



The Eagle

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Number 1



1974



1994



2000



1978



2005



1990



Today!



to be cont.

Number I—2020

THE EAGLE

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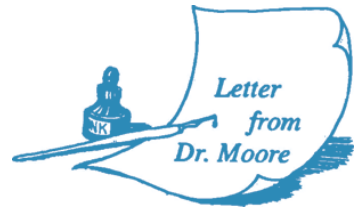
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Dear Faithful Readers and Friends,

It seems that time is going faster as the weeks and months keep passing by. With time moving on, changes in our lives are sure to come as well. Things we've taken for granted day by day are not the same any longer. I often ask myself, "What have we accomplished?"

The Lord has given opportunities in His service and continues to give love and grace, step by step, day by day. The theme of my life has been the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Someone once said, "Preacher Moore, you are a *grace* preacher!" Yes, and that continues on. We need that *grace* no matter what stage or circumstance we are in. The world is more needy than I have seen in my lifetime. The need for *grace* and truth isn't often considered as a remedy for troubles now and later on as we face eternity. Oh, God, help us take every day to advance the kingdom of God and Christ and share the Gospel message with everyone we come in contact with daily.

There have been some changes in our life and ministry this month and the months to come. Martha Sweat, one of our dear secretaries, retired after 25 years of faithful service here at the church. Then, Rex McPherson and his wife, Jessica, will be retiring from the pastorate in March. Rex is my son in the ministry. He came to Shiloh Hills when he was a teenager. He was called to preach there, and God launched his ministry there. Whether near or far, he has always been close to my heart and life. He has made a great difference wherever he has served, has always been a fruitful soul winner, and has invested his life in new converts and the people he has served all these years.

As Martha and her husband, Bill, and Rex and Jessica change their positions in the kingdom of God, I pray, "God speed and take care of these precious couples that we love so dearly. Continue to use them wherever they are and whatever they do to lead others to the Lord for His Name's sake!"

In His Grip,

Tolbert Moore, Founder/Editor



Dr. Rex McPherson is retiring from the pastorate. On Saturday, March 14, 2020, Galilean will host a RETIREMENT PARTY in honor of his 41 years as an ordained Gospel preacher. Please look at page 11 for more details.

We want to thank all of those who have given toward publishing *The Eagle* magazine. As funds have come in, we have set the support aside, and because of YOU we are able to print and mail out this issue of *The Eagle* as well as post it on the tolbertmoore.com website.



The Source of OUR Success

by Dr. Rex McPherson

Preached Homecoming Nov. 3, 2019, AM Service
at Galilean Baptist Church, Lawrenceville, GA

The children of Israel have come through the wilderness. Their journey is just about over. They have been 40 years roaming in the wilderness. Turn to Joshua 1:1-9, *Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe*

to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

That hardly needs a comment, however, I want to speak to you a few minutes on *The Source of Our Success*. I thought about calling the title of this *The Key to Our Success*. Then as I continued to look at it, I thought, "It is not really a key." Then I thought about calling it *The Secret to Our Success*, but it is not really a secret. It is right there in plain view what you are supposed to do. It is a guidebook, an instruction manual, and it is a very good story on top of that, but it is more than that, much more than that.

Then I thought about calling it *The Secret to Our Success*, but it is not really a secret. It is right there in plain view what you are supposed to do.

I don't think I have ever read a more encouraging passage than this. Joshua had an encounter with God. God gave Joshua a commission. God gave Joshua instruction. God made a commitment to Joshua. God committed **Himself** to Joshua.

When we look at this Scripture, we find that it is a very encouraging passage. I just love the way it reads. *Moses my servant is dead; as I was with Moses, so will I be with thee.* Man, that is great! You could eat on that for a couple of weeks, and you still would not have gotten it all.

Get up in the morning, and think, "Moses, God's servant, is dead." You get up and do your job or your business today, and I want you to know I am going to be with you, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

Now, think about that. What did that statement mean to Joshua? He had witnessed God use Moses to destroy the nation of Egypt. He had used Moses to turn the river into blood. He had used Moses to bring plagues upon Egypt to destroy them. He had used Moses to part the waters of the Red Sea. He had used Moses in so many powerful ways.

He saw Moses when he went up into the mountain to meet God. The Bible says it was covered with a thick darkness, but when Moses came down from the mountain his face glowed as if it were on fire. He was in the darkness but, when he came off the mountain, his face was bright and shining with the presence of God. You think about that a minute!

If I had been Joshua, I would have said, "Whoa, whoa! Wait just a minute here. As You were with Moses, You are going to be with me? Well, now, those are big shoes to fill. That is a big job to take over. That is a tremendous promise to fulfill. You are going to be with

me like you were with Moses!” Whew. That would scare me to death. Wouldn’t it you?

Remember that God had blessed him, guided him, groomed him, and got him ready for the task at hand. I look at this passage and have to say, “It is one of the most encouraging passages I have ever read.” Like I said, I love just the way it sounds when it is read.

