

FEBRUARY 5, 2012

A JUST MAN

We know very little about Joseph, the husband of Mary. One thing we do know is that he was a just man! Matthew wrote of the birth of Jesus: *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a son, and you shall call his name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call his name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took unto him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called his name JESUS ([Matthew 1:18-25](#)).*

This is a familiar passage to Bible students. There are many lessons to be drawn from the text, but our focus is on Joseph. When he learned that Mary was pregnant, his immediate response was to break off the engagement. He knew the child was not his, and at that moment he could think of only one possible explanation. Yet, being a just (honorable, righteous) man, he would not make a public example of Mary, but would privately break off the engagement.

Unlike many today, Joseph was not vindictive. Nor did he plan to humiliate Mary. Just men do not behave that way. Fortunately, before he had opportunity to carry out his intentions, it was revealed to him that the child Mary carried was of the Holy Spirit. Joseph went through with the marriage. He raised Jesus as his own. It was a decision he never regretted.

Often, it is those with the greatest personal sins who are most intolerant of the sins of others. However, just men know when to publicly expose a sin and when to do deal with it privately. We need more just men like Joseph.

-- Roger

SICK

Ruth Rake is now at home.

Joanna Thomas has been in and out of the hospital this past week.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember **Twoie Armor, Sharon Armstrong** (daughter of **Mary Lauck**), **Deborah Baker** (friend of **Betty Kelly**), **Jean Bauerbach, Janie (Bankes) Billingsley, Donn Bookman** (brother-in-law of **Junior & Helen Nolan**), **Wilma Burke (Darlene Ogletree's sister), Max Carr** (relative of **Marge Stacy**), **Shawn Christmas** (nephew of **Ethel Hendershot**), **Beth Constable Clark** (cousin of **Kathy Kidd**), **Sara Cook, Glenn Feisley, (Randy's father), Barbara Fryman, (sister-in-law of Gertie Fryman), Jillian, Beth and Jason Hanes** (friends of the **Wilkinsons**), **Jennifer Henthorn, Lucille Hupp, Betty Kelly, Jim Kimball, Goldie Lauer, Sylvia Lauer, Barbara Miller** (sister of **Kenny Born**), **Taylor Morrison**, (friend of **Mary Ware**), **Gary Nichols, Lynne Petty, Dina Pinkerton** (friend of **Lou Fryman**), **Etta Ritchie, Grace Schneeberger** (sister of **Earl Schramm**), **Phillip Spradlin (Les Mills' cousin), Karen Stewart** (friend of **Donna Butler**), **Bonnie Torbert (Kathleen Johnson's mother), Kimberlee Van Tassel** (daughter of **Norm and Dorothy Wilkinson**), and **Bob Venham** in your prayers.

THANK YOU

Posted on the bulletin board is a thank you note from **Nick, Amanda and Dominic Billman**.

SING

We will be hosting the first *Friday Night Sing* of the year February 17. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board for cookies and pop.

RESTORED

Jim Kimball came asking for the prayers of the congregation Sunday evening.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to **Randy** and **Rhonda Feisley** at the birth of their granddaughter, **Madison Lea Brinker**, born January 27 weighing six pound eight ounces. Proud parents are **Chad** and **Rachelle Brinker**.

BEING WATCHED

C. R. Nichol told this story in a book of his. He was playing golf and his ball stopped behind a tree. A stranger with whom he was playing suggested that he move it over 12 inches and then he could drive it toward the green. He told the stranger that the rules did not allow that, and so he used an extra stroke to get himself out. When the game was over, the man asked his business, and upon being told that he was a preacher, the man came to hear him. He later obeyed the gospel.

You don't have to be a preacher to be watched, however. Somebody - employee, employer, friend, neighbor -- is watching you. As a result of your life, he thinks more or less of Christianity. Which?

--copied.

FEBRUARY 12, 2012

Too Much, Or Too Little Religion?

Someone has written: *"The most uncomfortable person in the world is one who has just enough religion to make him uneasy, not enough to be enjoyed, and too much to be ignored."* It's sad, but true! For many religion is little more than a passing aberration. Going to church is their way of playing it safe, just in case there really is a God. As a result, they never experience the hope, joy and peace of true Christianity.

New Testament Christianity was never intended to be a hobby. It was designed to be a way of life. When one becomes a Christian he becomes a different person. The apostle Paul wrote: *"...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new"* ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). That is why Jesus spoke of the new birth and told Nicodemus, *"Ye must be born again"* ([John 3:7](#)). Jesus demands a wholehearted commitment, not a halfhearted faith. This new life will be reflected in the way we treat others, in the way we face discouragement and defeat, and in the way we radiate the love of Christ to those around us.

How much religion do you have? Do you believe with all your heart that Jesus was the Son of God ([Acts 8:37](#))? Have you changed your mind, and in turn, your life to conform to His image and example? That's what the Bible calls repentance ([Acts 2:38](#)). Do you have the courage to confess your faith in Him ([Romans 10:9, 10](#))? Will you be baptized as He demands ([Mark 16:16](#))? Will you put Him at the center of your life ([Matthew 6:33](#))?

