



The Eagle

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Called to Preach the Gospel—Baptist by Conviction



O taste and see
that the LORD
is good!

Psalms 34:8a

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THE EAGLE

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Dear Readers and Friends,

Privilege—I count it a great privilege to serve in the Gospel ministry of Jesus Christ! I have been blessed to serve as a Gospel preacher, not by my right but by the privilege granted to me by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. “I am weak but Thou art strong,” sing the children. I also am weak, but HE IS STRONG! I can say by experience and observation that the Gospel never fails. Those who reject the Gospel are the failures.

When so weak a servant as I has preached the Gospel, I have witnessed the miraculous power of God. Sometimes I preach with fear and trembling, sometimes in a great atmosphere!

I have seen the Gospel power change sinners to saints, from carnal to spiritual! I have witnessed those who came from ordinary families and circumstances being changed to great preachers and men of God! I have seen boys and girls from broken homes (and sometimes dysfunctional families) and even homeless people come to Christ and be enabled to do great, extraordinary works for Christ!

I am witnessing short-term mission trips to forgotten countries reach hundreds and sometimes thousands for Christ! I am witnessing as these words go forth the remodeling and equipping of a 110-foot ship called *Mercy's Vessel* being readied to sail into the Gulf and the islands to carry medical services and the wondrous life-changing Gospel to thousands in Central America and the islands!

It is a glorious privilege to be a part of the army of Jesus Christ!

In His Grip,

Tolbert Moore, Founder/Editor

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THE FORM OF GODLINESS

by Dr. Tolbert Moore

I am reading from the Gospel according to Mark. I had been studying the history of Mark (who Mark was and where he got his information), but something said to me, “Just read the book of Mark.” So, I read the entire book of Mark. I was familiar with most of it, but I came to a portion at the end of chapter 16, and a phrase just jumped out at me and said, “Preach this.”

This is after Jesus’ resurrection, and different things were happening. He was traveling down the road from Jerusalem with a couple, and the Bible said in Mark 16:11-12, “*And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.*”

You might want to underline, he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

I began to think back through the Scriptures noticing how important **FORM** is. In the book of Daniel, it talks a lot about form and image. The King dreamed a dream and saw an image that was awful. Then they cast three Hebrew children into

a fiery furnace, and the King looked and said, “Didn’t we cast three into the furnace? I see four, and the **form** of the fourth is like unto the Son of God.”

Form is important. The Bible in various places talks about form. There is **the form of godliness**. 2 Timothy 3:5, “*Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*”

Look in Philippians 2:7, “*But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. . . .*” The Bible says that Jesus took on the **FORM** of a servant.

Paul said in Galatians 4:19, “*My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be **formed** in you. . . .*”

The Bible talks about the **FORM** of knowledge. The form of knowledge is what you learn and where you learn it. If you are going to have the knowledge of the form of God, you are going to find it in the only place it is written down—the Holy Scriptures. If the form of your knowledge comes from the Scriptures, you will have a form of life that will be fruitful and satisfying. Just think about that. How much more fruitful and productive it is

to live by the Word of God than by your own instincts.

Let’s consider **THE FORM OF A SERVANT**. I saw on television the other day where four rottweilers were attacking and trying to kill a child. A man saw this, who was not a relative (I don’t even know if he was a neighbor), and he ran through those dogs, picked up that child, who was bleeding and screaming, and faced those four rottweilers. He carried that child to safety even as those dogs were attacking him. Now, that is the form of a servant. That is a servant who is not serving self but serving others.

The form of a servant of Jesus Christ is seen in those who do not serve themselves. They serve for the cause of Christ, for souls, and for the advancement of the Kingdom.

I was impressed as I came into the other building this morning. Bill Sweat’s mother just passed away last night. Only the ones who have experienced the loss of your mother can understand how that is. Yet, Bill was on his post serving this morning. That is the heart and the form of a servant. I know he is not the only one in this church who has the form of a servant. I can point to different ones who

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Doctrine is the foundation. You cannot build a decent building without a good foundation.

serve. They give of their ability, their craft, their gifts unselfishly for the cause of Christ.

Oh, what a glorious thing to behold the form of a servant and to see one who has the form of knowledge of Christianity and Jesus Christ.

You can have the form of an industrialist. That industrialist can be an honest, Christian man, or you can have the form of an industrialist who is wicked and deceitful and practices thievery. You see, just the form of an industrialist does not give the right form.

There are forms of people who are great at various things and may be admired, but they may be dishonest. They may have a form of godliness but deny the power of God. What do you mean "deny the power of God"? They do not let the power of God control them.

Jesus said in Matthew 28:18, *"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."* You go in that power, not in your own power, not in your own knowledge, but go in My power.

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The Gospel is about the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is the power. We are to let it be part of our form as we live our lives.

Next, let's consider **THE FORM OF SOUND DOCTRINE**. I have a very good book by the Dean of Tennessee Temple, in the days when it was one of the leading universities producing Christian missionaries, preachers, and teachers. He gives nine different doctrines. Doctrine is the foundation. You cannot build a decent building without a good foundation. You can't build on sand because the sand will change with the rain and the wind. You must build on the Rock that doesn't ever move

or change. Jesus Christ is the Rock of Ages. Isn't that marvelous? Build on sound doctrine. Let your form of doctrine (the things that you believe about time, eternity, salvation, service, and the glory of God) be controlled by good, sound doctrine.

