

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

August 2018

No. 392

GROWING YOUR FAITH

The apostle Paul gave thanks to God for the brethren in Thessalonica. *“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly”* (2 The. 1:3a). The apostle had started the church in Thessalonica. He had seen men and women come to believe in Jesus as the Christ. But now he was witness to a great growth in their faith. What about you? Is your faith growing?

Do you have greater belief that there is a creator, God, that made everything that you see?

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in

THE HARVESTER
141 County Road 474
Woodland, AL 36280
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: (Rom. 1:19-20)

When you look at the beauty and symmetry of a flower, when you see the birth of a baby, when you experience the wonderful functions of a human body, and when you observe the changing of the seasons and return of the rain, do you confess that there must be a God? When scientists search deep within the cells of living organisms and report the immense complexity and amazing functionality that they find, there has to be a master designer; does this strengthen your belief?

But beyond your belief in God, have you grown to trust Him? Do you see the fulfillment of His promises in your life?

For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (Heb. 13:5b-6)

Do you pray to Him often and seek His guidance in your life? Do you see His blessings upon you? If your faith is growing, you will experience that growth in your trust and reliance upon Him. *“For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe”* (1 Tim. 4:10).

Do you need greater faith? *“And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith”* (Luke 17:5). If you, like the apostles, want to have more faith, my recommendation is to “get into the word”. In other words, do more reading and studying of the Bible. *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Rom. 10:17). Read about people of faith in the Bible. The 11th chapter of Hebrews has a long list of those who had great faith, such as Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Rahab and Daniel. Read their stories in the Old Testament. The gospels have examples of people with great faith, such as the centuri-

on asking for healing for his servant (Mat. 8:5-13), or the woman with an issue of blood that touched Jesus (Luke 8:43-48), or Peter who walked on the water (Mat. 14:25-32). When you read about these people of faith you can see the trials they went through and the result of living their lives in faith. You can also read about the miracles of Jesus and the apostles or the miracles of the prophets Elijah and Elisha; reading how God worked great miracles through these individuals should also increase your faith.

When you read your Bible you should come to understand some of the mysteries that God has revealed there. The Old Testament repeatedly foretells the coming of Jesus the Christ.

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Pet. 1:19-21)

When you see the fulfillment of prophecies of the Old Testament made hundreds of years before the coming of the Christ, does this strengthen your faith? When you experience the wisdom and truth of God as it applies to your life, does this strengthen your faith?

Another way to have greater faith is to be around people of faith. *“That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me”* (Rom. 1:12). The church assembly is just one time to be around other Christians of faith. Find other times to be around brothers and sisters of faith. Do you know someone who demonstrates great faith? Spend time with that individual and see why they have faith and how they live their life in faith.

My encouragement to you is to find ways to grow your

faith. *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”* (Heb. 11:6).

ED ANDERSON
Sierra Vista, AZ

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. From which part of Adam’s body did God create Eve?
2. What sin is Cain remembered for?
3. Why did Jacob initially send Joseph’s brothers into Egypt?
4. When the Prodigal Son returned, his father gave him a robe, shoes and what other item?
5. What does James say we should do if we lack wisdom?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

...and remember last month’s questions?

1. Where was Abraham born? UR (Gen. 11:31)
2. What was the name of Samson’s father?
MANOAH (Jdg. 13:1-24)
3. Who went back to Jerusalem after the captivity to encourage the people to build the walls of the city again?
NEHEMIAH (Neh. 2:17)
4. According to the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, “a city that is on a hill cannot be...” what?
HIDDEN (Mat. 5:14)
5. In the vision of Jesus in Revelation, what came out of Jesus’ mouth? A SHARP SWORD (Rev. 19:15)

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God’s harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

The Harvester

141 County Road 474 * Woodland, AL 36280

Phone: (256) 449-9221* Email: raymcmamus@hotmail.com

Web Page: www.churches-of-christ.org

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

(from July 2018 issue)

Can you find thirty (30) books of the Bible in this paragraph?

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

COPIED from <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/hidden.htm>

BEING AN ENCOURAGEMENT

“When are you going to speak? When are you going to lead singing? When are you going to lead prayer?” All questions asked of a young man as he begins his journey with Christ. Sometimes these are questions that are asked repeatedly until the young man stops attending services, or still comes but sits in the back not participating in any way. It is something that many have dealt with as they have grown and matured. There is a lot of pressure given to young men, especially when they have family members whose influence is prominent in a congregation or region.

Many times, we start to pressure young men into speaking more than any other area of worship. Is this because it is the most important part of our worship, or what we perceive to be the most important? I tend to believe that waiting on the table would be the most important thing that we can do. Yes, preaching to and getting a message to the congregation is important, but it seems that commemorating Christ’s death is much more important.

If we were to prioritize what we think the order of importance is for worship it might look like this: 1) Preaching 2) Praying 3) Singing 4) Waiting on the table

Do you think that this is the order of importance that God sees? It might even be opposite; we don’t really know and because we are not told specifically in the Bible, I don’t think that we are supposed to know. I believe that we are to continue placing great importance on all parts of worship because they are all important. Of course, as always, we are to work out our own salvation, not relying on others. “...*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*” (Php. 2:12b).

I am not saying that all male members should do one thing or another, but that they should all do what they can. Are we participating for the right reasons, or is it because it is what is

expected of us? We have to make sure that we are worshipping in the right ways, and for the right reasons.

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (John 4:23)

All of this came to mind because of the parable of the talents (Mat. 25:14-30). It opens with Jesus telling us of a ruler who gave talents to his servants:

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. (Mat. 25:15)

The key phrase in this is, “*to every man according to his several ability;*” We all know people who are very talented at certain things such as working on a computer, or fixing cars, or writing stories. How many people do you know that are good at everything that they do? I would venture to guess that there are not too many people that fit into this category. So why do we expect many of our young men to be comfortable and able to do everything? We should be encouraging them to do what they can, not making them feel guilty or inferior for the things that are not as natural to them. I have known many incredible preachers who I have never heard lead a song or have never seen wait on the table.

If a young Christian man did not do anything at all, they would fall into the trap laid out in the parable. Look at this passage at the end of the parable:

For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Mat. 25:29-30)

“*Cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness.*” That is a powerful statement that tells us that we need to make sure

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
August 9 - 12	Ashlock Near Celina, TN	Joe Hill (Hagerhill, KY)
August 10 - 12	Mt. Carmel Road Gay, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
August 17 - 19	Hokes Bluff Hokes Bluff, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
August 19 - 24	Fairview Mount Vernon, KY	Joe Hill (Hagerhill, KY)
August 24 - 26	Chapel Hill Pell City, AL	Brad Prince (Carrollton, GA)

that we are profiting God and doing everything according to His will. The biggest thing to remember when dealing with the young generation is that no matter what, we do not need to pressure young men so much that they are scared away. Instead we should be encouraging them and developing them in ways that are positive. Yes, we should work to get young men to participate in the service but it needs to be done in the right way.

Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction. (2 Cor. 13:10)

What a powerful way to emphasize the need to edify. So the next time you see a man, young or old, become a member and start down the path to serving God, think about what you can do to edify and not destroy. Don't ask why they don't do something, just work to be the positive influence that God wants us to be and ask what you can do to help them.

A. D.