

GOOD NEWS

From Getwell

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The Spiritual Sword Lectureship

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The Truth in Love

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The Getwell congregation sends monthly support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.

Worship.....10:20 a.m.

Worship.....5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

We hope that everyone has had a great Thanksgiving holiday with their friends, family, and other loved ones. It is a special time of year for all of us and we are thankful to have this time in a crazy year like this. Personally, it gave a sense of normalcy when nothing else has seemed quite right.

We wish to extend our sympathy to several individuals. We were saddened to hear of the passing of Mary Helen Overton's son. Sister Overton is a great encourager to all of us, so let's do all that we can to help her in this difficult time in life. Also, Leonard Watson recently passed away following a battle with cancer. Many of our members are familiar with the Watson family. Please continue to pray for these families as they grieve.

In other unfortunate news, a few Gospel preachers are in need of our prayers. Steve Higginbotham, who regularly writes for the Spiritual Sword, is currently battling cancer. He is fighting valiantly and as far as I have heard, the treatments are going well. Also, this past Sunday, John Moore, a preacher who appears on numerous lectureships across the country, suffered a medical emergency during Bible class. Tests are currently being run to diagnose what happened and what can be done to treat him. Please continue to pray for these brothers, their families, the congregations where they preach, the doctors caring for them, and others of whom we may not be aware.

Bradley Smith

From The Desk Of Bradley Smith

"Tolerance" and Christianity

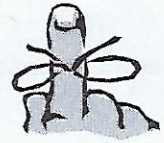
One thing upon which the world prides itself today is "tolerance." They flaunt how accepting they can be of any lifestyle. "Are you engaged in homosexuality? Go for it! Are you a man that wants to become a woman? Look at you go! Are you a human that identifies as a dog or cat? We're so proud of you!" They claim to be so "tolerant" until someone has a different opinion. The world hates it when Christians speak to the sinfulness of the state of the world. Homosexuals are commended by them for their "bravery" as if the world was not already accepting of that lifestyle, yet Christians who receive death threats are called narrow-minded or bigoted.

Why does the world do this? It all boils down to this simple point:

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God (John 3:19-21).

The world hates Christ, His church, and His Word because He says that certain things are sinful! Is the world really as tolerant as it claims? Absolutely not. Even though this is so, we must continue to do the work of the church as we speak as the oracles of God (Mat. 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, 1 Cor. 15:58, 1 Pet. 4:11).

RON'S REMINDERS



“Hey Alexa, wipe the dust off my Bible!”

Technology is a wonderful thing, isn't it? I mean who would have ever thought that we would reach such technological heights-other than Dick Tracy (remember that space-age watch he wore?) and the awe-inspiring, cutting edge Star Trek Series? But then again, these comic book/science fiction characters thrived in a "make-believe" world didn't they? However, the 21st century marvels are absolutely amazing! We have just about every conceivable contraption at our beckon call to satisfy our very need, from smiling, cheerful robots that serve breakfast in bed to ominous, metallic-like canines that patrol/protect our property-almost nothing has been left to the imagination! And unfortunately this has led to our down-fall. We have become "pudgy," undisciplined, and appear to whine if we have to, wait-for-it, **get up and do something ourselves!**

My subject-line draws stark attention to this reality. We are rapidly reaching the point where competence has been replaced with 'comfort'. Do you remember your 12 Times table? There was a time when those numbers readily presented in our minds because we learned the short-cuts and mentally applied them with pencil and paper. Remember? But what happened? We substituted those 'archaic' strategies with the calculator, and things changed forever! I'm not knocking the apparatus but you would have to agree that celebrating our times tables and exercising the mental muscle to tuck them away in our minds is like asking our children and grandchildren to celebrate life with broccoli and all things vegetable! Yuck! Something's got to give! Let me run these thoughts past you. Will we ever get to the point where we:

- *Ask someone/something to **think for us?**
- *Order someone/something to **pray for us?**
- *Pay someone/something to **evangelize the world for us?**
- *Push a button have someone/something **read our Bible for us?**
- *Tell "Siri" or "Alexa" to **wipe the dust off our Bibles? Really?**

In 2 Peter 1:5-9, the Apostle Peter made it crystal clear to the Diaspora that their development and growth in Christ was predicated upon an intentional, focused, disciplined, consistent effort by saying:

"Now for this very reason also, **applying all diligence, in your faith supply** moral excellence, and in **your** moral excellence, knowledge, and in

your knowledge, self-control, and in **your** self-control, perseverance, and in **your** perseverance, godliness, and in **your** godliness, brotherly kindness, and in **your** brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are **yours and are increasing**, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For **he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins**" (NASB, emp. added).

Peter's inspired words underscore the personal nature and thrust of the admonitions. There are some things that can't be delegated/consigned to others. This is one of many important ways to avoid the "**sloth trap**." This strategy, combined with Paul's admonition in Philippians 2: 12-13 helps us faithfully exercise our spiritual muscles as we walk in the light and love of God:

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling**; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Have you taken a hard look at your Bible lately? Have you worked the oil from your palms into the cover so that it falls and fits just right in your hand? Do you enjoy taking long, meaningful walks through the pages of Inspiration? Have you reached a point in life, as Job in the Old Testament did, who declared "I have treasured up the words of His mouth **more than my necessary food**" (KJV, emp.added). If these things are not true for you, there is a strong possibility that sloth could be making its way to your front door. And if it does, the epitaph over your tombstone will forever declare: "I should have wiped the dust from my Bible." I implore you, I beg you, I beseech you with a heart of love and sincerity-make it your ambition to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength **for yourself**; acknowledge and embrace the joy and commitment for taking personal responsibility to live, love, and learn the best ways to share Jesus with a lost and dying world. Let's declare to ourselves and the God who gave Heaven's best to us and for us: **There will be no dust on my Bible. Not now, not ever!** Please join me in using technology, in all its forms, to the betterment of our ministries and our eternal destiny!

Bon appetite!

Billy R. Davis, PH.D. USAF Ret., Think Magazine
October 2020