Recently, I came across a documentary about some scientist and archeologist who had gone all over the world to try to discover the age and development of our great earth. They came to the conclusion, scientifically proving it, that the creation was totally reshaped by the flood and that the earth is somewhere between six and seven thousand years old. You see, if you vary from Genesis (you don't call Genesis history, but you call it a myth), then that is false doctrine.

I fired a professor when I was the President of a college. Someone told me that he was teaching that the first eleven chapters of Genesis were a myth, old wives' tales.

I said, "Is that right?"

He said, "Yeah."

So, I went over there,

stood by the door, and listened to what he was saying, and sure enough, that was exactly what he was teaching.

I said, "I want to interrupt here. Sir, would you come out?" I pointed to Eddis Dockery and told him to hold the class.

I said, "Sir, I am going to have to let you go because you are teaching false doctrine to these men, and I love these men."


He said, "Well, when are you going to call the meeting?"

I said, "I just did. You are through. They will have your check ready over in the office."

I do not tolerate false doctrine. I am not going to stand for false doctrine. If you say any part of the Bible is not true, you are out of here. Shut up, sit down, or go home. AMEN! It is important to have the form of sound doctrine.

A group of liberals out there says that Jesus Christ didn't really die. He just swooned. He just sort of went into a coma. A man in a coma gets up out of the grave by himself? I have stood by the bedside of many


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people who were coming out of comas. They don't come out strong enough to walk.

I wouldn't want someone who says that to say "Amen" on the back seat of my church. That is too false. He was dead. The Bible said three different people said He was dead, then a lot of people said, "He is alive." We need the form of sound doctrine.

A famous preacher in the West started saying that it was not the blood that accomplished salvation but it was the death. I am sorry. His education mixed him up. It is like Brother B. R. Lakin said about a fellow, "He is educated above his intelligence."

The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin. Without the blood there would not be any salvation and certainly would not be any cleansing. It is going to take something strong to clean up our sinful nature, mine included.

Sound doctrine will bring about the right kind of service. We have a lot of Pharisees. Somebody said, "If you are like Jesus, you will love everybody. You will never say anything negative about anybody. If you do, then you are not their friend."

Jesus was not politically correct. He said in Luke 11:44, "*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!*"

The Preacher, Solomon, wrote in Ecclesiastes 7:16, "*Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?*"

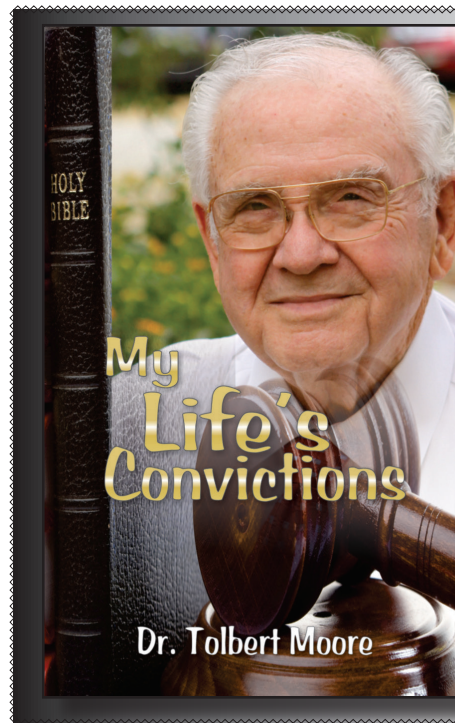
That has happened.

A lot of people have destroyed themselves by being over righteous. They have destroyed their testimony. They have lost their touch.

Am I meddling? Alright, let me meddle a little bit more. If you have sound doctrine, you won't be a hypocrite. If you have the right doctrine of man and his depravity, his weakness

A lot of people have destroyed themselves by being over righteous. They have destroyed their testimony. They have lost their touch.

If you have your doctrine of man right, you won't be high-minded or arrogant.



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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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and his sinful nature, you will understand that means you too and that means me too.

Don't point your finger at a man and say, "He's a sinner." Point like this and say, "We are all sinners." If you have your doctrine of man right, you won't be high-minded or arrogant.

A preacher who is dear to my heart has become arrogant, and I am worried about him because I know what it will do. The deacons won't bring him down. The congregation won't bring him down. The Sunday school superintendent won't bring him down. God will bring him down.

Whatever you have accomplished or whatever God has done for you, you did not do it personally. God did it. You have nothing to praise yourself about. You can only say, "I listened and obeyed."

I want you to understand that all of this is wrapped up in **THE FORM OF THE LOVE OF GOD**. If you love your child, you do not want your child to get into the water if they cannot swim. Right?

When my oldest son was eight years old, he wanted to swim all the time. I took him downtown to the YMCA, and a gentleman there who was seventy something years old taught him how to swim. Now, he is sixty odd years old, and he goes under the water with one of those goggle things on. That bothers me. I worry about him. He is still my boy.

When my girls do something I think is dangerous, I holler, "Don't do that!" I am not being mean to them. I'm trying to deliver them.

