

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

February

4

2024

FOR WHAT WOULD YOU DIE?

by Jim Stauffer

Have you ever seriously considered what would be important enough for you to give your life? Of course Jesus can answer that question emphatically. He died to save men from eternal destruction (**Romans 5:6-11**).

Paul wrote to the Ephesians and told them, *Husbands love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her*, (**Ephesians 5:25**). **Verse 32** tells us he was speaking of the church in this text. But we learn a lot about the husband/wife relationship simply by the comparisons he makes. So, the question is, "Would you die for your wife?" That is one thing you should be willing to die for. And if you are not it indicates you do not love her as you love yourself (**Verse 28**).

How do I reach the point I would die for someone, something, anything? All around us the message is that life is so important we preserve it at all cost. Yet Jesus told the saints at Smyrna they should be willing to die for the cause of Christ rather than deny their Savior (**Revelation 2:10**).

The answer is in our value system. Paul pleads with us to become spiritually minded people. He says, *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please*. (**Galatians 5:16-17**)

We know the apostle died for the cause. Executed because he refused to walk back the teaching of the gospel in the presence of his own countrymen who opposed Christ. He tells us why he was willing to die, *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I*

who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

(**Galatians 2:20**) This folks is exactly the response we are to have when we read John's remarks, *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever*. (**1 John 2:15-17**)

Simply stated, we have been born again (**John 3:3-5**), by incorruptible seed, the word of God (**1 Peter 1:23**), and the Spirit of God dwells in us through His word (**Romans 8:9**), and as a result and through the message of the gospel, we too, should be able to say Christ lives in us. And if He does, we will be led by His Spirit and our spirit will be the dominant force in our lives rather than our flesh. This is how we rise to the occasion to dispose of the fear for our bodies which men can destroy and rather fear Him Who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Once we reach this point of faithfulness, we can live up to the responsibilities God has given us. We can die for those things He says are reasonably worthy of giving up our earthly lives.

A Soul Searching Question

"Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me more than these" (**John 21:15**).

As I sit here thinking about the question Jesus is now asking Peter, my thoughts turn back to the evening in which Jesus told his disciples that one of them was going to betray him. Peter boldly professed his love for Jesus saying that even if all the others fall away, he would never fall away (**Matt. 26:31-33**). A short time later Peter's love weakened considerably when he denied even knowing Jesus (**Matt. 26:69-74**). Three times he denied knowing Jesus, now he has three opportunities to once again profess his love for the Lord (**John 21:15-17**).

Do you love me more than these? More than what? There is vagueness in this question because Jesus does not say more than these other apostles. Certainly, that is a most valid application since Peter had once declared that he loved Jesus more than the others. But could it not also include as well the earthly desires of his heart as well as his possessions such as his boat and fishing business?

The thought simply occurs to me that this is a very good question for you and I to consider as it relates to us. How will you answer this soul searching question? If we are going to answer as did Peter, "*Lord you know I love you*", then that declaration must be evidenced by a complete obedience to his will (**John 14:15; 1 John 5:1-3**). The love we profess for Jesus is not, cannot, be some kind of hollow, lukewarm love. It must be one that is active, one in which we give to him the best of our time, talents and wealth (**1 Cor. 15:58, Matt. 5:13-16, Psa. 90:12, Eph. 5:16, 2 Cor. 9:6-9**). Today, if we are not willing to give our Lord the best of our lives, then we cannot truthfully answer, "**Lord, you know I love you.**"

We may say that we love the Lord but words spoken are not sufficient evidence of that love (**Luke 6:46-49, James 1:25, James 2:14-20**). My friends, we show our love for the Lord through the measure of commitment we are willing to make to him. **Ephesians 6:24** is a beautiful passage, "*Grace be to all those who love the Lord Jesus Christ with an incorruptible love.*" An incorruptible love is one that is pure, upright, honest, trustworthy and sound. It is a love that is not controlled by whatever circumstance surrounds us at any given moment. With this kind of love for the Lord Jesus Christ, it is amazing what the Lord can and will do for us (**Psalms 23, Isaiah 40:28-31**).

Serving the Lord with a deep, abiding love will bring to us a measure of patience, comfort, peace and joy

beyond measure (**Isa. 12:2-3, Phil. 4:6-7, John 14:27**). *Lovest thou me?* What a profound, thought provoking question for you and I to give answer to as we edge closer and closer to that day when we will step out into eternity where we will stand in judgment before one who knows every desire of our heart (**Luke 16:15, Acts 1:24, Hebrews 4:12-13**).
Charles Hicks, Gallatin Tennessee
swabbie5256@gmail.com

Don't forget what to forget!

This is the last bulletin for 2022. With the arrival of a new year, Lord willing, perhaps it is appropriate to talk about looking ahead and not back. As God's people, it is our duty to forget those things which are behind and reach forward to those things which are ahead (**Phil. 3:13**). It's funny how we often find ourselves forgetting the wrong things. Here is a short list of things we better not forget.

Don't forget to forget

As strange as this sounds, it is so easy to forget we are to forget. Dwelling on the past has prevented many from ever moving forward. Dwelling on the past hinders us from running the race that is set before us (**Heb. 12:1-2**). Those who forget to forget are guilty of remembering things they shouldn't. The reality is, we can't change the past by clinging to the past. The brethren at Philippi were told by Paul, "*I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" (**Phil. 3:14**). Remembering our past isn't wrong in itself, but we are talking about allowing those thoughts to prevent us from moving ahead. It might seem silly to tell people to remember to forget, but this is exactly what we need to do. There is danger in forgetting to forget!