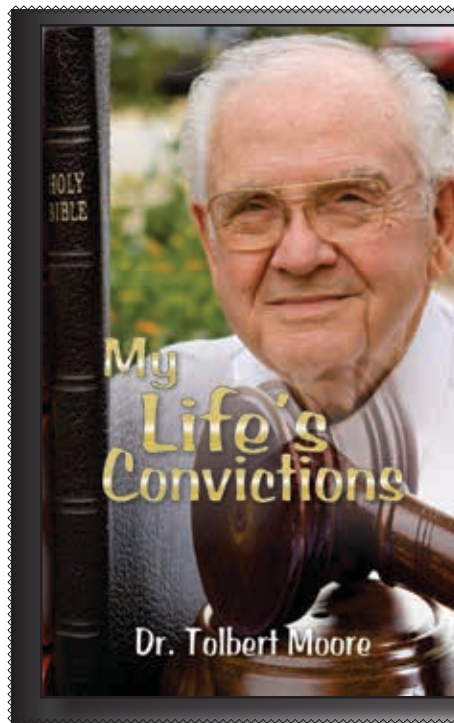
Look a little closer with me at several of these words of encouragement we read here. In Joshua 1:1, we see that after the death of Moses, the Lord **SPOKE** to Joshua. Now, we know that God spoke to Moses. First He spoke to him out of the burning bush. Moses saw a bush that was burning, went over there to it, and the Lord said, “*That is close enough. Take off your shoes if you are coming any closer. This is holy ground.*” Out of that burning bush God spoke to Moses. We know that.

Then God led Moses day by day. God said, “Moses is My servant. When I need to talk to Moses, I am going to talk to him face to face. You do your rituals, Aaron. You go through your routines. Aaron, you have the Levitical priesthood, but when I talk to Moses, it is going to be a face-to-face talk.”

At times Moses would go out of the camp to the Tabernacle and stand in the door of the Tabernacle, and all of the people of Israel would come out of their tents and look toward the Tabernacle. The Shekinah glory of God would come and rest upon that place, and God would talk to Moses.

And the Lord spoke to whom? He spoke to Joshua. The same God Whom Joshua had seen do so many mighty things, has come to Joshua now and said, “Joshua, I am going to speak to you.” Whew!

I don’t know if God had ever spoken to him before.



My Life's Convictions

Dr. Moore addresses practical, timely subjects such as **DOCTRINE**, **SERVICE**, and **FELLOWSHIP** in this compilation of his “My Life's Convictions” articles.

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I don’t know if he had ever had any other encounters with Him. I don’t know if Joshua had ever heard His voice like that before, but this day He spoke to him in a clear, plain voice just like He had spoken to Moses. What a blessing.

Let me ask you a question. Has God ever talked to you? I have had Him speak to my heart just as clearly as you would. He did not speak in hill-billy English either! God has spoken to me on some of the darkest days of my life. On some of the hardest days I have ever gone through, as I lay on my face weeping bitter tears, crying out to God, He has spoken. On one occasion, He said, “Take a positive approach. I am going to take care of it.”

Then, with mucus running out of my nostrils and

tears running out of my eyes, I got up and said, “Thank You, God, for giving me the answer to my prayer.” When God speaks to you, it leaves a mark on your life, on your soul.

You say, “Well, God has never spoken to me before.”

Well, maybe there has never been the need to. Maybe there has never been a desire to hear His voice.

God said, “As I was with Moses, so will I be with you.” God spoke to Joshua. My, what an event.

Then in verse 2, Joshua is given a new charge. His charge is to take these people over Jordan. Finish the job that Moses started. Moses was going to take them across the river into the Promised Land, but on one occasion, Moses sinned and did not obey God, and

God has spoken to me on some of the darkest days of my life. On some of the hardest days I have ever gone through, as I lay on my face weeping bitter tears, crying out to God, He has spoken.



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Timothy McCulley, Pastor

God then restricted him from going into the Promised Land.

I know the Lord forgave him for what he did but, because of it, Moses could not go. God said in Numbers 20:12, . . . *Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.* Moses wanted to go. He asked God, "Please, let me go."

God said, "Moses, I can't let you go, but I will let you see it."

God took Moses up on top of that mountain, and he looked to the East, West, South, and North, and God said, "This is all of the land."

The Bible said Moses was 120 years old, and his eye was not dim. He could still see as well as he could when he was a teenager, and he was still strong. Moses stood on that mountain and saw everything that God had promised. I like to think that God just turned on the video and let him see it all through history. Moses died satisfied having seen what God had promised him.

He said to Joshua in verse 2, . . . *arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people.* Time to take the next step.

In verse 3, Joshua is given the promise of victory. The places where you tread I will give you. In verse 5, he is told that no man will be able to stand against him. As God was with Moses, so He would be with Joshua.

In verses 6 & 7, Joshua is challenged to be courageous and to stand firm in the Word of God, and God would give them the land. He promised Joshua that His presence would be real. He promised him that he would be secure. He promised him that He would enable him in all that had to be done. He only had to be courageous and obey God. Then he said,

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

What is the source of good success? I can say with all assurance that the source of Galilean's success is **FAITHFULNESS** to the Word of God. In a day when many churches are casting aside their King James Version Bibles and even seeking an alternative to the Scriptures, Galilean has been faithful to God's Word. Many churches have hoped that by casting off God's Word they can get people's attention and draw them in by their lack of conviction, their lack of Bible preaching.