Jesus warns us to have sound doctrine because it is wrapped up in the love of God. Because He loves you, He wants you to look to Him and have no other gods before Him.

How many of you ladies want your husband to love you more than anybody else? God wants you to love Him because His love is better for you than any other love you could ever have. You and I are to have that form of love that is unselfish.

One guy (I love him and I warned him) sent me a copy

You are supposed to be telling people about Jesus and how good and wonderful He is. How are you going to tell them about how good He is when your form looks like a heathen or a rapscallion?

of his book before it was published and wanted me to sign on to it. I looked at it, but I couldn't endorse it because one of the things he said is the word *charity* should not be in Corinthians. He said it was the wrong word.

It is not the wrong word. Charity is Christian love, agape love. Agape love is unselfish love. Eros love is self-love, other love. Agape love is benevolent. You give expecting nothing. You sacrifice not expecting payment. That is the kind of love God has. That is the kind of love God wants you to have.

If you have sound doctrine, you can incorporate that love among all the things you cherish. I cherish a lot of things. I now have a lot of memories that I cherish. I have a lot of friends whom I cherish. Some of them are making the crossing. By the way, it is just one step. It is one step from the fourth dimension into the fifth dimension. Isn't that good? It is not far.

I never will forget when my son, Gary, preached Beth's (my niece) funeral. She had been to the youth camp, and they had studied about Jacob's ladder. When they got back to the church, each one was asked to stand up and testify. She stood up and said (in her little way), "We studied about Jacob's ladder. I didn't even know he had one."

Gary quoted that and said, "Why a ladder?" He said, "Because a ladder is not very long. It is just a short trip to where God is. Just a few steps and there He is."

The love of God keeps us from the horror of death. Death is horrible. When I looked at my mother in the casket, she was so beautiful. They had fixed her up so well. Her hair looked so good, but to me it was horrible—she was dead. Mama could not speak to me. Just two minutes before she made the crossing, she spoke to me. Lying in the casket, she couldn't speak to me. That sweet, beautiful voice was still. That was horrible. But when I realize that she is now in the arms of Jesus, when I think of it that way, it is not so horrible. The love of God wraps around us. I felt the love of God that night.

God loves you. Go His way. Find that form of godliness and share it with others.

You are supposed to be telling people about Jesus and how good and wonderful He is. How are you going to tell them about how good He is when your form looks like a heathen or a rapscallion? Amen.

I am not talking about the way you dress. I am talking about your demeanor. You can spend five minutes with a person and you can read their demeanor whether they are full of self or are full of God.

He took **another** form. He didn't take a **different** form. Each form was consistent with **the** form. Is that too deep? They didn't recognize Him. It wasn't the same form as they had seen before, but yet it **was** the same form because when they saw Him break bread, they recognized Him. It was what He was doing that opened their eyes. May what we do cause others to see a form of godliness, Jesus in us. ✠

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Excerpt from *The Power of Prayer in a Believer's Life*
by Charles Spurgeon

The Substitute for Care

I suppose it is true for many of us that **our cares are manifold**. If you are like me, once you become careful, anxious, fretful, you are never able to count your cares, even though you might count the hairs of your head. Cares multiply to those who are care-full. When you are as full of care as you think you can be, you will be sure to find another crop of cares growing up all around you. The indulgence of this habit of anxiety leads to its getting dominion over life till life is not worth living by reason of the care we have about it. Cares and worries are manifold; therefore let your prayers be manifold. Turn everything that is a care into a prayer. Let your cares be the raw material of your prayers. As the alchemist hoped to turn dross into

gold, you have the power to actually turn what naturally would have been a care into a spiritual treasure in the form of prayer. Baptize every anxiety into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and so make it into a blessing.

Have you a care you are pursuing? Take heed that it does not get you. Are you desiring to make a financial gain? You should be mindful to not lose more than you gain by your gains. Have no more care to gain than you dare to turn into a prayer. Do not desire to have what you dare not ask God to give you. Measure your desires by a spiritual standard, and you will be kept from anything like covetousness. Cares come to many from their losses; people lose what they have gained. Keep in mind that this is a world where the tendency is to lose. Ebbs follow floods, and winters crush out summer flowers. Do not be surprised if you lose as other people do, but pray about


your losses. Go to God with your losses and, instead of fretting, make them an occasion for waiting upon the Lord. Say to God in prayer, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. Deliver me from ever complaining that You are unfair no matter what You permit me to lose!"

Perhaps you say that your care is not about gaining or losing but about your basic daily bread. Take to heart the promise you have for this care. The Lord has said, "*So shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed*" (Ps. 37:3). The Lord gives you sweet encouragement when He says that He clothes the grass of the field, and shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? And the Lord Jesus bids you consider the birds of the air, how they neither sow nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them (Matt. 6:25-33). Go, then, to your God with all your cares. If you have


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I believe
that God's
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blunders over
simple things
than they do
over more
difficult matters.

a large family, a slender income, and trouble making ends meet and providing things honest in the sight of all men, you have so many excuses for knocking at God's door, so many more reasons for being often found at the throne of grace. Turn your excuses and reasons to good account. Be bold to call upon God when necessities press upon you. Instead of anxiety and worry, turn your care into a reason for renewed prayerfulness.