Don't forget what kind of person we are

James tells us that we, as followers of the Lord, need to remember what kind of people we are. To look in a mirror – the word of God, then walk away and forget what we look like, is to head down the road that leads to destruction (**Jas. 1:23-25**). This text points out that forgetting what we look like is the same as Volume 4 December 25, 2022 No. 17 forgetting what we have heard. Too often we hear what the Lord has said, then we walk away and remember it no more. The way to remember is to be a doer of the word and not a hearer only. We need to ask ourselves if we know what kind of person we truly are. We can change for good and ignore evil doing, by not forgetting who we are to be (**Phil. 4:4**).

Don't forget to settle problems right away

Jesus taught the need to remember when we have a problem with a brother, to take care of it immediately (**Matt. 5:23**). The apostle Paul was teaching the same principle when he exhorted saints that they should not let the sun go down upon their wrath (**Eph. 4:26**). Failure to remember this will cause the problem to escalate. Grudges will be held and wounds will go deeper if Christians leave things left undone, due to forgetfulness.

Don't forget that you were purged from your sins

What helps children of God stay faithful is to be constantly reminded of what Jesus has done for them (**II Pet. 1:9**). Married couples can begin to take their mates for granted when they fail to think what the other has done for them. The same is true with our relationship with the Lord. Through Christ we have hope, peace, comfort, salvation, fellowship, promises, guidance, assurances, prayer and every other spiritual blessing (**Eph. 1:3-4**). Forgetting what Jesus has done for us will certainly hinder us from drawing closer to Him.

We need to remember not to forget

As we have seen, remembering things is a must if we want to please the Lord. How we deal with this is simple. We must be willing to be reminded over and over and over again (**II Pet. 1:12**). We need to think on godly things (**Phil. 4:8**). It takes an effort to prevent ourselves from being forgetful. I am wondering though, how many will remember what this article was about two days from now!

Chuck Bartlett

CALVINIST REASONING

By John Wesley

Calvinists, who deny that salvation can ever be lost, reason on the subject in a marvelous way. They tell us, that no virgin's lamp can go out; no promising harvest be choked with thorns; no branch in Christ can ever be cut off from unfruitfulness; no pardon can ever be forfeited, and no name blotted out of God's book! They insist that no salt can ever lose its savor; nobody can ever *"receive the grace of God in vain"; "bury his talents"; "neglect such great salvation";* trifle away *"a day of grace"; "look back" after putting his hand to the gospel plow.* Nobody can *"grieve the Spirit"* till He is *"quenched,"* and strives no more, nor *"deny the Lord that bought them";* nor *"bring upon themselves swift destruction."*

Nobody, or body of believers, can ever get so lukewarm that Jesus will spew them out of His mouth. They use reams of paper to argue that if one ever got lost he was never found. **John 17:12**; that if one falls, he never stood. **Rom. 11:16-22** and **Heb. 6:4-6**; if one was ever *"cast forth,"* he was never in, and *"if one ever withered,"* he was never green. **John 15:1-6**; and that *"if any man draws back,"* it proves that he never had anything to draw back from. **Heb. 10:38,39**; that if one ever *"falls away into spiritual darkness,"* he was never enlightened. **Heb 6:4-6**; that if you *"again get entangled in the pollutions of the world,"* it shows that you never escaped. **2 Pet 2:20**; that if you *"put salvation away"* you never had it to put away, and if you make shipwreck of faith, there was no ship of faith there!!

In short they say: If you get it, you can't lose it; and if you lose it you never had it. May God save us from accepting a doctrine, that must be defended by such fallacious reasoning!

Evidence For Noah's Flood

Evidence for Noah's flood is everywhere on every continent.

1. Millions of dead things buried in rock layers carried by water all over the earth.
2. Pol-strata trees found in rock, layers all over the world. The sedimentary layers said to be millions of years old often have trees, some of them upside down, in layers that supposedly took millions of years to form.
3. Ancient people in nearly every civilization have flood legends which bare witness to the actual flood.
4. Fossils of sea life can be found in the highest mountains on earth, including enormous whales.
5. Dinosaur fossils with soft tissues in them give evidence that the dinosaur cannot be millions of years old, but were buried rapidly and much more recently than previously thought.
6. The Bible itself predicts that in the last days people would deny the biblical account of the flood being willfully ignorant in the face of overwhelming evidence.

-Author unknown but correct

Psalm 1:1 ~ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: ² But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; and on his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also doth not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

- Sunday A.M. ~ 9:00 Bible Study
- Sunday A.M. ~ 10:00 Assembled Worship
- Wednesday P.M. ~ 7:00 Bible Study & Worship
- **Visitors welcome**
- **We conduct in home Bible Studies**
- **We offer Correspondence Courses**

OUR ADDRESS IS:

**7845 Cottonwood Drive
Lenexa, Kansas 66216
(913) 620-0563**

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Evangelist and Editor: Jim Stauffer

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Bill Miller

Troy Armstrong

*“Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus that are at Philippi,
with the bishops and deacons:”*

Philippians 1:1

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER ALMA
BAUMGARTNER, BROOKLYN BOYER,
DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY,
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WALKER, PAT MCLLOUD, ELLIE
GOLDSTON, WINNIE RAWSON,
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SUNDAY MORNING - BILL MILLER

AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY 7 PM - JIM STAUFFER

MINOR PROPHETS

SUNDAY SERMON: THE BIBLICAL
CONCEPT OF GIVING



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- **Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17
- **Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6
- **Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30
- **Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10
- **Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38
- **Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10