One of the big churches in the Atlanta area said, "You only need one Bible verse per sermon." In other words, don't overload the people with too much Bible.

I can tell you that the source of Galilean's power, the source of its success is that we have maintained the

preaching of the Word of God for these 53 or 54 years.

If you take away this Bible from this church, or any church that is Fundamental and believes the Bible, you take away the very foundation that it is built upon, and it will crumble.

Preaching must be paramount in the church. The pulpit needs to be on fire. The preaching from the pulpit must be sounded forth with all authority—no backing up, no compromise, no quitting, no giving in, just preaching the Word of God the way it is. As they used to say in the old days, "Just preach it gun-barrel straight."

Billy Sunday was in a crusade in the North in a big city like Chicago, and some of the city fathers didn't like what he was saying, so they began to complain to him. Most people might compromise or back off a little, but not Billy Sunday. He said, "They tell me I rub the fur the wrong way. I don't. Let the cat turn around!"

The source of our success, first, has been our faithfulness to the Word of God.

In a day when many churches are casting aside their King James Version Bibles and even seeking an alternative to the Scriptures, Galilean has been faithful to God's Word.

The preaching from the pulpit must be sounded forth with all authority—no backing up, no compromise, no quitting, no giving in, just preaching the Word of God the way it is.



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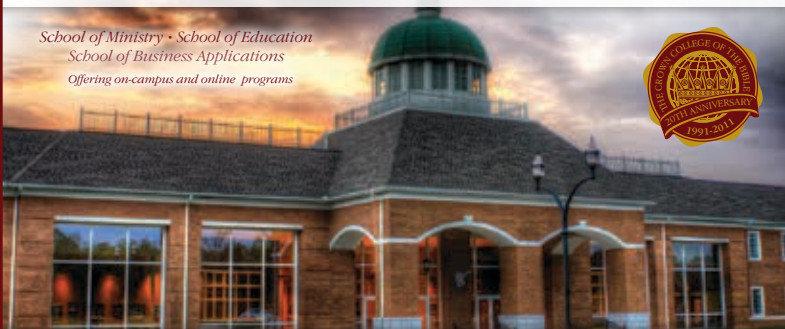
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When you meditate on the Word of God, it is just like the food you eat, it becomes a part of you.

I don't want to insult anyone here, but if all we pray about is ourselves, then we are only doing ourselves a little bit of good.

Our success, secondly, depends on our **OBEDIENCE** to the Word of God. It is not just the **hearing** of the Word; it is the **doing** of the Word that brings us good success.

When we tie this to Psalm 1:1-3, we see it is not just a singular promise, but it is a universal promise. It is not only the church that stands by the Word of God, it is the individual. *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

Meditate on this Word. Think on this Word. Let it become a part of you. It was said earlier today about Dr. Henry, the founder of Galilean, that he had read the Bible so many times that he just knew it.

Years ago, when I was in my twenties, I did a lot of memorization through the Word of Life program. I still remember those verses.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20: *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

That is just one passage I remember. Because of my years of Bible reading and study, if you read your Bible out loud and you pronounce a word wrong or leave a word out, I will know it. So will many of you because you have meditated on it. When you meditate on the Word of God, it is just like the food you eat, it becomes a part of you.

The source of Galilean's success is the Word of God. For 54 years, Galilean has been successful because of its firm and unrelenting proclamation of the Word of God.

For 54 years, Galilean has been successful because of the caring and tender heart toward those that are bruised and battered.

For 54 years, Galilean has been successful because it has a worldwide missionary vision. Through *The Gospel Preacher Association* here in our church, we are sending missionaries and helping men all over the world. People are getting saved in foreign countries because of our efforts to help send missionaries.

As we are seeking a new pastor for Galilean due to my retirement from the pastorate, I explain to every candidate the importance of the ministry of *The Gospel Preacher Association* through Galilean Baptist Church. I want them to know that when they come here, they are going to have to be mission-minded, positive in preaching the Gospel to the whole world.

You see, for 54 years, Galilean has been successful because the pastors have boldly preached the whole counsel of the Word of God.

Third, our success depends on our **willingness to sacrifice**. The only way that Galilean

is existing today is that back in the day when things got rough and finances got thin, there were men in Galilean Baptist Church who were willing to lay down their own credit cards to pay the bills. You may not know that the church was ever in that position, but it got in a bad way. Yet, people sacrificed and gave. The truth of the matter is that the church always continues on when the people of the church have a willingness to sacrifice.

Fourth, our success depends on our **willingness to pray**. If we don't pray, we are just playing. No praying, no power. No power in the pulpit; no praying in the pews. I think we forget sometimes how important it is to pray. We forget how important it is to talk to God.


I don't want to insult anyone here, but if all we pray about is ourselves, then we are only doing ourselves a little bit of good. We need to pray for others and to intercede for the cause of Christ. We need to get down to business and forget about ourselves. Our success greatly depends on our willingness to pray.

These are basic, I know, but oh, how important they are. If we continue to stand up for God, I believe He will stand up for us. Amen.


Joshua, Moses my servant is dead. Now, you take these men,



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and you keep going forward. Don't let circumstances and this time of transition get you down.

