

The Eagle

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Called to Preach the Gospel—Baptist by Conviction



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THE EAGLE

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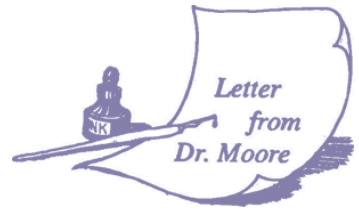
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Dear Faithful Readers and Friends,

This issue of *The Eagle* honors Sue Lutz for her 45 years of ministry. I remember receiving the phone call that Jim Lutz had passed away. I had only a minimal amount of interaction with the family before this time, but I went to see Sue and her four children to try to help them. During that visit, God drew us together from that day forward. Through a series of events, God led Sue Lutz to work for our ministry as our secretary. I've never had a person around me that is more dedicated to the ministry than Sue Lutz. A great deal of work has been accomplished for the Lord, and it was born out of tragedy.

Sue has a servant's heart. There is no job that is beneath her, while at the same time she is willing to take on big jobs that others might fear. She is a genius at sorting things out. There is no part way with Sue. She always does a complete job. She is a very gifted, accomplished person. She is totally dedicated to what she calls her job, but she treats it like the ministry that it is.

She is totally loyal to her friends and co-workers. If Sue is your friend, you do not have a truer friend. I don't know that she is an enemy to anybody. If she has an enemy, she never treats them that way. She is one of the most positive people I know.

If I were to describe Sue's outlook on life, I would sum it up by her view of Jesus. She lives the old song, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace." Keep looking to Jesus!

In His Grip,

Tolbert Moore, Founder/Editor

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.

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Because of the uncertainty in our country
THE 2020 GPA CAMP MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED.
We are praying and looking toward 2021!



HOLD FAST TILL I COME

by Dr. Dennis Petty

Preached Dec. 29, 2019, AM Service
Galilean Baptist Church, Lawrenceville, GA

Turn in your Bibles to Revelation chapter two. I hope you have your Bible with you and will look on with us. How many in this building are believers in Christ? Amen. That is wonderful!

Now that I know you are a believer, I am going to talk to the believers. In these verses that I am going to read, you are going to see the **believers' assignment** and the **believers' anticipation**.

Look at verse 24 of chapter 2 of Revelation: *"But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden."*

So, he is talking to you and me individually from this passage. You have to read the Bible as God talking to you. Sure, there are books and portions that talk to Israel, but if you will listen, He will be talking to you too.

Look at it again, *"But unto you I say. . ."* This little one letter word "I" is reaching back to verse number 18, (Rev. 2:18),

"And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass."

Notice *"These things saith the Son of God,"* so the One Who is talking to us here is the Son of God. He is speaking to us from His Word.

Now, look with me at the last five words of verse 25 (Rev. 2:25), *"But that which ye have already hold fast till I come."*

In those five words we have the **believers' assignment** and the **believers' anticipation**. God is speaking to the godly remnant who are in this church at Thyatira who had not been infected with the virus of Jezebel. (Now, if you have been infected, that is different.) He is saying to you and me, **"HOLD FAST TILL I COME."** In this phrase God is saying, "I have an important message for you. It would be well for you to learn this." In the Christian life, you need to learn a lot of good things. Here He has an important lesson for you to learn. He said, "You must not be driven by the

new way of life. You must not traffic with Jezebel." We are living in a time when everything spiritual is relaxed. It is a time of coldness. There is a stampede of those who are rushing us away from the fundamentals of this Book, and it is a lax time. But God is saying to you and me, "You must not move from the standards that I have given you." You see, sometimes, we get it in our mind that we should listen to what they are saying. We think they could give us some life instructions. They are changing our conduct.

God says, "You must not be measured by their standards." God said here, *"Hold fast till I come."*

What does He want you to hold fast to? You hold fast to what you already have. You can't hold it, if you don't have it. What is it that you already have? **You have the WORD OF GOD.**

Some so-called fundamental, Bible-believing churches are saying things that didn't come out of this Book. They want to make you look like a fool if you stay with the Book, but I am going to tell you what God said. It is clearly recorded right here, **"Hold fast."**

Your assignment is to HOLD FAST. You see, 2019 is nearly over, but we are facing 2020. In 2020, we need more who will stand up and hold fast to what God has given us.

Paul said to the church at Thessalonica (2 Thessalonians 2:15): *"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."* Paul said, I gave you a book. Stay **IN** it and you will stay **WITH** it. It is when you are not staying **in** it that you want to **drift away from** it. You have the **HOLY WORD OF GOD—HOLD FAST!**

Our assignment is to hold fast. What in the world is that? It is an attitude of **consistency**.

You hold fast to what you already have. You can't hold it, if you don't have it. What is it that you already have? You have the WORD OF GOD.

