem" in Genesis 14:18. "Salem" is related to the Hebrew word for "peace" (Hebrews 7:2)

OP/ED

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GOD'S WOODSHED

By Jon Skillman

Every now and then the Lord calls me out to His woodshed for a spiritual whippin'. It's really not a punishment...it's more of a wakeup call coupled with relevant direction. It's usually the result of my getting a little too big for my holy britches. I think the Holy Spirit simply throws up His hands and passes me off to The Father, saying, "Jon's gotten so full of himself there's no room for me... his self-adulation makes it impossible for him to hear me and I can't do a thing with him...You've got to do something!"

You see, left to my own devices, I tend to lean toward the pride side, and like any good father, God deals me a stern hand of humility while at the same time explaining, "...Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought..." (Romans 12:3). I can't say I enjoy these episodes of righteous correction but I am, nevertheless, thankful for them. I just wish I could recognize the error of my ways and eliminate them myself.

But as the sting of Fatherly love wanes, vanity slips silently back like a fog that blurs my consciousness and obscures pride's presence. It won't be long before my Father's voice calls, "Jon...we need to talk!" and it's off to the woodshed for more awareness and instruction: "Do nothing out of

selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourself." (Philippians 2:3). Ouch!

I don't know why pride keeps overpowering my understanding. I understand that all things come from God...including me...so how can I take credit for things I had absolutely nothing to do with. God holds the patent on all things yet He loans them out freely but, He does expect a return on His investment. He also holds the copyrights to all intellect, wisdom, talent and creativity and all royalties are due Him not me. Therefore, herein lies the reason for my frequent visits to The Father's woodshed...plagiarism and willful misdirection of interest and royalty payments. I have been taking credit for that which God has loaned to me or has done for me. In other words, I have misappropriated His glory. I know, I know, all glory is due Him, I just tend to hold on to it until His pull date drags me back into the woodshed for further enlightenment. "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:11).

Lately, however, my glory credit card has been paid in full with only an occasional late charge. I think I'm finally getting my act together. I mean just look at the humility dripping from this great article I have writ... "What's that? Yes, Father...I'm on my way."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

What's Your Story?

(originally published in The Ambassador July 2008 issue)



Seth Halpern - Editor

I love the line in Mathew West's song The Next Thing You Know that says "What's Your Story about His Glory". We all have a story. For every person born there is a story of pain and heartache somewhere, sometime in their life. For Christians, this is true but there is also another story; A story of God's Grace and Glory in our lives. Some believers have had miraculous conversions, while other salvation stories are quieter. It doesn't matter. The God of Creation has brought us into His family! That's something to be excited about. But wait there's more (as the TV commercials say) God is with us answering our prayers all along the way. We don't all need to go to a well-promoted "Miracle & Healing Service" across the country to see God's power. He is answering prayer right here in Yuba, Sutter, and Butte counties (and everywhere else!). A while back, I requested that readers send in their answers to prayer whatever it is- physical healing, restored relationships, financial provision, or anything else. Like our conversion stories, these aren't always "lightning bolt" miracles, nor do they need to be. God answers in the large AND the small. Although I thought I would be flooded with people

proclaiming God's goodness through answered prayer, I received 6 stories. Here are some the often heard excuses. "I don't write well", "I don't want to bring attention to myself", "It wasn't a big answer". Brother and sisters, here is my answer. "Proclaim among the nations what HE has done"(Ps 9:11) The psalms continually exhort us to proclaim Him. Think about this: We want people to know that God is active in our community. What will they think if only 6 people claim to have experienced His goodness. I would like to see The Ambassador herald Him with dozens of answers to prayer every month! You don't need to be an experienced writer. A few sentences is enough to proclaim His Goodness. Please email or mail your answers to prayer so that we can show our community how Good and how Active He is in our community. What's YOUR Story?

The Ambassador accepts opinions and editorials (op-ed's) as long as they are well-written and less than 450 words. Op-ed's will be published purely at the discretion of the editor. If you would like to submit your op-ed, please email it (written in MS Word) to editor@ambassadornewspaper.com.

The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month for the next issue.

Faith, Hope, Love
but the greatest of these is love

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Finding Freedom in God's Perfect Peace

If you would like to experience the peace and transformed life that God can provide through Jesus Christ and you are willing to commit your life to the only one who can truly set you free from your sin, you can pray to the Lord right now and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Because of what His Son, Jesus, did by dying on the cross, your sins will not be held against you by God anymore. You can experience freedom for the rest of your life on earth and then have a life in Heaven with God for eternity. God's part of the deal is already done. Your part is to confess your sins, repent (or change your ways) and believe that He is Lord. If your life is out of control, let Him take over control.

For help, questions, or more information, contact us at
 The Ambassador or any of the churches listed on page 3.