You can experience the hope and joy of Christianity, but not without a genuine commitment to Him and His cause.

-- Roger

SICK

Memorial: **Grayce Smith, Wilfred Wells**

V. Jean Bauerbach has been in and out of the hospital this week and is now at the Marietta Center for Rehab.

Amy Strauss Stossel (daughter of **Gene** and **Susan Strauss**) had surgery last Monday in Cleveland and is now at home recovering.

Bonnie Torbert (**Kathleen Johnson's** mother) will be having by pass surgery February 13 at Ross Heart.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember **Twoie Armor, Sharon Armstrong** (daughter of **Mary Lauck**), **Jean Bauerbach, Janie (Bankes) Billingsley, Donn Bookman** (brother-in-law of **Junior & Helen Nolan**), **Elsie Bowens, Wilma Burke** (**Darlene Ogletree's** sister), **Max Carr** (relative of **Marge Stacy**), **Shawn Christmas** (nephew of **Ethel Hendershot**), **Beth Constable Clark** (cousin of **Kathy Kidd**), **Sara Cook, Glenn Feisley, (Randy's father), Barbara Fryman**, (sister-in-law of **Gertie Fryman**), **Jillian, Beth and Jason Hanes** (friends of the **Wilkinsons**), **Jennifer Henthorn, Lucille Hupp, Betty Kelly, Jim Kimball, Goldie Lauer, Sylvia Lauer, Barbara Miller** (sister of **Kenny Born**), **Taylor Morrison**, (friend of **Mary Ware**), **Gary Nichols, Lynne Petty, Dina Pinkerton** (friend of **Lou Fryman**), **Etta Ritchie, Grace Schneeberger** (sister of **Earl Schramm**), **Phillip Spradlin (Les Mills' cousin), Karen Stewart** (friend of **Donna Butler**), **Bonnie Torbert (Kathleen Johnson's mother), Kimberlee Van Tassel** (daughter of **Norm and Dorothy Wilkinson**), and **Bob Venham** in your prayers.

THANK YOU

Posted on the bulletin board is a thank you note from **Ruth Rake**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Eric** and **Misty Smith** in the birth of their daughter, **Madison Kate**, born February 7 weighing seven pound thirteen ounces. Proud grand-parents are **Gary** and **Linda Smith**.

FEBRUARY 19, 2012

WHY CAN'T WE AGREE?

Why are there so many churches? Why is there so much disagreement among professed believers? Will believers ever be united?

Unity is desirable. Jesus prayed that His disciples would be united ([John 17:20, 21](#)). Division was condemned in the church at Corinth. Paul pleaded with them to speak the same thing and to be perfectly joined together in mind and thought ([1 Corinthians 1:10](#)). It is said of the early church at Jerusalem that they were of one heart and soul ([Acts 4:32](#)).

Can we understand the Bible? Is unity possible? Where have we gone wrong? What can we do?

First, we must acknowledge the need for unity. A house divided against itself cannot stand ([Matthew 12:22-28](#)). When division occurs, believers become so involved in fighting each other that the real enemy, Satan, goes unchallenged. He (the devil) is, therefore, the greatest advocate of division. Only the devil rejoices when brethren fight. All of us should long for common ground upon which we can stand together.

Second, not only is unity desirable, it is attainable. But, for unity to occur we must acknowledge the authority of Scripture, and willing submit to it. Here is where the problems arise. The difficulty is not in understanding what the Scriptures say, but in accepting what they say. Far too often, our actions are based, not on what the Bible teaches, but on what we think, feel, or believe! Everything is subjective, and the absolute standard of God's word is ignored. There can be no unity where truth is ignored. Faith and practice must derive from Scripture ([1 Peter 4:11](#)).

The pioneer preachers of the Restoration Movement made a valid plea when they proclaimed: *"In matter of faith, unity! In matters of opinion, liberty! And, in all things, charity (love)!"*

We desire unity, but we cannot compromise principles to achieve it!

--Roger

SICK

Memorial: **Larry Palmer** (Tom Eddy's brother-in-law)

Wilfred Wells is at the Marietta Center.

Ross Heart: **Bonnie Torbert** (Kathleen Johnson's mother)

Grayce Smith is now at Harmar Place.