Consistency—we should think consistently and stay by the stuff. To hold fast, to be consistent, is to be steadfast. It is to be continuous. It is unswerving affection for the things that God has given us in this blessed Book, the Word of God. It is spiritual consistency in the things of God.

You don't have to stop being sweet just because you stay strong.

Listen to Job way back yonder. They tell me that Job is the oldest book in the Bible, and in chapter 23, verse 11, Job said, *"My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined."*

Job said, "I did not waiver. My foot held fast to the path." You see, what he is telling you and me is this, Don't be wishy-washy. Stay by the stuff.

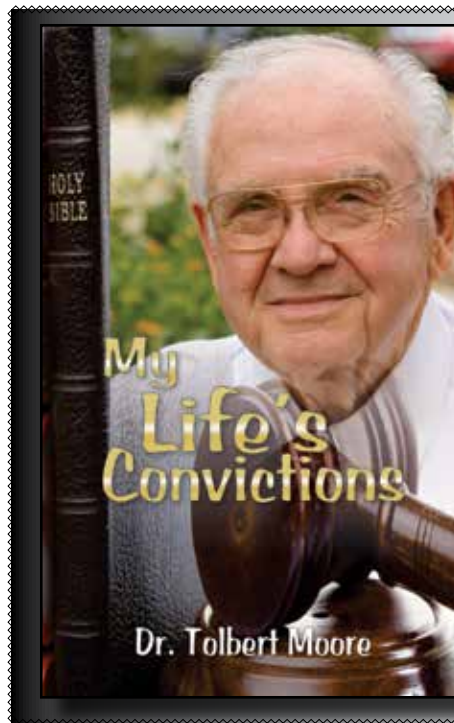
You don't have to stop being sweet just because you stay strong. I know (I am an Independent, and I hang around with Independents) that there is a crowd who thinks you have to be ugly to be right. That is not right.

Do you know anybody who was more fundamental than Jesus? Do you know anybody sweeter? That is why we sing, "Jesus is the sweetest name I know." The next line says, "and He's just the same as His lovely name, and that's the reason why I love Him so."

Be consistent. Stay with it. That is your assignment for 2020. Of course, it never has changed, and when 2021 comes, it will still be the same.

Not only does HOLD FAST imply an attitude of consistency but an attitude of **confidence**. Hebrews 3:6, ". . . if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

Hold onto your confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ. *"For I know whom I have believed"* (2 Tim. 1:2). You see it is a Person in whom we believe. Sure, we believe the Bible, but God gave us the Bible to believe in Him. He gave us the written



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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Word so we would believe the Living Word. Isn't that right? Thank God for this Book, absolutely, but believing this Book won't save you. Now, listen to me closely, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved"* (Acts 16:31).

A lot of modernists talk about the Book. I purposely bought some books recently of the Catholic religion. I wanted to read and find out about some things. I was blown away by the fundamentals of what they were saying in that book, but before they closed it, they denied everything. You can hear good things, but you better keep your eyes and ears open. Have confidence in the precious Word of God. Hold fast the confidence.

What we need are some people who have a firm trust in the Word of God and behavior

that is conspicuous—behavior that will tell on you. You see, I believe in witnessing with the lips. Anybody who reads this Bible, believes that. But I believe that you should have a life that is so conspicuous that they will know what you are already, before you ever start talking to them. Amen. That way, they will listen to what you are saying. You see, this Book is unshakeable, unchangeable. It is forever settled in Heaven. Heaven and Earth will pass away but not this Book.

I was watching yesterday one of the Moody Bible Institute of Science films on creation and planets. They were moving through all these planets. They go out there where they say it is 10 billion light years away, and there are still planets and galaxies everywhere.

I believe in witnessing with the lips. Anybody who reads this Bible, believes that. But I believe that you should have a life that is so conspicuous that they will know what you are already, before you ever start talking to them.



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Your God ain't no peewee! He is bigger than your mind can think, but He is not bigger than your faith can experience.

He said your assignment is to hold fast your consistency, your confidence, and your **courage**. God does not want weaklings.

How do you get strength? Get in the Book. Absolutely, this Book will make you strong in the Lord when you trust in this blessed Book which God has given us. "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of the Lord," but "Hold fast the form of sound words," "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." Have courage in your active faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

You see, this is not a little assignment, oh, absolutely not. Hold fast with consistency, confidence, courage, and **consecration**.

Consecration is allegiance to Almighty God. I am consecrated. I am absolutely separated **TO** God. He saved me. I am His because He bought me. He redeemed me by His precious blood. Oh, that is wonderful. I am His. He purchased me. Oh, wait a minute, also I am His because I gave myself to Him. Did you hear what I said? You see, I can say with the Psalmist, I am His and He is mine. He is mine because He gave Himself for me and to me. I am His because I have given myself to Him.