There was a Promised Land before Joshua. The land was promised to them. There is a Promised Land that you have not yet seen.

Who knows what God has in store for Galilean Baptist Church? I think if I were you, I would hang around to find out.

The source of our success comes down to one name, **JESUS CHRIST**. Jesus said, "For without me ye can do nothing."

Down through the years, I have found this to be so true. Many times I have learned the hard way as I failed to seek His guidance and leadership. What a blessing that He says, "As I was with Moses, so will I be with you." Joshua knew what God had done for Moses. We have the promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us. **God with us is the source of our success.** †

Who knows what God has in store for Galilean Baptist Church? I think if I were you, I would hang around to find out.

The source of our success comes down to one name, **Jesus Christ**. Jesus said, "For without me ye can do nothing."

Billy Sampson, Missionary Evangelist with *The Gospel Preacher Association*



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Grace & Truth

by **Dr. Tolbert Moore**

Preached at the *Christian Fellowship Meeting*
Peachtree Road Baptist Church, Suwanee, GA
June 12, 1996

Turn with me to John 1:1, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

Verse 14, *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Verse 16, *And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.*

Verse 17, *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*

Grace and truth belong together. The Bible is very explicit in placing grace and truth together. If you try to deal with one without the other, you will get off course.

My dear friend in London, England, Selwyn Hughes, whom I met in 1960 used to say, "If you have all Word and no Spirit, you will dry up. If you have all Spirit and no Word, you will blow up. But if you will put the Word with the Spirit, you will grow up!"

In like manner, you cannot have repentance without

faith or faith without repentance. They are Siamese twins. They complement each other and work together.

The same is true with grace and truth. If you have grace without truth, you have a license to do whatever you want. God's grace forgives sin, but when you put truth with it, you learn that God hates sin. He forgives sin for the benefit of the sinner, but He still hates sin.

One great battle in Spurgeon's life was against what he called hyper-Calvinism which denied the universal invitation to come to Christ and also the practice/teaching of what is called antinomianism (or anti law). They preached that the moral law was not for Christians, that the moral law had nothing to do with Christianity, because (they said) we are saved by election.

I beg their pardon! We are saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace is **the divine influence on the heart** (Lexicon). We get the word *touch* from this. Grace is the touch of God that changes you, making

you different from what you would ever be otherwise. **You can never be what God wants you to be until He touches you.** You will never walk with God until you learn to walk in truth. And you cannot walk in truth without grace because you do not have the strength.

The reason we so desperately need Him and His grace and truth is the devastation that the fruit of the tree of knowledge in the garden brought to the human race. Disobedience to the Word of God separates man from God, but it was the **fruit** of the tree that did the damage.

If someone says, "You must not take drugs," when you disobey, the disobedience is a slap in the face to the one who advised you against it. Yet the drugs, themselves, are going to do the damage. The **fruit** of the tree of knowledge devastated the human family. It polluted the blood putting death into the gene pool. It affected the brain so that now no one uses more than 30 percent of their brain.

The last Adam, Jesus, had no physical devastation. Physically, He was perfect with no spot or

"If you have all Word and no Spirit, you will dry up. If you have all Spirit and no Word, you will blow up. But if you will put the Word with the Spirit, you will grow up!"

blemish. His brain worked fully. He could perceive what other people thought. His retention was absolutely perfect. Whatever the Father said to Him, He never forgot! What a Man He was physically! And when He was anointed by the Spirit of God, He was invincible—full of glory.

THE BONDING

One thing about this great church and pastor is that they are bonded. They did not do it, God did. I do not want to burst your bubble about Preston. He is smart and is a great leader, but he could not bond you to himself unless God made it work. God did the work when Preston spent hours stretched out before Him in prayer. It was not the genius of Preston Moore. It was the touch of God in his life and this work.

The bonding of grace and truth does something so vast that you absolutely cannot understand it all. I cannot get hold of it as I would like, though I have dug into it, studied it, and turned it over and looked under it. It is so wonderful, so glorious. Grace and truth together—God's grace forgives sin, and His truth will get you out of sin!

Some folks have the attitude, "Well, I'm saved. And the Baptists tell me I'm saved forever, so I can do whatever I want to do. I'll still be saved."

The truth of the matter is that you cannot do as you please!

The devil would rather get hold of you, Christian, than an old rag-a-muffin out there. He would like to tear you apart and make a vagabond out of

you. He would like to hold you up before God and say, "See there, it doesn't work!" as he tried to with Job.

Grace and truth do work! When the grace of God comes into your life, you want to walk with Him. Truthfully, the sinner, who is in the clutches of sin, wants to get loose. I have never met an alcoholic who would not weep at the thought of getting loose. I have walked into the hospital many times to see drug addicts who had gone so far that they were seeing things, screaming and jumping around to the point of having to be restrained. They would beg, "I want to get free. I want to get loose!"

Only the power of God can separate them from it, and by His grace He will do it. Sin has already devastated the human family. The practice of sin only aggravates it.

Grace is bonded with truth. *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world...*

Truth is the opposite of error. Truth is a straight line while error is drifting—variance. Hallelujah! **Truth never changes.** What was true in my dad's day is true now.