Amy Strauss Stossel is now at home recovering from surgery.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember **Twoie Armor, Sharon Armstrong** (daughter of **Mary Lauck**), **Jean Bauerbach, Janie (Bankes) Billingsley, Donn Bookman** (brother-in-law of **Junior & Helen Nolan**), **Elsie Bowens, Wilma Burke** (**Darlene Ogletree's** sister), **Max Carr** (relative of **Marge Stacy**), **Shawn Christmas** (nephew of **Ethel Hendershot**), **Beth Constable Clark** (cousin of **Kathy Kidd**), **Sara Cook, Glenn Feisley, (Randy's father), Jillian, Beth** and **Jason Hanes** (friends of the **Wilkinsons**), **Jennifer Henthorn, Lucille Hupp, Betty Kelly, Jim Kimball, Goldie Lauer, Sylvia Lauer, Barbara Miller** (sister of **Kenny Born**), **Taylor Morrison**, (friend of **Mary Ware**), **Gary Nichols, Lynne Petty, Dina Pinkerton** (friend of **Lou Fryman**), **Etta Ritchie, Grace Schneeberger** (sister of **Earl Schramm**), **Phillip Spradlin** (**Les Mills'** cousin), **Karen Stewart** (friend of **Donna Butler**), **Bonnie Torbert** (**Kathleen Johnson's** mother), **Kimberlee Van Tassel** (daughter of **Norm** and **Dorothy Wilkinson**), and **Bob Venham** in your prayers.

GET TOGETHER

A get together is planned for next Sunday, February 26, after the evening service. Please bring your favorite chili, sandwiches, chips, crackers or pop. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

PANTRY

Ten families received food from our pantry last month.

MONEY: Hazardous To Your Health

According to an *Associated Press* report, a government study shows that money can be hazardous to children. The report stated that there were over 9000 money-related injuries in one year to children under the age of 10. For the most part, it was a matter of children choking when coins were lodged in their throats.

But I'm made to wonder if this government study stopped a little short. If they would have extended this study, they would have conclusively discovered that money is also hazardous to the well-being of adults also -- that is, their spiritual health.

The Apostle Paul once said that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil ([1 Timothy 6:10](#)). When money becomes an obsession with us, the supreme objective in our life, it is hazardous to our spiritual health.

If you don't have great wealth -- learn to be content with such as you have ([1 Timothy 6:8](#)). If you have riches -- don't be haughty, don't trust in your riches, and be ready and willing to share ([1 Timothy 6: 17-18](#)).

If you follow this inspired advice, you should be able to handle money without getting hurt.

--Steve Higginbotham

WORDS OF WISDOM

Sin deceives, then defiles, then deadens.

FEBRUARY 26, 2012

The Tragedy of Ignorance

In an encounter with the Sadducees, Jesus said to them: "*You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God*" ([Matt. 22:29](#)). I can't help but wonder if He would not say the same thing to many believers today!

Ignorance is a dangerous thing. There are many things we do not need to know, but when it comes to the Scriptures we cannot afford to be ignorant. Hosea wrote: *Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land* ([4:1](#)). *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children* ([4:6](#)). And of Ephraim he said, *I have written for him the great things of My law, but they were considered a strange thing* ([8:12](#)).

Conditions today are not that much better. Pollster George Gallup Jr. has long referred to America as a "*nation of biblical illiterates*." Only four in 10 Americans know that Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. A majority of citizens cannot name the four Gospels of the New Testament. Would those in the church do any better?

Which of the following is found in Scripture?

Cleanliness is next to godliness.
God helps those who help themselves.
Confession is good for the soul.
We are as prone to sin as sparks fly upward.
Money is the root of all evil.
Honesty is the best policy.

If you answered that **none** of them are in the Bible, you would be correct. Many things the Bible does not say are widely embraced as Scripture, while much of what it does say is denied. One survey of mainline Protestants revealed that barely half of Lutherans, Methodists, and Presbyterians believed in the devil, but 56 percent of Lutherans and 49 percent of Methodists believed in UFOs. And, while nearly three-fourths of all Americans believe in hell, hardly any believe it to be their likely destination for eternity.

The consequences of religious ignorance are devastating. Nations crumble, lives are destroyed, and souls are lost out of ignorance of God's word. We need to be far more conscientious in our study of the Bible, and our commitment to

living up to its demands. Biblical ignorance in the world is demoralizing, but in the church it is reprehensible. His word must be a lamp to our feet and light to our path ([Psalm 119:105](#)).

-- Roger

SICK

Memorial: **LaMoyne Sweeney** step-father of **Joy Bowen**.

PRAYER LIST

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BLOOD PRESSURE

In observance of heart month, **Glenda Stanley** will be checking blood pressures today after the morning and evening service in the conference room.

TEACHERS

The new quarter material is in and may be picked up in the library.

CALENDAR

March 2 - Friday Night Sing - Riverside

March 3 - Youth Day - New Concord

March 4-8 - Steelton with **Roger Rush**

March 10 - Men's Inspiration Day - Zanesville.

IT JUST FEELS RIGHT

Many in the religious world depend on how they feel when it comes to spiritual service. *"It feels right,"* is their explanation of their religious acts. This is a dangerous practice and relies upon emotion and rules out any form of reasoning or logic. In [Acts 17:11](#) Paul writes of the Bereans who, *"received the word...and searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so."* These people were being taught by Paul and Silas, and made sure what they were taught was in accordance with God's word. They did not say, *"Paul said it and it feels right."* They knew that their salvation was found only in God's word. We must remember [Proverbs 14:12](#), *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."* If it feels right (seemeth right) and is not according to God's word, the end is death. Be sure your salvation is in God's word and not the way of man.

--Bulletin Digest