



# Bible Baptist Temple NEWSLETTER

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Andrew J. Rusnacko, Pastor

1 June 2020  
#743

## What has the Graduate become?

"It may be difficult for us today, but right up until the end of the nineteenth century, the most important course in an American student's college career was moral philosophy, or today what we call *'ethics'*. The course was seen as the crowning unit in the senior year, usually taught by the college president himself. As President James Monroe said of such classes,

"The question is to be asked at the end of an educational step is not, what has the student learned?, but, what has the student become?" Today things are very different.

We live in a society that increasingly drifts towards the form, rather than the substance, which embraces the superficial, lives to play, will pay almost any

amount of money to be amused, and prizes fun as the highest pursuit of life. Conviction has been replaced by thrill and few seem to notice. One cannot help but think of Pinocchio and his buddies on *Pleasure Island*. In the midst of mindless fun only Pinocchio seemed to realize that they were all being turned into donkeys!" - Gary E. Gilley,

*'This Little Church went to Market'*, p 37-38

## Unique Christianity

"Biblical Christianity is like no other spiritual belief system. No others involve a personal, even intimate, relationship with the God who created all things. None have a God who sacrificed Himself for the sake of His created beings.

None have a God who is love personified. Those things and a great deal more of what the Scriptures declare are the basis for believing the words of Jesus, John 17:17, *'Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.'*

- copied, T. A. McMahon

## Testimonies

"The church celebrates the conversion of sinners.

(What Christians usually don't know.)

What a joyous occasion it is when unbelievers repent of their evil ways and turn to follow Christ. We have a name for these stories of coming to faith. We call them *testimonies*. For those who love God, the narrative of redemption never grows old. It is always uplifting to hear how the Spirit has regenerated a lost soul.

In truth, the Spirit's work does *not* stop with the moment of conversion. Testimonies don't stop at salvation.

Scripture doesn't teach that we hit our spiritual pinnacle when we are freshly born again. Instead, the Bible presents our Christian walk in terms of a *lifelong call* to holiness (*Colossians 3:1-11*).

We become 'a new creation' when God saves us, but His work in us will continue for the rest of our days - decades for many of us. We are given holy status by our conversion, but we are made progressively holy as God carries out our sanctification. This reality reframes our truncated understanding of the Christian life."

- Jonathan Edwards,  
*'always in God's hands'*, p 184



## A Good Arguer

"I argue very well. Ask any one of my remaining friends.

I can win an argument on any topic. People know this and steer clear of me at picnics. Often, as a sign of their great respect, they don't invite me." - copied  
(from 'Vendor' paper)



## The MAGNA CHARTA of our Christian Liberty

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday Services, 10:30, 11:00 am & 7:00 pm  
Wednesdays - Bible Studies - 7:00 pm

### Quotes

Believing without obeying is like eating without swallowing.

**"There's no effort without error."**

"What we know is as nothing when compared to what we don't know."

"The greatest deception is to counterfeit."

**"No one ever called himself a false prophet."**

"The less spirituality a church has, the more it needs entertainment to keep it going!"

**Sign outside of a restaurant ...  
Come in or we'll both starve."**

"Whatever you have to lose to gain Christ, is worth it!"

**False Prophets proclaim alleged miracles to get people's allegiance, faith and money.**

God is right and righteous in all that He does!

## Good & Bad Thoughts

"Some will say they cannot help having *bad thoughts*; that may be, but the question is, do they hate them or not? *Vain thoughts* will knock at the door, but we must not open to them. Though *sinful thoughts* rise, they must not reign. He who turns a morsel over and over in his mouth, does so because he likes the flavor, and he who meditates upon evil, loves it, and is ripe to commit it. Snails leave their slime behind them, and so do *vain thoughts*.

*Good thoughts* are blessed guests, and should be heartily welcomed, well fed, and much sought after. Like rose leaves, they give out a sweet smell if laid up in a jar of memory. They cannot be too much cultivated; they are a crop which enriches the soil." - Charles Spurgeon

## An IGNORANT CULTURE:

1. Does not Read
2. Reads the wrong things;
3. is Influenced by wrong things and wrong people;
4. Follows personalities, rather than truth;
5. Has not learned from history;  
"Those who do not learn from history, are condemned to repeat it."
6. Desires things to be better than they are - lives in a make-believe, fairy tale land;
7. Does not see problems ahead of time;
8. Has wrong priorities;
9. Does not recognize its enemies;
10. Is intellectually lazy;
11. Has high expectations with low standards of living;
12. Criticizes those who make them feel guilty;
13. Criticizes those who are successful;
14. Replaces the 'old' with the new just because it's 'old';
15. The worst 'sin' is to hurt someone's feelings.

- copied

**Nowhere in the BIBLE** is there any praise of intelligence.

(but there is praise of humility, faith, trust in God, wisdom, modesty, obedience, fear of the Lord, etc.)



