

Trusting... And Obeying



by Dawn Reed
E. Ky. Columnist

God has a plan. We know that. It's a good plan! And He gives us valuable guidelines in His Word to help us live out that plan, staying on course.

Obeying Him is not terrible, though we fight it at times. He KNOWS the way. He KNOWS what lies ahead. We know deep inside that He can be trusted, but sometimes we just don't like to be bossed around. We trust in OUR knowledge, in OUR plans.

Just after our second birthday, we begin struggling to have our own way. As little children, we want to walk without holding a grown up's hand. As teenagers, we want to drive before we're old enough and date before we're smart enough. As adults, we want cars, jobs, and mortgages that aren't in our best interests. Having everything we want isn't always good for us. We NEED guidance, we NEED wisdom! I know I do!

When my mother was a lit-

tle girl, a family friend brought her a pair of wooden shoes from Holland. In 1968, they were just my size. I wore them at home and adored them.

One day, I had a wonderful idea: I should wear them to my first grade class at Belfry Grade School!

I begged my mother to borrow her wooden clogs. Being an incredibly wise woman, she told me "No". She said she knew best.

I was devastated. It was so important for me to be the very first one to wear wooden shoes to first grade! I wouldn't let it go. Day after day, I begged and probably cried. Finally, AT LAST, she allowed me to make the decision. Of course, I would wear them right away!

The next morning, I was ready for school with great

excitement, wearing a dress with little white socks. (I can still remember it!) I slipped on the treasured clogs and my young heart soared. Off I went to catch the bus.

My mother knew exactly what would happen.

The bus ride was fine. I was still so proud. Everyone would love them!

At school, my friends were all impressed. They had never seen anyone wear wooden shoes from Holland before. I twirled to show them off.

The thrill and excitement wore off as the day went on. Blisters began to form all over my tender feet. (Wood and skin are not the best combination.)

I practically crawled from the school bus at the end of the day. It was crystal clear

why no one else had ever worn wooden shoes to first grade.

I was thrilled that my mother permitted me to wear her precious treasures from Holland but also learned a valuable lesson: I could trust that she knew best.

Even more than my mom, I can trust that my Heavenly Father always knows best! **Proverbs 3:5-6** is a Bible passage I know and often share, but do I really believe it? Do I live it? Do you? *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."*

He loves us! If we read His Word and listen, He will guide us. Thankfully, it won't be in wooden shoes!

Seeds of Hope



Everyone feels anxious at one time or another. It is a normal part of life. It is our body's way of telling us that something might be wrong - that we might be facing some potential danger or are feeling symptoms of an illness. If we had no feelings of anxiety, we might put ourselves in all kinds of danger that could end up in disaster.

Anxiety for the Christian however can be more. It may be an "early warning system" that God has put in our hearts, through the Holy Spirit, to get our attention to let us know that something may be going wrong in our walk with Him and He wants us to make things right with Him.

God has many ways to use anxiety to get

our attention. He may trouble our hearts when we read His word, listen to a hymn, hear a sermon, speak with Him in prayer, see a picture of His children suffering or when we are having a conversation with a friend. His Spirit is always at work in our hearts and it is good to be troubled with anxiety that comes from God.

The writer of Psalm 94 was having a huge problem with anxiety. He must have been deeply troubled by many things that were overwhelming him and seemingly beyond his control. Note his words: "When anxiety was great within me" - not simply a minor incident, but something very, very troubling.

Then note what happened: Your "consolation" or perhaps better understood as "comfort" - "brought joy to my soul." It is like Jesus saying, "Let not Your heart be troubled. Believe in me. This is my plan for You. Trust Me."