You say, "But I am saved." Yes, you may be saved but many professing Christians have never given their life to Christ. They are wasting it on the things of the world.

The Bible says in Ephesians 5:11: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." In other words, we must be consecrated, sold out to God. Don't let go of what is right.

Flee temptation and don't leave a forwarding address.

God gives us three channels by which all of this can become a reality in our heart and life. I want to give them to you, because God never asks you to do something that He does not give you the means with which to do it.

First of all, this can be accomplished by the **continual reading** of the Word of God. II Timothy 3:14-17, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The word "that" in the last sentence denotes purpose. He said I gave you the Holy Scriptures that the man of God (That is every born-again believer.

I know you are not a preacher, as such, but you are a man of God.) would be perfect (complete), thoroughly (thoroughly) furnished unto all good works.

How do you do that? You get in the Scriptures continually reading the Word of God. When I say continually, I don't mean start at 8:00 AM in the morning and read continually until 8:00 AM the next morning. That is not what it means. You read some today, and read some tomorrow, and some more again the next day and the next day, and so on. Just read it daily taking it into your heart and your life. It is like praying without ceasing. He did not say pray without stopping. He said pray this morning, pray this afternoon, pray tomorrow, pray in the night, pray in the morning—just continually pray. Here is My purpose: that you may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

What are you going to complain about if He has already given you everything you need? Amen. I mean if you have an automatic rifle and a deer is standing in front of you, all

Yes, you may be saved but many professing Christians have never given their life to Christ. They are wasting it on the things of the world.

Flee temptation and don't leave a forwarding address.



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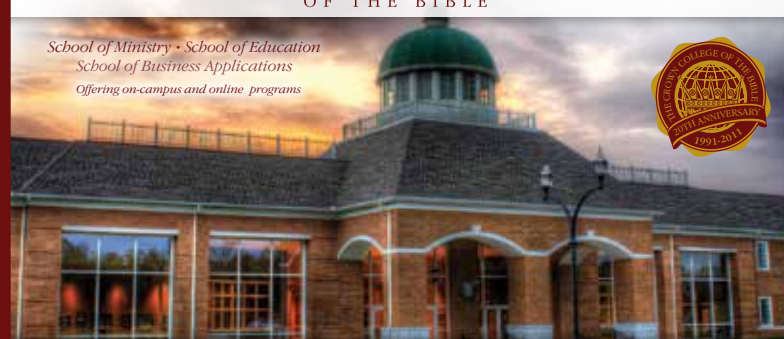
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you have to do is pull the trigger. Well, you had better aim and then pull the trigger.

Please listen. God Almighty has told us what He wants us to do and has put it all right here in this Bible for you and me. All you have to do is live it. We should continually read the Word of God.

Secondly, we need to **constantly resort** to the throne of grace. *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need,”* Hebrews 4:16.

You see, when you get in the Book, you will get down on your knees. It just naturally follows. It goes together.

He said resort constantly to the throne of grace. You don’t have the strength to do it, but God has grace, something you don’t deserve, and He will give it to you so that you may hold fast.

Thirdly, we need to **rely completely** upon the Holy Spirit. He said, *“... be filled with the Spirit,”* Ephesians 5:18b. To be filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by the Spirit. Paul preaching to the church at Ephesus (Eph. 3:16) says, *“That he would grant you . . . to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.”* We are strengthened with His glorious power through the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8, *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

When God Almighty fills us with His power we can carry out our assignment, and our assignment is to hold fast.

Now then, from the last five words of Rev. 2:25, we have looked at the **believers’ assignment—HOLD FAST**. Quickly let me give you the **believers’ anticipation**. He said HOLD

FAST TILL I COME. Anticipation is something looked for. It is something expected beforehand. Anticipation is something you enjoy while you are waiting for it to come to pass.

I don’t know about you, but when I got saved, I got thrilled about the fact that the Lord is coming again, and right now I am enjoying it. You see, I don’t have to wait to enjoy it. I am anticipating it.

I remember as a baby playing in the front yard after the Government had sent Mama a letter telling her that Daddy was coming home from WWII. We lived in the country on a dirt road. You could sit on the front porch and look up or down the road for a long way. Mama was running out the door every so often looking up and down the road. She was anticipating her lover coming home. Those children that she had been caring for and wiping their dirty noses were his babies as well as hers, and she could not wait until he got home.