"Ah," says one, "but I am perplexed! I am involved in a situation in which I do not know what to do." You should certainly pray when you cannot tell whether it is the right-hand road or the left-hand or straight on or whether you should go back. Indeed, when you are in such a fog that you cannot see the next light, then is the time that you must pray. The road will clear before you very suddenly. I have often found this true in my life, and I confess that when I have trusted in myself, I have been a gigantic fool. But when I have trusted in God, He has led me straight on in the right way, and there has been no mistake about it. I believe that God's children often make greater blunders over simple things than they do over more difficult matters. When the Gibeonites came to Israel with their old shoes and showed the bread that was moldy, they said they took the bread fresh out of their ovens. The children of Israel thought, "This is a clear case. These men are strangers, having come from a far country, and we may make a covenant with them." The Israelites were certain that the evidence of their eyes proved that these were not Canaanites, so they did not consult God. Such a compromise was a trouble for God's people ever afterward. If in everything we would go to God in prayer, our perplexities would

lead us into no more mistakes than our simplicities, and in simple things and difficult things we would be guided by the Most High.


Perhaps you say, "But I am thinking about the future." Are you? Let me ask you what you have to do with the future? Do you know what a day will bring? You worry about what will become of you when you are old, but are you sure that you ever will be old? I know a Christian woman who worried herself about how she would get buried. That question never troubled me, and there are many other matters that need not worry us. You can always find a stick with which to beat a dog, and if you want a care, you can always find a care with which to beat your soul; but that is a poor occupation for anyone. Instead of doing that, turn everything that might be a subject of care into a subject of prayer. It will not be long before it becomes a holy habit. Cross out the word **care** and write in its place

the word **prayer**. Then, though your cares are manifold, your prayers will also be manifold.

Note next that **undue care is an intrusion into God's providence**. It is making yourself the father of the household instead of being a child. It is making yourself the master instead of being a servant for whom the master provides. If, instead of doing that, you turn care into prayer, there is no intrusion for you may come to God in prayer without being charged with presumption. God invites you to pray. By His servant, He commands you "*in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*"

Furthermore, **cares are of no use to us, and they cause us great damage**. If you were to worry as long as you wished, you could not make yourself an inch taller. So the Saviour tells us, and He asks, if care fails in such little things, what can care do in the higher matters of providence? It cannot do anything. A farmer stood in his fields and said, "I do not know what will

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happen to us. The wheat will be destroyed if this rain keeps on. We shall not have any harvest at all unless we have some fine weather." He walked up and down, wringing his hands and fretting, making his whole household miserable. But he did not produce one single gleam of sunlight by all his worrying. He could not puff any of the clouds away with all his petulant speech, nor could he stop a drop of rain with all his murmurings.

Why allow care to keep gnawing at your own heart when you can get nothing by it? Besides, it weakens our power to help ourselves, and especially our power to glorify God. A care-full heart hinders us from seeing anything clearly. It is like taking a telescope, breathing on it with the hot breath of our anxiety, putting it to our eye, and then saying that we cannot see anything but clouds. Of course we cannot, and we never shall as long as we breathe upon it. If we were calm, quiet, self-possessed, we should do the right thing. We should be, as we say, "all there" in the time of difficulty. That man may expect to have presence of mind who has the presence of God. If we forget to pray, do we wonder that we are all in a worry and do the first thing that occurs to us—which is generally the worst thing—instead of waiting till we see what should be done and then trustfully and believingly doing it as in the sight of God? Care is harmful. But if you only turn this care into prayer every care will be a benefit to you.

Prayer is wonderful material for building up the spiritual fabric. We are personally edified by prayer. We grow in grace by prayer. And if we will but come to God every moment with petitions, we shall be growing Christians. I said to someone, "Pray for me. It is a time of need." She replied, "I have done

nothing else since I woke." I have made the same request of several others, and they have said that they have been praying for me. I felt so glad, not only for my own sake who had received benefit from their prayers but also for their sakes, because they are sure to grow thereby. When little birds keep flapping their wings, they are learning to fly. The muscles will get stronger, and the birds will leave the nest before long. So to the attempting to pray, the groaning, the sighing, the crying of a prayerful spirit, is itself a blessing. Break off, then, this damaging habit of care and take to this enriching habit of prayer. You will make a double gain by avoiding a loss and by getting that which will really benefit both you and others.

Then, again, *cares are the result of forgetfulness of Christ's closeness to us.* Notice how the context runs. Philippians 4:5

ends with "*The Lord is at hand.*" Our text continues: "*Be careful for nothing.*" The Lord Jesus Christ has promised to come again, and He may come at any moment. Thus, Paul writes, "*The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*" If we could but stand on this earth as upon a mere shadow and live as those who will soon be done with this poor transient life! If we held every earthly thing with a very loose hand, we would not be caring and worrying and fretting, but we would be praying, for thus we grasp the real, the substantial, and plant our feet upon the invisible—which is, after all, the eternal! Let the text drop into your heart as a pebble falls into a mountain lake, and as it enters, let it make rings of comfort upon the very surface of your soul. ✚

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If we could but stand on this earth as upon a mere shadow and live as those who will soon be done with this poor transient life!