Hollywood and politicians rise and fall on the quality of their material. Sometimes a film comes out of Hollywood and flops, and they say, "Well, we had good actors, but we just didn't have good material!"

But there are no **Gospel preachers** who can claim that! We have the best material,

authored by the greatest Author Who ever lived. All the answers are in the Bible. The answers are not the problem. The questions are our problem. We need to learn to ask the right questions. When we do, we will get the right answers from the Book. Amen

The bonding of grace and truth has the power and ability to change you from what you did not want to be into what you would like to be. You are not yet what you would like to be, but you are making progress! You are like the dear old sister who said, "Pastor, I want to testify. I'm not what I ought to be, but thank God, I'm not what I used to be! And praise God, Hallelujah, I'm not what I'm going to be either!"

Thank God, His grace keeps working in our lives, connected with truth. Grace without truth is a license. Truth without grace is brutal, harsh. The only way for you to preach the truth and it have the proper effectiveness is **in grace.**

I spoke recently at Tennessee Temple University. I do not know how many times I have spoken there, but that time God just laid it on my heart to say, "If you've received grace, you should have some grace."

We fundamental, separated, saturated, simonized (and all that good stuff) independent Baptists know how to tell the truth on everybody! We cut them all to pieces! The problem is that **we forget about grace!** We even shoot our own. More fellows are being shot down with friendly fire than almost anything else. But I want to tell you something, my friend. The grace of God will make you reach down for that brother who is falling and try to help him up! The grace of God will cause you to talk tenderly and kindly to that fellow who is hurting and wounded,

Grace and truth together—
God's grace forgives sin,
and His truth will get you out of sin!

The grace of God will make you reach down for that brother who is falling and try to help him up!



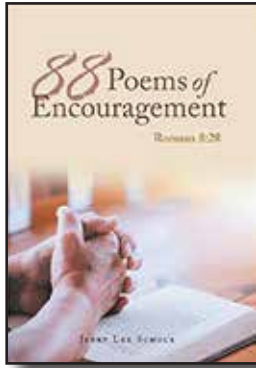
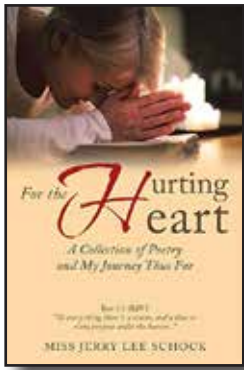
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Bill Hayes, Pastor



My heartfelt thanks to all who have encouraged this publishing. Through the years, my desire was to publish and share with others who may need encouragement. Many poems have been emailed and handed to those in need along the way. As friends and loved ones were in valleys and going through trials, God would give me words of encouragement for them. Every poem was written out of a need someone had that the Lord sent my way. The poems span many years of writing and are from the heart, as the Holy Spirit led. May the words continue to bless and encourage those who read. God has answered so many prayers through the years, and with the publishing of this poetry, yet another is answered. May God bless each of you.

Jerry Lee Schock

All Royalties go to the GPA for Missions

Both books available on Amazon in Kindle, Hardback, and Softcover

instead of saying, “Well, you’ve brought it on yourself! Why don’t you go ahead and take your medicine like a man?”

Instead you’ll say, “Dear Brother, if it wasn’t for the grace of God, I’d be where you are right now. By the grace of God, you can get it right!”
THANK GOD FOR GRACE BONDED WITH TRUTH!

Examples of grace can be found in the Old Testament (I will mention three here):

Gomer—She married one of the greatest prophets of all time, Hosea, a blue-blooded, aristocratic type (lived over on the north side in the big house!) Then she disgraced him, her family and her children. God sent him down to the slave market to buy her back—not to be a scrub woman, not to be a charwoman, but to come back and stand by him in a white gown when he received the guests, to stand by him when he met with the elders! That is grace.
Redemption brings grace!

Ruth—She was a Moabite. Her husband married her while sojourning in Moab. As a Gentile, she was not in the registry. (Gomer was in the registry because of her husband). The right of her inheritance was purchased by Boaz after the death of her husband. She was a *new purchase*.

God sent him down to the slave market to buy her back—not to be a scrub woman, not to be a charwoman, but to come back and stand by him in a white gown when he received the guests, to stand by him when he met with the elders! That is grace.

We Gentiles really were not redeemed as Israel was redeemed (bought back). Our registry is not in the vaults of Jerusalem. Our registry is at the right hand of God in the Lamb’s Book of Life. We are a new purchase! Glory to God!

Mephibosheth—He was lame on his feet and lived down in Lodebar. One day, as he looked out the window, a grand chariot, drawn by grand horses, decked in silver and gold harnesses, and driven by valiant men pulled up to the door. He must have thought to himself, “What are they doing here?”

The fellow knocked on his door and asked, “Are you Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan?”

“Yes.”

“We’ve come to fetch you!”

“Such a dead dog as I?”
 “Yes,” they said, “the King wants to show grace to you because he loved your father.”

These are illustrations of grace! But they all had to go through the process of truth. Gomer had to be redeemed. Ruth had to be purchased. Mephibosheth had to be fetched. That is putting grace and truth together—bonded!