When God saved me, He put the realization of the coming again of the Lord Jesus in my heart, and I am enjoying it. Notice the **Person expected**. He said in I Thessalonians 1:10, *“And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”*

He said *“to wait for His Son.”* He is no substitute. The Person Who saved me is the Person Who is coming. Occasionally, (I wish it was all the time), I get alone in my study on my face before God, and God gets so real, I just want to see Him right then. He didn’t say, “You wait, and I’ll send Gabriel to get you.” No, the Person Who is coming is the only begotten Son of God. Paul said to the Philippians in Phil. 3:20, *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The Lord Jesus Christ, He is the one I am looking for. Yes, I am looking for Him because of our gathering together unto Him. We are all going to get together and meet Him. I know God knows everything, and He knows the longing you have. There is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Moore would love to see Sister Nellie. Don’t you think Cindy would not love to see her Mama?


Please listen to me. I don’t understand it all, but in the rapture, they (the dead in Christ) are going to rise first, and we are going to be caught up with them. There is going to be a family reunion before you meet Him in the air. Are you still listening? You see God understands us. He made us. He became one of us so He could understand us.

You see, when you get in the Book, you will get down on your knees. It just naturally follows. It goes together.


He said *“to wait for His Son.”* He is no substitute. The Person Who saved me is the Person Who is coming.



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Joshua Johnson, Pastor

I have talked about the Person expected. Now look at the **prospect anticipated**. The prospect is the coming of the Lord. Would you look at His **positive declaration**? “*I will come again,*” John 14:3. Very positive, there is no doubt about it. Not only is it positive, it is **purifying**. 1 John 3:3, “*And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*”

I wonder if we really believe that. How many of you believe that when you got saved, you got eternal life? Amen. Alright, what you got was God’s life. Eternal life is the life of an eternal God. John 10:28, “*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*”

“*And I give unto them eternal life. . .*” The eternal life I am going to have there I have right now, so why am I not living right now like I am going to live when I get there? The prospect of His coming is positive, and purifying, and **personal**.

Colossians 3:4, “*When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*” Notice, “*then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.*” God never does anything for you that is not personal. Are you listening to me? If He answers your prayer, it is personal between God and you. If He protects you, it is personal between God and you.

God, in this service this morning, is meeting individual needs. My needs are different from your needs. God is so personal. He understands your frame of mind.

In the believers’ anticipation, we have seen the Person expected, and the prospect anticipated. Now see the **purpose fulfilled**. When He comes, He is going to receive His own and reward His own. In John 14:3, “*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*”

The believers’ anticipation is an **expectation** that causes us to look. Are you looking for the Saviour today? Just as expectation causes me to look, **devotion** causes me to live holy. Listen to Paul in Titus 2:12-13, “*Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.*”

You are not going to like this word either—it is called *labor*. You say, “Where did you get that word?” Luke’s Gospel (19:13b), “*Occupy till I come.*” Usually people think work is a four-letter, bad word, and they shun it. But listen, when there is **occupation**, it is because we are laboring in the field for the glory of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Expectation, dedication, occupation, **infatuation**. Wouldn’t it be awesome if our desire became so fervent, so inspired with intense love for our Saviour that we loved His appearing? II Timothy 4:8, “*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me*

only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Expectation, you look. Devotion, you live. Occupation, you labor. Infatuation, you love.

Isn’t that awesome? I am talking about anticipation, with a yearning in my heart, I cry out, “*Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*”

The believers’ assignment—hold fast.

The believers’ anticipation—till I come.

In this life, we must hold to the things God has given us because the devil will do everything in his power to steal them away. When Jesus comes, that will be over. There won’t be anything else tempting us. We are going to be called out of this world into the presence of Almighty God where sin cannot enter. All you have to do is to hold fast till He comes. You are not holding fast for your salvation. You are holding fast for your sanctification that we might stay steady in the fight for Christ.

We are born again of incorruptible seed by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever. 1 Peter 1:23, “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*”

If you don’t know this Christ, you can get saved by believing what this Book tells you. This Book says, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.*” The Book says, “*But as many as received him, to them (and to nobody else,) gave he power (the right) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.*”

Maybe you have become lax like the church in Thyatira. Maybe you have been infected with Jezebel. Why don’t you come and get a dose of the medicine of God and let the blood wash away the stain? God will do it today. †

The eternal life I am going to have there I have right now, so why am I not living right now like I am going to live when I get there?

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You are not holding fast for your salvation. You are holding fast for your sanctification that we might stay steady in the fight for Christ.



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Bill Hayes, Pastor



Jessica & Sue 1997

Susan Lee Lutz

by Jessica McPherson

hardly believe that was 45 years ago, and we are still involved in the ministry together and have been throughout these 45 years.

Sue came to Shiloh because her friend and neighbor, Gail Burnsed, asked Preacher Moore to visit Sue and help her tell her children about their father. By the way, Gail is a member of Galilean and still active in the ministry with us today. The Bible talks about fruit that remains, and we all fit that description by the grace of God and to His glory. Sue tells how Preacher Moore explained salvation to her by telling her that her heart was like a pie with a slice missing and only Jesus could fill that space and make her whole.

