

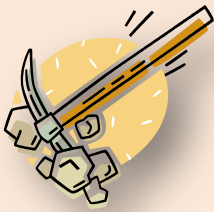
Are You in a Hurry?

We live in a day when everyone is in a hurry, whether it is to get through the grocery line, or to the next appointment. Technology has made it possible for our lives to be speeded up into a faster mode. Our fantasies are for time travel, and we look into the future when we will be able to travel faster. Star Trek movies portray people being transported through space with just the command to "engage." Stargate movies talk about "worm holes" and "portals" and the ability to travel to another destination with speed and ease. But these are fantasies. The reality is long lines and traffic jams. We're in a hurry and there seems to be so many people and things in our way to keep us from getting where we've got to go.

Although we recognize that we are in a hurry to get somewhere, we also know that life often moves along at a snail's pace. Maturity and spiritual growth seem to meander along about as fast as an Alaskan glacier. God isn't in a hurry. He anticipates that our development into His Son's image will take a life time of experiences. God is not looking at His watch, or even a calendar. His view is a lifetime, and we are so impatient, we sometimes think God is moving too slow. We need to trust God and live in the moment. James tells us in his epistle (5:7) "Be patient, therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord . . ." The word used for "patient" has the idea of bearing long or long suffering. We need to learn the lesson of not running ahead of God's timing. We need to accept, and rest in the knowledge that God is slowly accomplishing His purpose in our life. It may involve periods of trials.

Keep in mind that while God is at work in His perfect methodical way in your life, He has planned some time travel for you that will exceed anything that can be fantasized by Hollywood. Jesus is coming, and we will meet Him in the clouds. When it happens, it will be quick (Rev. 22:7, 12, 20). Three times Jesus said, "I come quickly." Paul tells us that the change will take place in the blink of an eye (I Cor. 15:52). We will be transported and be shuttled into eternity, but we have to wait until He says "engage."

The next time you're looking at your watch, and find yourself in a hurry, remember until Jesus comes, He is not in a hurry, and He's in control of time and eternity.



WOMEN WHO WORSHIP

—DOT DAVIS

Cheap Imitations

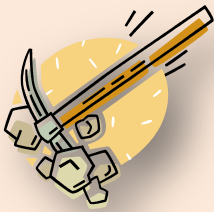
"...My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you (John 14:27)."

I shop in dollar stores, and my kids tease me about it. I maintain that there are some good items to be found. Recently, I discovered that my favorite perfume is no longer being made. In my frustration, I checked out those cheap imitation perfumes at the dollar store. There were many varieties of scents, all labeled, "Our version of White Diamonds, Our version of Chanel," etc. They didn't have mine, but I suspect that even if they had, I wouldn't have been satisfied with it.

Over the past several months, I have come to the conclusion, based on Galatians 5:22 and 23, that the qualities described as the "fruit of the Spirit" can only be truly experienced by believers. Those verses state explicitly that love, joy, peace, and so on are products of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Therefore, an unbeliever cannot truly know love, joy, peace, etc.

Now I can imagine that some of you are balking at such a statement. You are probably thinking, "Surely unbelievers can experience the emotions of love and joy?" I don't dispute that they do, but I believe that they experience them on a "soul" level only. But human beings were designed by God to have three parts: body, soul, and spirit. (See 1 Thess. 5:23.) While the spirit of an unbeliever is dead, or inoperative, the believer's spirit has been regenerated and made responsive. Therefore, the Christian can experience the deep emotions and "things of God" in both soul and spirit (Luke 10:21, for example). Not only that, but he or she can enjoy these qualities-- such as love, joy, and peace--in their purest forms, as gifts ministered directly to us by God through His Spirit (1 Cor. 2:9-12).

Also, notice what our Lord said in John 14:27. He stated that there are two types of peace available: the world's and His. The world offers its own versions of love, joy, peace, and so on; they are cheap imitations compared to His. The world's



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version may satisfy the soul for a while, but it cannot genuinely satisfy the deepest inner needs of people. Therefore, though the people around us may know something of altruistic love

(which I believe is a reflection of His image in which we were created, marred but not erased completely), they have not had a personal encounter with God's transforming love. They may feel a sort of joy (happiness, I think, is a better word), but it is not the joy of the Lord. They may experience some temporary peace, but it is not the peace that "passeth all understanding" that the Christian can know.

Sister in Christ, don't settle for the world's version of love, or joy, or peace, or hope, or any other gifts of God. Even we can be taken in by what the world tries to offer. Beware of cheap imitations! Why would you choose that which can't satisfy soul and spirit, when Christ wants to give you His genuine best? Do you have the real thing?

❄️ Winter ❄️

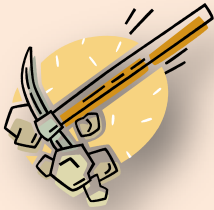
As the snow falls gently against my window I give thanks, O Divine Spirit, for the cycle of the seasons and for the ever-changing beauty of the universe. A mantle of purity is spread over the drab earth, and the evergreens bow humble in their vestments of white. The noises of men cease; a new stillness envelopes the world, and Thy voice speaks to me through the elements.



Surely the Power that can create a billion snowflakes, in numberless variety and of perfect symmetrical form, to sparkle for a moment in the sunlight and then vanish, is also mindful of me and the length of my days.

As I look upon this beauty, I think of Thee as the source from which it all comes, and I am drawn closer to Thee. Give me faith to believe that the order which sustains the every-varying pageantry of nature will also uphold me. Lord of Life, make me quiet long enough to hear Thee speak above the murmur of my desires, the clamor of much speaking, and the confusions of mankind. Breathe into my life the peace and purity of the snow. Amen.