THE BALANCE

When you put grace and truth together, you have balance, balance like the colors on the curtains of the Tabernacle. Three of those colors were blue, red and purple. Did you ever see those colors together? They are gorgeous!

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a tabernacle on the same order as the Tabernacle in the wilderness. It is the same size and has the same beautiful colors. As you enter the grounds, you see that beautiful blend of colors. There is a balance. When you have balance in your Christian life, you have beauty.

We want balance. Sometimes preachers get in a bind. We want to warn people to stay out of sin and not get in the ditch. But then, they watch us as we go out into the ditch and get a fellow out and say, "You're forgiven!" We do not want to endorse the lifestyle of the fellow in the ditch, but grace and truth demand that we get him out of the ditch!

The preacher warns you against the sins of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. He bears down making you feel like you are rotten to the core. He is trying to keep you out of the ditch! But he is walking a fine line, because his heart reaches out to the one who is wounded, hurt and torn. **That is balance!** We need balance.

When someone is filled with grace, truth goes with it; and after awhile it will change him. Amen.

I could tell you a thousand stories but let me tell you just one. I had a fellow saved one time—I will not go through it all, but he had been living in an automobile and abandoned houses. He worked at a steakhouse as a dishwasher just to get some food. His clothes were dirty. His hair was down over his shoulders. He did not have a handkerchief. He would not have known how to use it, if he had had one! But he fell in love with a beautiful girl who worked at the steakhouse. He tried to clean up so he could ask her out.

She told him the only way he would see her would be to come to church with her.

So he came. In the parking lot after the service, he said to her, "I'm never going there again!"

"Why?"

"You must have told that preacher all about me! He preached all around me. He preached Heaven high, Hell hot and me out over Hell on a rotten limb!"

I did not even know he was there.

He wanted to see the girl, so he came back again, and again, and again. Finally, one Sunday morning, he came down the aisle. His nose was running! He was slobbering! They had to give him tissues while he squalled and prayed. Somebody finally told him, "You don't have to talk God into saving you. Just trust Him!"

We do not want to endorse the lifestyle of the fellow in the ditch, but grace and truth demand that we get him out of the ditch!


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Enough truth went in with grace to cause him to want to get straightened out on the outside.

The most beautiful thing you will ever see is somebody walking, talking, and living like Jesus.

He got up and said, "I've never felt like this before in my life. This is the most wonderful thing that has ever happened to me. What do I do next?"

Someone said, "You need to get baptized."

I was aggravated. That was back in the hippie days. I had argued with those hard-heads about their long hair and with those girls about their hot pants and mini-skirts. They wanted to wear them in our choir. I was fighting with them and their folks.

On Monday morning, I was thinking, "I'm supposed to baptize that guy. What am I going to do?" I said, "God, if You really saved him, and You live in him and You want him to get his hair cut, you tell him! If he is going to argue with anyone, God, let him argue with You!"

Honest, scout's honor! Thursday, he came by the office, and we did not know him. I do not think he had any hair left! His blue jeans had been washed. His shirt was new. His face had been washed.

What happened? Enough truth went in with grace to cause him to want to get straightened out on the outside. Is it not wonderful when it balances out, when the grace that comes to live in your heart balances with truth?

Now, it does not work that fast with everyone. The Lord tests our grace to see if we have enough to wait on them!

Now, do not let him teach a Sunday School class. Wait until he gets straightened out. But love him and be kind to him. He is changed inside, but when he looks in the mirror and sees the old fellow, he says, "Something's out of gear here! I thought I was changed. I AM CHANGED!" Then he begins to do something about the outside.

A fellow came to talk with me one day. He said, "When I look in the mirror, I see my same old self! But you told me that I was new inside, and I know I am new inside."

I said, "I'll tell you what to do. Get all that stuff off you that looks like the old self and see if that doesn't make a difference."

Two or three days later he came back. Now the mirror reflected the new man that was inside!

Grace and truth have to balance. Give it time and LET IT WORK! If a fellow has his hair cut above his ears, has on a three-piece suit and has his shoes shined, it does not mean he has grace. He may be mean as a dog or be a con man!

Then, it may be the other way around, and he may be saved but not matured yet!

THE BEAUTY

"We beheld His glory!"

The most beautiful thing you will ever see is somebody walking, talking, and living like Jesus. He (Jesus) is wonderful in every respect. He is like the lily of the valley and the rose of Sharon. He has a fragrance about Him, and when He moves through, the whole atmosphere changes. He is beautiful! He is glorious!

If you cannot look at the sky or see the beauty of a sunset in the western hills and know that God loves beauty, there is something wrong with your understanding. God loves the beauty of nature because He made it that way.

But the lord Jesus outshines them all! Brother Gene Winfrey and I were in Edinburgh, Scotland. They brought the Queen's crown jewels to put on display. We were walking through with the other tourists. We were all in awe of their beauty. A Scotsman was standing there (a guard at attention). Everyone kept bragging on the jewels. After awhile he could stand it no more. In his Scottish brogue he said, "The beauty of the jewels is only outshined by the beauty of herself, the Queen."

Oh, the beauty of creation is marvelous, wonderful and glorious; but it is outshined by the Creator! His beauty and His glory are unsurpassed. When His Shekinah glory filled the house of God, the ministers could not minister.