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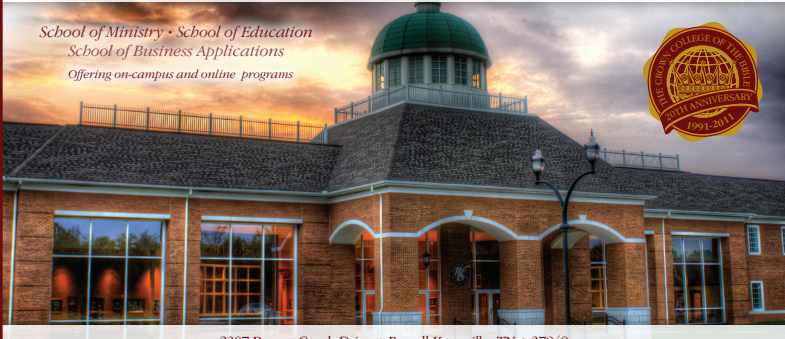

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Recruiting Soldiers for the Cross of Jesus Christ

by Dr. Tolbert Moore

Once they were trained, they were sent out by themselves, but while in training, He was physically on the field leading them. He started a journey to Jerusalem in Luke 9:51, *"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem. . . ."* As that journey took place (lasting from eight months to one year), He was training them. He was with them. He was teaching by mouth, by Word, and by example.

Then when the time came that He was going away, He instructed them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. One of the writers said, "to make disciples." See Matthew 28:19-20, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."*

We can still be recruiters for the army of the Lord looking for soldiers of the Cross. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and said to be a good soldier. See 2 Timothy 2:3, *"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."*

Now, I want to make some statements here that might ruffle some feathers. A lot of people say that all we need to know in order to be a soul winner and to recruit people for the cause of Christ is the written Word. I agree, you need the written Word. You need those instructions. You need to look to the Scriptures for an explanation. However, without the Holy Spirit, you will never get it right. So, you need the Holy Spirit and you need the written Word. We call it the Holy Bible.

The New Testament deals with Christianity and with

physical activities and exercise. They train them first in boot camp, then in classrooms. They go out on the field to learn to march, and they learn to use firearms and all the equipment. That is what recruits go through.

The recruits for the Cross of Calvary, the soldiers of the Cross, first are disciples. Disciples are learners. They call them young scholars sometimes. They are disciples and are being schooled. The Bible says in Matthew 5:1-2, *"And seeing the multitudes, he (Jesus) went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,"* and He gave them the beatitudes.

That was like a boot camp, you might say. He brought His disciples aside, up on the mountain away from the multitudes. I don't know how many there were, but evidently, there were quite a few.

He gave them what we call the Sermon on the Mount. David Shepherd, a great Welsh evangelist, said it was the manifesto of a King. Then J. Vernon McGee made the same statement. So, I think I will make the same statement. This is the manifesto of Jesus Christ the King of kings.

Recruiting is done by our nation. They recruit for soldiers, sailors, and airman. They have recruiting stations, but they also go out to different places to recruit. We heard of a college or two that did not want them on the campus recruiting for soldiers.

Jesus Himself is a recruiter. We learn of some of His first recruits in Matthew 4:18-24, *"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him."*

Jesus was a recruiter. Then He did what is done when one is recruited for the army. They are tested physically and mentally to see if they are qualified. If they are accepted, they go through boot camp.

Boot camp, they say, is almost murderous, just tough

The Eagle's Claw . . .



Once they were trained, they were sent out by themselves, but while in training, He was physically on the field leading them.

Christ. It tells of the birth, life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.

We have too many people trying to preach and lead a congregation without being properly trained. To be honest with you, I had too little training when I became a pastor the first time. I was only eighteen years old. I had only been two semesters, or one term, at Berry Academy and had some Bible training with George Schroder who was with the Moody Bible Institute.

During those first years, I was in training under the leadership of great preachers. They were old-time preachers. Many of them were without a high school education, but they had been self-educated in the Bible, and they had been conversing with each other. One of the men bought a World Book, like an encyclopedia, and I bought one for myself. They call it now, *The Book of Life*, but it was a Bible expository book, and we studied as we served.

I was bi-vocational at that time. I was pastoring sometimes two churches and preaching meetings all over the country while working as a salesman for a large printing company. I was privileged to be exposed to the Governor's office and be a part of that kind of operation. I kept myself straight and clean. I didn't get into any of the corruption. The Lord was training me in both avenues. Thank God I got some training.

Thank God I didn't think because I had one successful revival campaign in one church that I knew everything. By the time I was twenty-five, I was beginning to think I knew everything, but it was amazing what I learned from the time I was twenty-five until I was thirty. Now, I am eighty-eight years old, and I am still learning That's amazing.

I want to use an illustration to explain what it means to be trained. My dad was a craftsman although he was raised on a farm. In farming back then, you had to learn about a lot of things. For instance, you had to learn about carpentry, how to build barns, fences, and suchlike.

Then when they began to have electricity, he learned to be an electrician. Eventually, instead of farming, he went into business for himself, and he was a good craftsman.

When my son, David, my second child, was about eighteen or nineteen years old, he and his wife moved in with my dad near Stone Mountain, and David began to learn from my dad. My dad was still doing the actual work then.