In June of that year, Sue became secretary for Shiloh Hills Baptist Church. She had been a legal secretary and brought a lot of

expertise with her that has proved valuable to the cause of Christ and His church throughout all these years.

As I was looking for photos of Sue for this issue of *The Eagle*, it was difficult to find many. She doesn't really like having her photo made which is how she has lived her life, always in the background, always on the support team for those working on the frontlines for the Lord. This is not to say that Sue has not labored in the frontlines also— but in a quiet way. Others speak of her work, and that's usually how you find out that she does so much more than sit at a desk. She makes visits, takes people to doctor appointments, goes by before work to empty the bedside potty and arrange the medicine and food for a shut-in. So many works will follow her to Glory!

She doesn't really like having her photo made which is how she has lived her life, always in the background, always on the support team for those working on the frontlines for the Lord. This is not to say that Sue has not labored in the frontlines also— but in a quiet way.

Sue Lutz came to Shiloh Hills Baptist Church, Kennesaw, GA, in the spring of 1975. Dr. Tolbert Moore was the founding pastor. She had been recently widowed. Her husband, Jim, had gone fishing in March of that year and had never returned. He had drowned. How devastating that must have been for a young wife and mother of 4 young children whose ages were roughly 12 to 4. Rex and I had been attending Shiloh for a little over a year as a married couple and were just beginning to get active in the ministry. I remember that they sat a few rows ahead of us in the church, and I was touched by the sight of a young mother and 4 young children who had lost a husband/father. However, let me say that I never heard Sue feel sorry for herself. I remember that Preacher Moore asked the men of the church to help be a father to those young children. I know the kids were always around and involved in the ministry. Peter was a rambunctious 4-year-old who stole our hearts. Over the years, all of Sue's children became dear to us. I can



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She loves fiercely. People are important to her. Her family is important to her. She bears the burdens of others. Many times, if I complain of some burden, she will say, "Well, why don't I—," and she will try to find a way to make my load lighter, while making hers heavier.

She is a great organizer and loves to organize. She knows where everything is. Heaven help us if something happens to her! I have boxes and containers in my home and notes about notes because Sue influenced me. She loves to decorate, and those who have come to *The Gospel Preacher Association* National Camp Meeting each year have seen how she decorates the fellowship hall with something fresh from year to year. Her daughter and granddaughter have helped, and in true "Sue-fashion," she tells me what a great idea Leslie or Haylie had. She doesn't take the credit. She is quick to point out others who helped or suggested something.

Sue is so much more than a church secretary and personal secretary to Dr. Tolbert Moore. Her scope of work has included organizing showers for the church, parties and celebrations, homecomings, camp meetings, meals for singing groups. She looks after the church buildings and grounds and calls attention to needed repairs to those who can make the repairs. She is truly a pastor's dream come true.

As you know, Galilean has just had a pastoral change. I listened as our new pastor, Joshua Johnson, and Sue were discussing how certain things worked at Galilean. Sue made a statement that is so true of her whole being. She said, "Just tell me what you want, and we will make it work." She could have said, "Well, Preacher Moore always did this," or "Pastor Rex always liked to do this," but no,

she wanted to serve Pastor Josh and help him do what he felt the Lord wanted him to do.

Speaking of Pastor Josh and what he "felt" the Lord wanted him to do reminds me of another of Sue's great attributes. Sue is sensitive to the Holy Spirit. She often speaks of a "check" in her spirit. She wants to do what's right and honest, and she relies on the leading of the Holy Spirit. Sue loves the Word of God and the preaching of the Word of God. She reads after great men of God from years gone by and loves to share some great thing she has read lately. Even though she likes to be in the background, she will testify in church of God's direction and blessing in her life.

Another thing that I admire about her is that she never "looks" tired. I don't know how she does it. I know she must be exhausted, but she seems to thrive on deadlines and tight schedules. She is almost never sick. God has blessed her with good health, and she has used her time on this earth for Him. At the end of 2019, for the first time any of us can remember, Sue was in the hospital and sick. We went to see her before her operation, and she asked about her work. "Will Martha write a check to the missionary?" "Did we book the hotel room?" That's just Sue!

Preacher Moore called me and said, "I want to publish an issue of *The Eagle* that will honor Sue. We have published one with my picture on the front when I turned 90. We published one with Rex's picture when he retired, so we need to do one for Sue." Truth is, if we waited for Sue to retire, we would all probably be too old to think straight or dead! She is going strong, while we are slowing down.

She has loved her job. She loves *The Gospel Preacher Association*, *The Eagle*, Tolbert Moore Ministries, and Galilean Baptist Church. What rewards she will receive for all her work of faith and labor of love.