We are wanting revival. We are wanting His Presence. I know this crowd; when you get a taste of it, you want more. And when you get some more, you want MORE! But, after a while, if you get enough of it, it gets so good that you cannot even minister. You cannot do anything. It will stop the singing, the preaching and the shouting. The birds will stop

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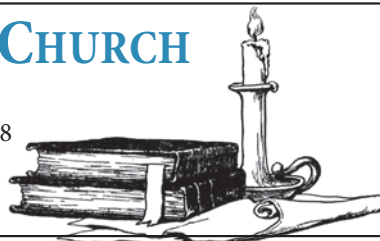
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singing. Everything will go deathly quiet. When the power of the Shekinah glory comes, that beauty will be so awesome, so powerful and so glorious, you will just stop everything.

I have only been there two or three times in my life, but **I have been there!** And I would like to go again! The trouble is, I do not know the path.

As a lad of a boy I can remember walking past the bedroom of my little Scottish grandmother, Ida Myers Moore. I would hear her calling out to God in prayer. I did not understand exactly what was happening, but I knew she had gotten hold of God. In those days she turned our family around with her prayers. I knew that when Preacher Swords or Brother Cecil Johnson or Preacher Fields prayed, something was different. Their voice would change.

Old Uncle Daniel Turner, hands as big as a ham of meat, would get down, quietly over in the corner at Pleasant Grove and begin praying. His voice would lift; and after awhile you

would start listening for angels, because you knew you were in the presence of God. I wanted that in my life. I did not know how to ask for it. I just wanted it.

Prayer is the sincere desire of the heart—As a little 12-year-old boy, I went down behind the barn by the hog pen, got down in a little sandy ditch and started talking to the Savior. Somehow the Lord said to the angels, “Usher him in a little closer. I have something I want to do for him and to him to get him ready.”

I do not know how I got there. Twenty years later I went back to that same sandy ditch, but I did not get where I got that day, because I did not have the angel to usher me.

Three other times in my life this has happened to me. The second time was when Mom and Dad and I were in the front room (the fire room) at the foot of their bed. Preston and Syble were outside playing, and Dad said, “Son, before we go to church today, I want you to pray.” I started praying and, all of a sudden, what

happened in the ditch happened in the house. When it all quieted down, Dad was stretched out on the floor and Mom had her little hand up in the air saying, “Oh, God, what are we going to do with this child?”

HE IS BEAUTIFUL!
I would not try to describe Him. I just reached a place close enough to the heart of God that was so beautiful that it was beyond description.

Jesus said that if you want the Holy Ghost, just ask.

“Well, what if I ask and don’t get there?”

Just ask again. Just keep on asking.

When the material things, the popularity, the friends and all you have begin to fade into the background and you say, “Oh, Lord, I can’t live without Your Presence in my life,”—such a beauty will come into your life that folks will see the difference! You will know the difference too.

The grace and truth of God are just as real today as they were when Paul preached about them. Are they real in your life? They can be! †

Jesus said that if you want the Holy Ghost, just ask.

“Well, what if I ask and don’t get there?”
Just ask again.
Just keep on asking.

When the material things, the popularity, the friends and all you have begin to fade into the background and you say, “Oh, Lord, I can’t live without Your Presence in my life,”—such a beauty will come into your life that folks will see the difference!

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THE REST OF HIS TIME IN THE FLESH

by Jessica McPherson

That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God, 1 Peter 4:2.

For the first time in our lives, we have resigned a position with no plans to start somewhere else.

Retirement is finally here! For the first time in our lives, we have resigned a position with **no plans** to start somewhere else.

When we left Shiloh Hills Baptist Church, Kennesaw, GA, in 1979, we were on our way to Lexington, KY, to plant a church! I was 21. Rex was 24.

When we resigned the pastorate of Clays Mill Road Baptist Church, Lexington, KY, (we had merged our church plant with a local church who was struggling to survive), we were on our way to Wales, Great Britain, to be missionaries with our 8 year old daughter. It was 1989. I was 31. Rex was 34.

What we don't want to do is quit on God!

When we left Wales in 1997, we thought we were getting our daughter settled in college and then returning to Wales, but God had other plans. Rex became the General Director of *The Gospel Preacher Association*, and then in 2009, Rex became the pastor of Galilean Baptist Church, Lawrenceville, GA, when Dr. Tolbert Moore retired from the pastorate. I was 51. Rex was 54.

Now I'm 62. Rex is 65, and it's been 41 wonderful years of ministry since he was ordained (and even before). We would have never imagined what God had in store for these past 41 years.

"What are you going to do now?" you may ask. First,

I hope we rest awhile! As you know, Rex has Parkinson's disease, and the stress of pastoring has been a challenge. God has supplied all needed strength and wisdom, and we have no complaints. However, we are looking forward to **resting some**.

Rex wants to continue preaching, of course, as God opens doors of opportunity. Even now, we have talked to a chapel in the campground where we hope to spend our summers about how often Rex might preach for them. He's God's man and maybe I'm prejudiced but I think he's a great preacher!