—Robert Merrill Bartlett



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Important Announcement

With the increased availability of the Internet, and the cost of postage, we realize that many who we send a copy of the Nuggets could read it on line. We intend to significantly reduce the number of copies we send through the mail. If you normally receive a copy by snail mail and would still like it delivered to you, we would be glad to send one. Please let us know of your preference or you might need to read next month's issue on line at www.fbnv.com.

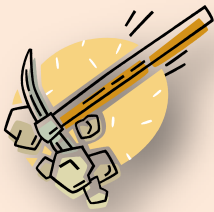
Pastor's Desk



Last month, I said it was time to change the calendars, but this month, I think it's time to change the thermostat. Hey, it's been cold in here. It's so cold that Pastor has moed prayer meeting down to the Men's classroom. The smaller room is easier to heat, but we've been filling it up recently. Pastor says that is a good problem to have. He says he isn't going to discourage people from coming to Prayer Meeting. In fact, he has called "General Reveille" on the first Tuesday of the month to replace the 6:00 a.m. Men's Reveille. The time for the morning prayer meeting is 9:00 a.m. I think the Tuesday morning guys just want to sleep in one Tuesday a month. The General Reveille is open to everyone.

Pastor and Joanie are off to Florida for a week of vacation. They will be staying in the Lakeland area. Pastor hopes to soak up a month's worth of sun in a week. I hope he brings some of it back with him. While he's gone, Pastor Bob Flatt, one of our new members, will be speaking during the Sunday services. Pastor Fred Middaugh and Dr. Robert Williams will handle prayer meetings.

Pastor wants me to remind everyone that February 14th is Valentine's Day. He said that would be a great opportunity to spread some love. The congregation has started a subsidiary Love Inc. and we are looking for opportunities to increase and abound in love for one another. Valentine's Day would be a great day to show



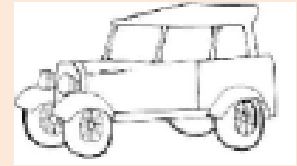
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love. And what better places to show love than to your good friend the Pastor's Desk. If you decide to send me a valentine, don't send candy because Pastor eats it.

Valley Classic's Luncheon

March 3rd at Noon with
Pastor Richard Lloyd
Brooktondale Baptist Church
Sign up by January 24th.

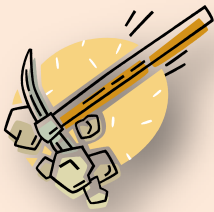


Men's Adventure - February 20-21

The Annual Men's Adventure will be held on February 20-21 at Central Baptist in Binghamton. Dr. Kevin Balder will speak on the theme, "Man and His Local Church." Dr. Balder is the president of Central Seminary in Plymouth, Minnesota. The cost is \$23, which includes a meal. You must sign up by February 8th. Syd Massey is organizing our men's group, and we anticipate a good attendance from First Baptist Church. The O'Donnells and the crew from our church are again providing the food service. Want to work on Friday or Saturday? Let the O'Donnells know of your willingness to serve.

Awana Restarts

After sitting for awhile in the cold weather, it may be difficult to start a car battery. Our Awana group hasn't met since last December, but we get underway again February 2nd. Boys and girls practice those sections and we'll see you then.



Annual Meeting

The congregation held their Annual Meeting on January 21st. A budget of \$207,546 was approved. This was about \$1000 less than the '08 budget and will require about \$4000/week to meet. We also received into membership Bob and Mabel Flatt and John and Sandy Brown along with their two girls, Bethany and Naomi. We welcome them to our church family. We also elected five deacons including Steve Post, David O'Donnell, Fred Middaugh, Jim Donnelly, and Kurt Brennan. An update of the gym project was also given.

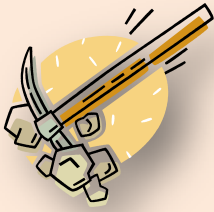
A Lamp Unto My Feet

(Word studies from the original language
by Dr. Robert Williams)



PARADISE, a place of blessedness in the region of Heaven. The transliteration of the Greek term is paradeisos. The word is used three times in the New Testament: Luke 23:43, 2 Corinthians 12:4; and Revelation 2:7. The context of John 14:2 suggests that the term monal refers to temporary abiding places. The translation "mansions" might cause us to think of celestial, enduring palaces. No doubt they will be breath-taking, but they are not permanent, and likely refer to Paradise, as does Luke 23:43. Jesus would take the believer on the Cross with him that day to Paradise, which is not ouranos, heaven. John and Luke tell us two things. Paradise is not synonymous with Heaven, and Old Testament believers will go there at the time of death, but will come forth to be with Jesus, so will be with Him in the Millennium. From Revelation 2:7 we learn believers will eat from the tree of life, which is in Paradise, now in the region of the third heaven.

Where is Paradise today? 2 Corinthians 12:1-4 provides our answer. Verse 2: Paul was caught up (heos) to the third heaven, but not into Heaven. Paradise is in the region of the third heaven, but is not synonymous with it. Verse 4: Paul was caught up into (eis) Paradise. Eis and heos are by no means synonymous prepositions. Jesus and the thief went to Paradise in Luke 22:43, and Paul went up to (heos) the third heaven, but he went into (eis) Paradise.



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Special Dates in the Future

March 20 - ESF Youth Seminars

April 12 - Easter

April 20-21 - ESF Conference, Yorkshire, NY

"Our Holy Service" , Don Anderson

April 26 - Travis Gravley

BMM Missionaries, Romania