She has been such a blessing and help to Rex and me throughout the years. When we served overseas, she paid our stateside bills for us from our checking account. She would take gifts to my grandparents for me. She has always asked about our daughter Christine and included her in Christmas gifts. Then when my grandchildren came along, she made them feel special and loved. Of course, she does this for others as well.

Sue is a treasure. One of her favorite sayings is "It's the best ever!" Every camp meeting, every issue of *The Eagle*, every revival meeting, in Sue's eyes, things are getting better. In our eyes, so is she! ✠

Another thing that I admire about her is that she never "looks" tired. I don't know how she does it. I know she must be exhausted, but she seems to thrive on deadlines and tight schedules.



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Passing the Torch from One Good Leader to Another

God always has a succession plan. Throughout the generations we see His sovereign will where one leader takes over the job of another. Leadership is a temporal assignment during which leaders don't own or rule what they direct or guide. They are stewards of what God entrusted to their care. It's His church, ministry, or association.

The Bible gives three good examples of God's plan to pass the torch. In each case, God tells his servant-leader who his successor will be. In I Kings 19, Elijah was told to anoint Elisha who became a disciple of Elijah, learning to champion God's messages and continuing Elijah's legacy of righteousness. Next, in II Samuel 7 & I Chronicles 28, King David learned he would not build the temple for God. That job would go to his son, Solomon. Lastly, Moses guided the Israelites out of Egypt and prepared them to go into the Promised Land. However, Moses, as great as a leader he was, was not the man to escort them into that land. According to Deuteronomy 31, God chose Joshua to complete that task.

This year, God had a succession plan for Galilean Baptist Church (GBC), and it was in His perfect timing and way. From February 2009 until

March of this year, Dr. Rex McPherson has been the pastor of GBC, being faithful to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and obey His voice about missions. He showed his sacrificial servant's heart, giving himself to God's people for this season of eleven years. After much fasting and prayer, God made it known to Dr. McPherson that it was time to pass the torch. During the three-month transition period, God gave a seamless leadership shift as He did with Elisha, Solomon, and Joshua. God had a plan and prepared Rev. Joshua Johnson to become GBC's new servant-leader.

Pastor Johnson, or as he likes to be called, Pastor Josh is a graduate of Crown College and pastored three churches before coming to GBC. He is a missionary's son, serving with his parents in Poland as a youngster. He and his wife, Patty, gave their hearts and lives to God for ministry during their teenage years. Pastor Josh is a student of God's Word and has proven himself to be an excellent preacher, soul winner, and pastor. In his spare time, he enjoys being in the mountains with his family, reading, and woodworking. Galilean Baptist Church is thankful Pastor Josh, Miss Patty, Abby, and Andrew followed God's succession plan and accepted the torch.

—by SuzAnne Moore

HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST DECREASE

John 3:30

by **Dr. Tolbert Moore**

It takes a man that really knows his place and the purpose of God to say, "The One coming must increase, but I must decrease."

If Christ is to increase in my life, then I must decrease. It's my choice. It won't be forced upon me.

John was a forerunner of Jesus Christ, a voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. John had become the greatest prophet of his time. Even Jesus said that of them that are born of women, there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist.

John was the greatest until Jesus came on the scene. It takes a man that really knows his place and the purpose of God to say, "The One coming must increase, but I must decrease." John is saying, "I am simply the sign board. I am the voice. I am pointing you to the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world."

Jesus must increase, yet there has been a concerted effort for these centuries to destroy Christ and Christianity. Still, it ever grows. The stronger the

opposition and persecution becomes, the more it grows. During the Roman empire, Christianity multiplied and people by the thousands were brought to know Jesus Christ because there is no other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. If you are saved from sin, guilt, wrath, destruction, and Hell after this life, then you are saved by Jesus Christ. As a rule, people will try anything and everything before they will try Jesus.

Some of you, no doubt, have tried many things to bring you peace, happiness, and fulfillment. Every other religion is a failure. They cannot bring you peace and contentment. That's why Jesus keeps increasing, and the power of His Kingdom keeps reaching further. From the ivy league universities to the jungle, Christianity has been

successful. Some say the church has failed. Not so, people may have failed to apply it. They may have failed to trust Him. Luke rightly said, "and of His kingdom there will be no end."

This statement, "He must increase, but I must decrease," has a two-fold application. Jesus must increase, and this was true globally in the sense of Christ's reputation and fame. Secondly, John would decrease because when Christ came, He (Jesus Christ) was to be in charge.

That's true also in every life. It won't, however, be forced upon you. To John, it was his choice. John had the desire for the will of God to be done which included Jesus increasing and John decreasing. That must be so in my life and in yours. If Christ is to increase in my life, then I must decrease. It's my choice. It won't be forced upon me.