He could wire a small house by himself. He could rough it in one day and then finish it the next day. It would take two younger men two or three days to do the same job. My dad knew where to bore the holes to pull the wire. He knew how to put his hands on the electrical system. He knew how to build a meter loop.

David, my son, was 6' 1" and weighed 190 pounds. He was as athletic as just about anybody. He played football in school, but he was slow in the beginning as Dad was teaching him. Later, of course, he became trained. A trained man can work more efficiently and faster.

The same is true in the church. I know some of you will say, "All you need is the Bible and the Holy Spirit." I agree with that. They will train you. You can learn and be self-taught, but you have to be trained. The Holy Spirit will guide you and lead you into all truth, but the point is you still have to learn. You don't know it all. I don't know it all yet. I still learn things every day.

We need continual training. We need our Sunday school leaders to be trained. We need the teachers trained. We need some people who have a vision (or maybe you call it imagination), who can see or imagine how things could be.

We need our preachers to learn. We have had too many generations that have had the thought, "I am ignorant, therefore, I am subject to being led by the Holy Spirit, and ignorance is an advantage."

I don't think so. I don't think ignorance and being unlearned is an advantage in any way, except for somebody who wants to take advantage of them.

We need God. We need the Holy Spirit. We need the Bible. We need to be recruiting for the army of the Lord. We also need to be training the recruits. We need a bigger, better-trained, better-equipped army than ever because these are trying days. The world is gradually moving in the direction of corruption and ungodliness. There are some good, moral people but yet they are going in the wrong direction. We see it in the political system, in the government, in our colleges and schools, and all kinds of places. We need to have good, gentle, honest, firm people trained in the Word of God and the work of God that we may carry this fight for right, truth, and the Gospel in the power of God to reach lost communities, lost people, lost souls.

I believe it can be done. I believe it as strongly as I have ever believed it. I have witnessed much being done by many men who got the right training and led great works, great churches, great evangelistic works, and publications.

God help us to get serious. John R. Rice used to say, "Get down to business with God." God bless you. I hope this will help you. ✠

We have too many people trying to preach and lead a congregation without being properly trained.

A trained man can work more efficiently and faster.

God Still Saves Souls ...

and He even allows us to be part of it!

by Pastor Jeremy McClain
Greenville, PA
www.harvestbaptistpa.com



Our church went out of their way to encourage and help this family while we were intently praying and sharing the Gospel.

“You’re the guy from my church!” This was the proclamation of a six-year-old girl who had attended our church one time with her cousin. I was making visits with our van driver for our Vacation Bible School which was scheduled the following week. As we drove through town, we saw a family outside and decided to introduce ourselves. It was at that moment that this young girl included me, the pastor, as a part of “her church.” We were introduced to Harry and Tiffany and their three young children. Upon hearing about VBS, the kids were thrilled to go. I asked the parents about attending church. They told me that they both had to work on Sunday mornings, but maybe they would come in the evening.

Now, to be honest, I have heard this same thing more than once, and rarely does it ever seem to happen; however, we told them we would be glad to have them. What a blessing it was to see both parents ride the van with their children the following week for our last night of Vacation Bible School!

That night, I preached a clear, simple Gospel message. Harry listened intently, almost glued to my every word. It was obvious to me that the Lord was convicting him about salvation. As the invitation was given, Harry indicated he would like to talk to someone, but afterward, he just asked for prayer. The family said that they would come again the following week.

The next Sunday, I briefly shared with our church the need to pray for this family. Over the next several weeks the kids rode the van on Sunday mornings and the entire family came on Sunday nights. Our church went out of their way to encourage and help this family while we were intently praying and sharing the Gospel.

One Sunday night, Harry and Tiffany said they wanted to discuss baptism, but I knew what they needed was Jesus. They asked if I could come to their house on Tuesday night. Arrangements were made, and we continued to pray that they would be saved. Wouldn’t you know it? They had to cancel the appointment. (The devil is so good at complicating things.) I was scheduled to go out of town before the weekend, and I feared I would not have a chance to meet with them again for another two weeks. Praise the Lord, He worked it all out!

The next day, Tiffany came to our midweek service for the first time. She listened intently as I preached. She did not move during the invitation, but after the service, I approached her. She admitted that she was not saved and had come that night to talk to me about it. Praise God! After several minutes of

a Gospel conversation, Tiffany humbly bowed her head and trusted Christ! Afterwards, she told me that Harry thought he was “saved,” but she knew he wasn’t saved like the Bible says. We agreed to be in prayer that the Lord would convict Harry and he would see the truth.

What a tremendous joy it was when, a couple of weeks later, Harry, also after a Wednesday night service, allowed me to share the Gospel again with him. He told me that God had saved him from some difficult situations in his life. I explained that this wasn’t salvation for the soul, but that a loving, gracious God had delivered him from those situations in order to bring him to this point of hearing the Gospel. What a tender moment as Harry bowed his head and simply trusted Christ as payment for his sins. What a time of rejoicing in our church!

The three kids aren’t saved yet, but now the parents are praying along with the church that their kids will understand the Gospel as they continue to learn. What a loving, gracious God Who convicts the sinner and saves the soul—and He even lets us have a part in it! ✝

Afterwards, she told me that Harry thought he was “saved,” but she knew he wasn’t saved like the Bible says.