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The Terror of the Lord

by BOB CASEY, preacher
Cornerstone Church of Christ
70 Bond Street at Camp Avenue in West Irvine

In our last article, we made mention of Paul's statement in **2 Corinthians 5:11**, *"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences."* Many today may hold the opinion that more preaching needs to be done describing the love of the Lord -- more than the warnings given by the Lord for living in sin. **My personal opinion is:** that a balance of each subject must be preached to gain the attention and hopefully a confession because of it. But, unto any who may not agree with me, I will make mine appeal to the inspired preaching of the Apostle Paul who wrote in **Romans 2:4-11**. Here he is describing the judgment of others in some mannerism of life, but he himself is committing the same errors. Instead, he appeals to their conscience, saying, *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"* *"But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;"* *"Who will render to every man according to his deeds:"* *"To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:"* *"But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,"* *"Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;"* *"But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:"* *"For there is no respect of persons with God."*

So again, there you have it! Both love and terror preached in a balance to the people of his day in the same sermon. I have had the privilege to conduct several Gospel meetings in different places, and the question most would ask after the meeting was over, would be: 'Did you have any response?' or 'Were

there any that were baptized as a result of what was preached?' So this tells me that for many, their interest is still first and foremost to see people obey the Gospel to be saved. I will admit that every time I was called by some church to hold a series of meetings, the congregation expected this to happen.

For many years of holding Gospel meetings, I rarely held one unless there was someone to come for repentance and baptism and some for restoration. **But sadly**, in the times in which we are now living, many either will not heed an invitation or listen to a sermon. So, preachers have to 'get their licks in' for Christ when they can. This may be better accomplished if the preacher may know some of the attendees.

There is a well-known preacher in Ohio who says of today's listeners, that only a rock'em, sock'em, shock'em attitude will get people to sit up and pay attention, and he preaches about the Hell of Fire awaiting the unrepentant sinner and baptism for the remission of sins, along with other things mixed in, but he strongly warns about the Lake of Fire.

David wrote in **Psalm 111:10**, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,"* and **Proverbs 1:7**, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,"* and to include **Proverbs 9:10**, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."* **Again, there you have it!** When the Gospel is preached, also the terror of the Lord and the very thought of eternal death will awaken many to realize that this is the truth. And when the Gospel is rightly preached, the alternative to Hell is also proclaimed that Jesus, out of love, does not want anyone to go there. This is why he died on Calvary -- to save us from our sins.

Then, we begin to **understand** that God really does love us. This caused John to write in his epistle (**1 John 4:15**), *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment."*

Before I was baptized, I lived in fear and torment, but after I obeyed the Lord, I came to realize that **wisdom, knowledge, and understanding** brought me into the true nature of God and Christ Jesus. And to add, **it can do the same for you!**

Sincerely, Bob Casey, (1-859-369-4165), local

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Numbers 4, what color was the cloth draped over the Ark of the Covenant? White, Black, Gold, Blue
3. "The wicked man travaileth with pain all his days" is from what Book's

15:20? Ezra, Nehemiah, Job, Psalms

4. From Daniel 5, who was so scared that his knees knocked together? Moses, Belshazzar, Solomon, Lot

5. Who paid Delilah to betray the mighty Samson? The Pharaoh, Abdi, Lords of the Philistines, Jeuz

6. In which city were 85 priests slain? Gezer, Nob, Shechem, Aphek!

Answers on bottom of Page 12

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

EPHESIANS 6:18

Medieval-era rendering

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

1 THESSALONIANS 4:14

For we believe **that** Jesus **died** and **rose again**, and so we **believe** that **God** will **bring** with **Jesus** those **who** have **fallen asleep** in **him**.

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D L Y O Z N O O H W

Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Notable

SALTINE

Choice

PITON

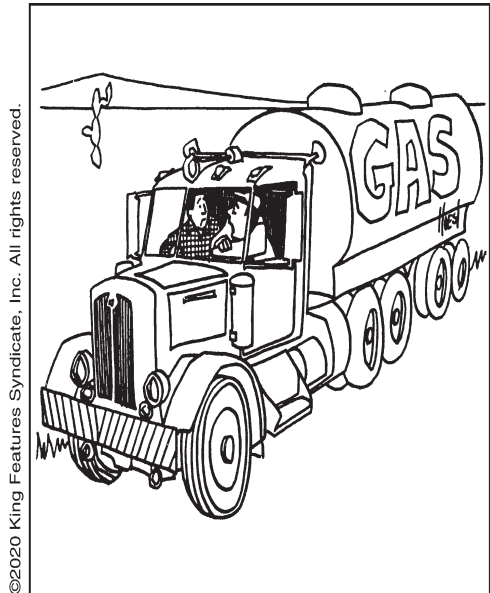
Remove

SPEEDO

Extent

PECOS

TODAY'S WORD



"You'll never guess why we
_____!"