We must be careful as we serve the Lord. If we serve faithfully, humbly, and sincerely, we will see accomplishments in our lives, however, some people cannot handle success. If we aren't careful, we will begin to see ourselves as being as big as Christ. If I preach a sermon and people get saved, if I'm not careful, the flesh will say, "Look what I'm doing!" That means that I'm getting bigger than He is.

That won't work. The Bible says, "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will

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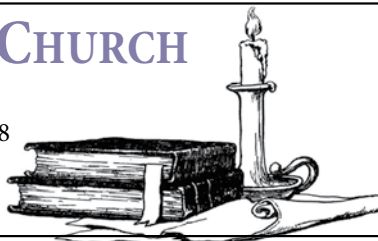
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Don Good, Pastor



I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images,” Is. 42:8. When Christ is working in our lives, we must constantly, consistently give Him the glory and honor. If we don’t, we will begin to get big in our own eyes.

That’s what God said to King Saul. In 1 Samuel 15:17, “And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?” God said in essence, “If you get too big, I will bring you down.”

We must realize that as He grows, then the only alternative is for us to grow smaller, to become less important as He becomes more important.

Now, what happens as a result of Christ increasing and me decreasing? Miraculous things happen! He will heal the sick, unstop deaf ears, open blind eyes. Yet, the most miraculous thing that He does is bring life to those who are dead spiritually. God can bring them to a place of joy, peace, and happiness when He is glorified.

You must realize that He is everything and you are nothing. You cannot save yourself.

Now if it must be like that in salvation, it must continue to be that in service. No man or organization can become bigger than Jesus Christ. All God has to do to teach you where your power comes from is to take His hand off you.

I found out I was nothing. I found out it was all Him and not any of me. I was working in a printing plant as an apprentice. On this particular day, I was in bad shape on the inside. I was wondering why God wasn’t blessing me like He had. I thought, “I am preaching the same Word. I know more now than when I started. I can do better than I used to, so why am I not getting results?” After work, I went out on a flat rock behind the house that Nellie and I built, and I began to cry out to God. He showed me that I had gotten too big in my own eyes. My friend, God doesn’t have to have us, but we have to have Him! He doesn’t need us

the way we need Him. Since that time, I haven’t had to settle that again. I know Who the Important One is. It’s Him.

My righteousness is as filthy rags no matter how good I live. No matter how much I pray, my righteousness is still as filthy rags. You see, sin comes OUT of us. There’s all manner of sin. There are moral sins, but there’s also the sin of pride and selfishness down inside of us. When we get that stirred up in us, we can foul up a lot of good things, can’t we?

We need to put Him first and say, “Oh God, I want You to increase and I want to decrease. I want to be less important in my eyes, and I want You to be more important.” Paul said in Acts 20:24, “. . . neither count I my life dear unto myself. . . .” What a statement! If we could come to that place to say, “God, my life is not precious to me. My life is not important to me. My life is only important as I give it to You and live it for You and in You and by You.”

Yes, let Him increase, and let us decrease. Let it be said that the greatest Personality in this church is Jesus Christ. Let it be said that the Saviour of the world, the Christ of God is number one in our church, in our lives, and in our service for Him.

If you have never trusted Jesus for salvation, if there’s guilt and unrest in your life, then you need to be saved today. Let Him increase in your life and in your home, and all things will get better. He loves you. It will be the best decision you have ever made. ☩

All God has to do to teach you where your power comes from is to take His hand off you.

If we could come to that place to say, “God, my life is not precious to me. My life is not important to me. My life is only important as I give it to You and live it for You and in You and by You.”

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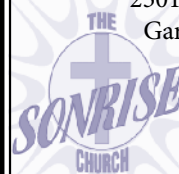
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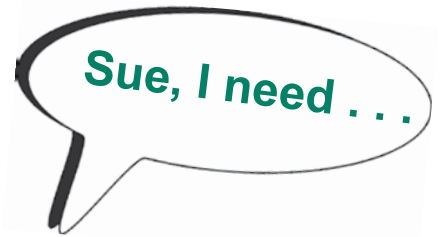


Sue Lutz & Natalie Forrest
1998

She Hath Done What She Could

Mark 14:8

by Amelia Petty



She is an amazing, godly lady who wears many hats and wears each one of them beautifully.

Her service is always done with love and compassion encased in a humble, dedicated, willing heart.

Mrs. Susan Lutz, Sue, Miss Sue—one on whom many depend to be there when they need her, some for a short while, others for a few years, and many for 25 plus years! We know we can count on her to pray for us, encourage us, labor for us, and answer our many questions. Make our day!

She rejoices with us, cries with us, and laughs with us. She is an amazing, godly lady who wears many hats and wears each one of them beautifully.