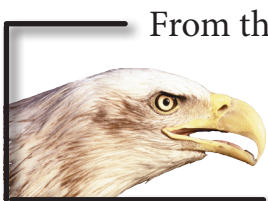


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The Crooked Path on the Straight and Narrow
by Edwin G. Moore, Jr.



Let's Get to Know Him
by Sharon Loyd & Sheri Edwards



From the

desk

of the

Associate Editor

Dr. Gary S. Moore

ON the morning of August 29th, I was looking through a few Facebook posts when I came across this one from Jonathan Marks, one of our GPA Missionaries serving in Japan: *"6:00 AM—alarms on both of our phones let us know that North Korea had launched a missile toward Japan's north-east region and advised us to take shelter. It has since crossed over our island of Hokkaido and landed in the Pacific. We are all safe. Please join us in prayer for God's will in this world."*

Well, of course, I stopped and prayed right then but to be honest I couldn't get it out of my mind all day. I thought not only of Jonathan and his family but of so many of our missionaries serving in hard, dangerous places—places that most would never consider living and certainly not with a family. Yet, there they are, serving God every day and just trusting the God of their salvation for safety. I can tell you that as I considered the day to day experience of Jonathan I had to

examine my own commitment to the work of Christ and cry out again, "Lord, make me willing. Make me ready. Make me useful in Your great Kingdom."

I'm not a big Facebook follower myself. I'm a shameless user for the purpose of getting the word out on our ministry and that's about it, but the next morning I had to check Jonathan's post again to see how things were going. This was the post I found: *"After yesterday's scare I'm especially grateful for the opportunity to pass out tracts today. We are so very thankful for every day God allows us to minister here. Please pray for the work here in Japan, as many are uncertain and fearful as they look to the future. Pray they find the true peace that only God can give."*

My mind wandered to this precious family several times during that day but with a little more settled peace. It was apparent to me that the God Who protects me day by day is also protecting each of our missionary families all around the world.

What struck me the most was the desire in Jonathan's heart for the people of Japan to find the same peace we have through Jesus Christ our Lord. I thought of this verse, *"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you,"* Philippians 4:9. Then I made the connection—everyone in our world who knows not Christ is searching for the peace we have already found. How many people will I meet today who have no peace? How many opportunities have I missed because I was just not paying attention to those all around me who are hurting, broken, and lost? If God calls us to a mission field thousands of miles away from home, then He will equip us to make a difference with the Gospel, but if we live all our lives in the town in which we were born, then that is our mission field, and we should seek to bring the peace of God to anyone who will hear and respond to the Gospel.

By the way, the hurting and fearful are everywhere. As I write this, we are between Harvey and Irma. Texas is struggling to cope with the devastation, and Florida is bracing for the worst. Every day in every community there is an opportunity to help the broken. No, they are not all broken in the same way or by the same things, but broken they are. The answer they need is not found in FEMA, the Red Cross, or a stronger military might. The answer was, is, and always will be the Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. ✠



I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.
Psalm 4:8



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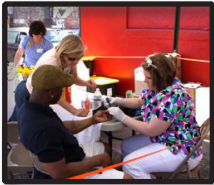
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UPCOMING TRIPS & EVENTS



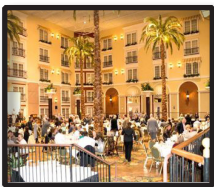
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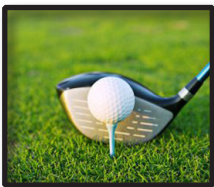
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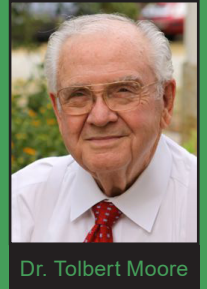
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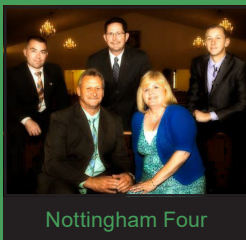
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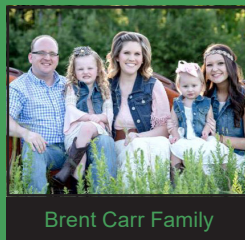
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The Gospel Preacher Association Missionary Journal



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

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Finishing Mercy's Vessel

by **Dr. Gary S. Moore**

Every time I went up to work a day on the ship, or just to look it over, *Mercy's Vessel* seemed less like a ship and more like a scrap metal pile.

After two years of work, the refitting of *Mercy's Vessel* should be finished by the end of October. It has been a long, hard journey, but now, as we near the end of the process, our spirits are high and our anticipation is running wild. The light at the end of the tunnel gets just a little brighter as we see progress each day. The old fishing boat we purchased had to be completely gutted from bow to stern including completely rebuilding both sixteen-cylinder engines, pulling the props and shafts, removing the plumbing and electrical systems, and on and on. I must admit there were times that it seemed the old ship was just getting worse and worse. Every time I went up to work a day on the ship, or just to look it over, *Mercy's Vessel* seemed less like a ship and more like a scrap metal pile. Of course, we couldn't put her



back together again until every problem had been dealt with and all the old removed.