**"Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake." - Psalm 115:1**

The Only 'Respectable' Bigotry

"The lack of strong religious beliefs – in both our private lives as well as public conversations – has demoralized society. We ignore religion and its lessons at our peril. But instead of according religion its proper place, much of society ridicules and disdains it, and mocks those who are serious about their faith. In America today, *the only respectable form of bigotry* is bigotry directed against religious believers. This hatred toward people of faith cannot be explained by the well-publicized moral failures and financial excesses of a few leader or charlatans or by the censoriousness of some of their followers. No, the reason for hatred of faith is because it forces modern man to confront matters he would prefer to ignore." - William Bennett

When God Changes & Repents

"When Scripture says that God repented, it shows that He is not an unfeeling machine. He has emotions and responds to man's actions, showing approval or disapproval. ... from A.H. Strong's 'Systematic Theology', it says, 'God's unchanging holiness requires Him to treat the wicked differently from the righteous. When the righteous become wicked, His treatment of them must change. The sun is not fickle or partial because it melts the wax but hardens the clay - the change is not in the sun but in the objects it shines upon ... God's immutability is not that of stone, that has no internal experience, but rather that of the column of mercury, that rises and falls with every change in the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere.' - David Cloud, 'Things Hard to be Understood', p 26

THIS & THAT  
From HERE & THERE  
**Jonathan Edwards**  
(1704 - 1758)

"Jonathan Edwards, who wrote/preached, 'Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God', lost his Pastorate because he would not put up with unconverted church members, nor yoke with unbelievers." - copied

**COVID-19 Info**  
To get some accurate and up-to-date information on the Coronavirus, see [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org) "Coronavirus Good and Odd News" (wayoflife literature - home page).

**Disney**  
"Disney profits are down by 91%." - copied

**Cleveland Librarian**  
"Cleveland librarian, Francis Sommer is able to speak in 94 languages. She said, 'I am afraid to cram any more words into my head. Either the top will come off, or I will wake up speaking 'Babel.'" - copied

"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me." - Psalm 56:3,4

The Coronavirus Crisis:  
A Test of Christian Character

The coronavirus pandemic is the greatest world crisis since World War II. As it turns out, the world probably shouldn't have been closed down, but that is largely in hindsight. The way that the events occurred was like the falling of dominoes. There was no stopping it, and it's all water under the bridge. Great damage has been done to the world economy, and the repercussions cannot yet be determined by anyone. The draconian power of government over the details of people's lives has moved to a new and frightful level even in the "free nations." There is talk of civil wars, rioting, famine, the breakdown of society. It looks like a trial run for the antichrist, and surely the devil would put his man on the throne of this world *today* if there were not one who withholds him. "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way" (II Thessalonians 2:7).

There is a pandemic of highly infectious fear, doubt, uncertainty, confusion, frustration, anger. For "old-fashioned" Americans, there is the added frustration of seeing a beloved country ruined, constitutional liberties thrown to the ground and trampled in the mire, socialists on the rampage, demagoguery on every hand, good sense thrown to the wind, propagandists in the seat of the news media, haters of the founding Fathers in high places. So where is my heart in all of this? What has this great crisis shown? As it has tested my metal, what has been revealed?

**Do I really, truly believe that it is God who changes the times and that my times are in His hand?** "And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings" (Daniel 2:21). "But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God. My times are in thy hand..." (Psalm 31:14-15). Am I acting like this is true, or am I acting like my times are in the hands of the government, the World Health Organization, Bill Gates, China, some prominent medical authority, the banking system, society, or perhaps the devil?

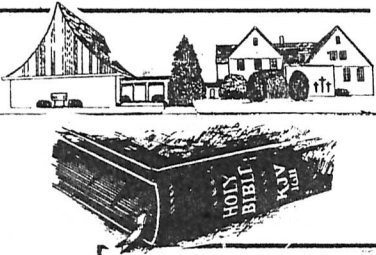
**Is my heart focused in heavenly places or on this world?** "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:1-4).

**Do I really have the mindset of a pilgrim whose citizenship is in heaven and who is merely journeying through this world as in a strange land?** (continued below)



June 2020

Sunday School ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Services ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Services ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Studies ..... 7:00 p.m.



BIBLE BAPTIST TEMPLE, 1565 Chardon Road, Euclid, Ohio 216-531-1273

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'Eternal' Life

"Consider the Doctrine of *eternal security*. The clear teaching of Scripture is that once a person is saved from sin, his or her destiny is set forever. The person who has a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ by trusting in Christ ... has 'everlasting' or 'eternal life' (John 5:24; 10:28). Clearly the words 'everlasting' and 'eternal' mean *forever*, not *temporary* or *just until you sin again*." - copied, Gary Freel

Can I truly sing from the heart, "This world is not my home, I'm just passing through?" Or have I sunk deep roots in this world and do I love this world like Lot's wife loved Sodom? What flag are I flying the highest? The flag of heaven, or the American or the British or ... some other flag of this world? **Do I glory in tribulation as God tells me to do, understanding its purpose and benefit in God's will?** "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:3-5). "Glory" in Romans 5:3 is the Greek *kauchaomai*, which is translated "rejoice" Romans 5:2. It has the idea of being confident in, boasting in, being sure of. It is the opposite of being discouraged by, frustrated with, overwhelmed by, cast down by, defeated by, angry at. (Continued next month; save this N/L to read with next month's) - David Cloud, Way of Life Literature,

on our Website ...  
[biblebaptisteuclid.com](http://biblebaptisteuclid.com)  
See  
pictures of our church  
and some special days  
Also  
There are over 100  
recorded preaching  
messages available  
to listen to at any time  
And ... Many of the  
recent monthly NewsLetters  
and bulletins are available  
to see and read