What we don't want to do is quit on God! That's why I chose 1 Peter 4:2 as the verse for this article. Who, but God, knows what "*the rest of his time in the flesh*" will be? Or mine? But we are exhorting each other to stay in God's will. We want to be "*faithful unto death*" as Rev. 2:10 says.

I know better than to think **I KNOW** what these next years will be like. God's plans are always bigger than ours. Some things I won't miss include going to the hospitals at 6 AM on Monday mornings to sit with a family whose loved one is having surgery. I have never understood why all **BAPTIST** surgeries happen at **6 AM on Mondays**. Do the Methodists get the noon on Tuesday slots in the schedule? LOL! It has also been a given that if we go away for a vacation

someone in our church will die that week or be seriously ill. Again, you have to laugh!

In these last years, we have had some great examples from retired pastors and their wives who have been such a tremendous help to Rex and the ministry. Rev. Bobby and Joyce Moore and Dr. Rex and Grayce Richards are two examples. Hopefully, we can follow their example and be a source of help and encouragement to the church that we will attend. I want to be a good church member. I want the pastor and his wife's faces to light up when they see us because they know we are there to support and love them and not criticize.

Exercising and eating right takes time. During these years of ministry, when time was crunched (when was it not!), these healthy ambitions were among the first things sacrificed. In these retirement years, we hope to eat better and enjoy exercising to stay as healthy as we can. I want us to be able to spend more leisure time just loving God's Word, listening to sermons and Christian music.

Some of you who have already retired probably are chuckling as you read this. **You KNOW that LIFE has a way of taking over your day.** Yet, we need goals. God help us to find **HIS** will for every day that **we will not live the rest of our time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God for His glory and our good.** †



by **Dr. Edwin G. Moore**
European Director for the GPA

Why Are You Running?

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. —Heb. 12:1

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? —Gal. 5:7



The Christian life is often compared to a race.

We are told to run it with patience, endurance, and with our eye on the goal.

In 2 Samuel 18, we find an interesting and, to some extent, a confusing story. There is a message to be delivered, a chosen messenger, a volunteer who has no message, and there is one waiting on the message.

This begs the question: why are we running? I think we may see some stark contrasts in this event.

Chosen or Volunteer

“I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance hap-peneth to them all,” Eccl. 9:11.

Ahimaaz was certainly an able runner and had a desire to run, but Cush was given the duty, the responsibility. However, that is not good enough for Ahimaaz! He keeps bugging Joab to let him run until Joab gives in and says “Run!”

The reason for running is the message. Pure and simple, if you have no message, the

run is exercise. In our Christian experience, the question is “Why am I running?”

God is not looking for ability or great desire. He chooses according to His will and lays responsibility on that individual to bear the message. Consider Jonah. He was reluctant and rebellious with his message. Jeremiah was brokenhearted and becomes God’s cry baby over his message. Isaiah’s response to the message was, “Here am I, send me.”

If we are not careful, we will run for exercise or applause or recognition. The truth is, if it is not our time and we have no message, it would be best not to run.

Fastest or Finest?

One of these men was the fastest, the other the finest. Ahimaaz was certainly the fastest. I can see in my mind’s eye people praising him for being swift of foot. Cush started first but finished last. Ahimaaz started last but finished first. Ahimaaz arrived without a message. When Cush arrived, the message was delivered.

On Purpose or for a Purpose?

One of these runners in 2 Samuel 18 was running on purpose and another for

a purpose. It makes a real difference why you are running.

Joab said unto Ahimaaz, “Thou shalt not bear tidings this day.” Joab knew the tidings of Absalom’s death would not be acceptable to the king. Ahimaaz was a good man, the son of a priest, for whom Joab had respect. Ahimaaz was not chosen as an attempt to shield him from danger. There are times when not being chosen is a blessing.

Joab told Ahimaaz, “But thou shalt bear tidings another day.” It wasn’t that he wouldn’t be a messenger at another time.

Cush, on the other hand, was a slave and a descendant of Cush. If the king’s wrath was to be upon the messenger, then Joab would protect the son of a priest.

Cush had the burden of the message. Ahimaaz had no burden. Therefore, he had an advantage over Cush. I think some of us are like Ahimaaz, that is, running without the weight of the message, just running!

I think Ahimaaz got the applause, and Cush got the approval.

Do we have a message? Why are we running? †

The reason for running is the message. Pure and simple, if you have no message, the run is exercise.

There are times when not being chosen is a blessing.

I think some of us are like Ahimaaz. That is, running without the weight of the message, just running!



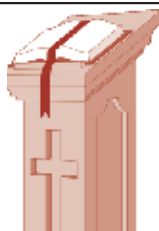
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“As an eagle stirreth
up her nest”
Deut. 32:11

A banner for Tolbert Moore Ministries. On the left is a black and white portrait of an elderly man with glasses, wearing a white shirt and a patterned tie. To the right of the portrait is a large, striped tent set up outdoors with many chairs arranged in rows. The text "A Lifetime of Ministry" is overlaid on the tent image in a large, white, sans-serif font. On the far right of the banner is a dark grey box containing the Tolbert Moore Ministries logo in a cursive script, the text "Visit Dr. Tolbert Moore's New Website at www.tolbertmoore.com", and "Sermons, Intinerary, Devotions, and more!" in a smaller font.

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