Not only is our mission association, *The Gospel Preacher Association*, graciously blessed to have Miss Sue, but Galilean Baptist Church, home of the GPA, and each missionary in our GPA family is blessed by Miss Sue.

It would be amazing to know how many times the words “Sue” or “Miss Sue” is heard in just one month and massive times in the course of a year. “Sue, I need—,” “Sue, can you—,” “Sue, would you please—,” “Sue, HELP!” We may laugh at this, but all who know her can relate to these cries, and we can be assured she will always “do what she can.”

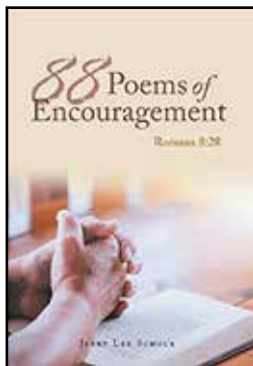
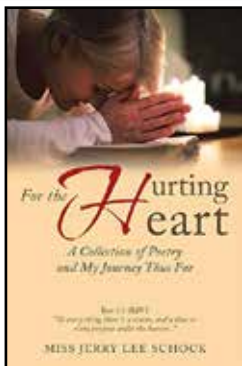
The testimony of her salvation and her life lived is a special blessing to any and all who know her. Sue is truly a servant of her Lord, and her service is always done with love and compassion encased in a humble, dedicated, willing heart.

“Others” is her motto. “Others, Lord, yes, others, let this my motto be. Help me live for

others that I may live like Thee.” Sue fulfills this motto well.

Yes, “she hath done what she could,” and like Mary, Miss Sue’s service to God and others is extravagant, sacrificial, and fragrant (a sweet-smelling savor to each of us). Sue willingly goes the extra mile.

Thank you, Sue, for your love for Him, for all our missionaries, and for whomever God allows to cross your path! †



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

Search the Scriptures

John 5:39, “Search the scriptures . . . they are they that testify of me.”

by **Dr. Dennis Petty**, Missions & Evangelism, Co-General Director



You search, investigate, and pour over the Scripture diligently because these very Scriptures testify of Me. Paul’s determination was Philippians 3:10, “That I may know him,” become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him. Paul wanted a greater insight into His Person. John tells us explicitly that such knowledge comes from the Scriptures. In the Scriptures . . .

I. The Heart of Christ Is Described.

Matt. 11:29, “. . . learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart. . . .” Jesus describing His heart said, “I am meek and lowly.” Mystery, yes, mystery that Divine Majesty is shining forth its splendor from the setting of Divine Meekness.

- A. The Model of Meekness, “I am meek.” The word used for meek in this passage is said to be used only once in Scripture. How significant! There is but one model of meekness for humanity.
- B. The Measure of Lowliness, “I am . . . lowly.” Who said, “I am lowly”? None other than the “high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy,” Is. 57:15, yet, He stooped low to the abode of humanity. His birth was lowly—a lowly cattle shed. His blood shedding was lowly to redeem the lost. Our lowly Lord stoops even to “the death of the cross,” Phil. 2:8. These truths mirror His heart.

The word used for meek in this passage is said to be used only once in Scripture. How significant! There is but one model of meekness for humanity.

II. The Will of Christ Is Declared.

John 17:24a, “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory.” For the first time in this prayer, Christ says, “I will.” It expresses desire. The will of Christ for His people includes two things.

- A. Coexistence with Christ, vs. 24, “be with me where I am.” Christ coexists with the church now, Matt. 28:20b, then the church will coexist with Christ. I Thess. 4:17, “. . . and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”
- B. Contemplation of Christ, vs. 24, “that they may behold my glory.” “Behold” is to hold in view His most exalted state, splendor, preeminence, and majesty for “we shall see him as he is,” 1 John 3:2. In the Scriptures, the will of Christ is declared.

III. The Mind of Christ Is Disclosed.

Phil. 2:5, “Let this mind . . . which was also in Christ Jesus.” This mind includes His thinking and attitude. “This mind” “humbled himself.” It was voluntary. He went the limit of humiliation. He went from the highest in Heaven to the lowest on earth, from the Sovereign of all to the Servant of all, from the Crown of Glory to the Cross of Golgotha. The mind of Christ is disclosed in Scripture.

Actions speak louder than words. This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. Calvary is the supreme display of love.

IV. The Love of Christ Is Displayed.

1 John 3:16a, “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us.” “Hereby,” by this we perceive love. “He laid down his life for us,” this is the display of love. Actions speak louder than words. This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. Calvary is the supreme display of love. It crowns all! We need look no further than Calvary for genuine, authentic, original love.

Search the Scriptures . . . they testify of Me! Oh, what a Saviour is mine!




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



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