It wasn't until this summer that we started putting her back together. The dormitories were framed. The kitchen and clinic laid out as new items began to arrive. A freezer was donated, along with electrical equipment, plumbing fixtures, insulation, and wall-board. Wow, she started looking like a ship again! Along the way, we have seen so much happen.

I must thank all our donors and volunteers, more than we can list here, for making it all come together. I must, however, mention Captain and Mary Puryear who moved into a camper and spent countless hours working, seeking donors of materials, praying, and giving so completely of themselves to this project that I stand amazed at the commitment and dedication.

As I write this, the ship is almost finished, and I'm confident God will supply for the last step of this work. Now we look to the future and what the ministry for the ship will hold. Your prayers and support are needed just as much for the ministry phase that will begin soon. ✠



LOOKING toward the ministry

by Dr. Gary S. Moore



This ministry started as a dream, became a vision, then a goal, and is about to be a reality! Read this page and the next to see what a ministry trip aboard *Mercy's Vessel* will be like!

We are so blessed to have Rick and Nancy Montes working with us on the Mercy Project as our Ministry Coordinators. They have been some of our most faithful missionaries, working in Central and South America in evangelism, short-term mission trips, and ministry education for national pastors. After years of service in this capacity, they now will work exclusively with *Mercy's Vessel* and the mission trips that stem from the ship. I know Rick is very excited about the opportunity to work directly with the missionaries on the field making it possible for our workers to be as effective as possible as we seek to reach out to the lost and hurting in Central and South America along with the islands of the Caribbean.



How Will the Ministry of *Mercy's Vessel* Operate?

Let me take you through what *Mercy's Vessel* will be doing: First, we will welcome

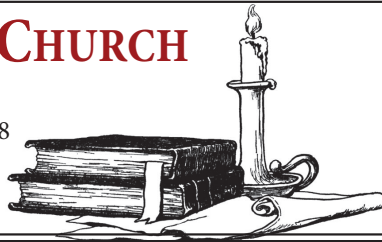
students from the Christian College or University that will be providing the interns that will serve on the voyage at hand. Six men and six women will then move into the dorms and spend a few days in port on board the ship learning about life on *Mercy's Vessel*. They will each receive their duty assignments, be given safety instructions, and spend time getting to know the crew and the fellow students with whom they will spend the next seven to ten weeks. Rick will lead in the worship and discipleship training as the young men and women prepare to do VBS, soul winning, and take part in the evening evangelistic services.

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Hundreds of people from the area will hear the Gospel, receive medical care, and find encouragement through our team.

The ship will then set sail for the first port of call, a two-to three-day trip. When the ship arrives at the port, work will begin on setting up the Gospel tent, canvassing the area with flyers announcing the clinic, VBS, and evangelistic services. On the first Sunday there, the team will divide into groups of three or four and visit the local churches and participate in Sunday School and worship. After about a week of preparation, the doctors and nurses will arrive and prepare for their work. From Sunday to Sunday, a full eight days of clinic, VBS, and evangelistic services will take place. Hundreds of people from the area will hear the Gospel, receive medical care, and find encouragement through our team.

After the end of the ministry week, the doctors and nurses will fly home, and the students will do follow up with those who have been saved. Rick will meet with the local missionaries and pastors, and the ship will be loaded up and prepared for the next leg of the voyage. Leaving the first port of call and spending another two to three days at sea, Mercy's Vessel will arrive at its second destination, and the work will start all over again.

Each voyage will consist of two or three ports of call and then the crew and students will begin their three- to five-day trip home. During that time

testimonies, worship, and discussion will make the journey back to the States both fulfilling and productive. From home port to home port, each voyage will be seven to ten weeks, and the team will spend between fifteen and twenty-one days in each port. This ministry started as a dream, became a vision, then a goal, and is about to be a reality. TO GOD BE THE GLORY! ✝



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The Gift That Excels Human Expression

2 Corinthians 9:15, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

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



Here language collapses. Words are inadequate to express the value of this Gift. This Gift is inexpressible, too sacred to be uttered. Language is unable to deal with this Gift. In the eight words of our text, I call your attention to . . .

I. The Gratitude That Is Unmistakable—Thanks

This Gift has so filled the apostle's heart with thankfulness that he gives immediate expression. The overflow of his gratitude is unmistakable. It is the believing heart moved to adoring praise to God for the Gift of all gifts—the Son was given.

Gratitude is a pleasing experience of the mind. It is accompanied with such an inward satisfaction that the duty is sufficiently rewarded by the performance. Gratitude is a great virtue. This virtue seems to be the attitude of Paul's heart. "We give thanks to God" Colossians 1:3, "Giving thanks unto the Father" 1:12, ". . . giving thanks to God" 3:17, "We give thanks to God always for you all" 1 Thessalonians 1:2, "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God" 2 Thessalonians 2:13, ". . . the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" Hebrews 13:15.

Here Paul lifts up his heart to God in gratitude. Thankfulness is a sense of favor received from God, an obligation due to make suitable acknowledgment. Gratitude delights to express its feelings.

Gratitude must be personal, passionate, and practical. Thanksgiving is good—Thanks "living" is better. Thanksgiving is not just the use of words. Actions must follow. True gratitude is always attended with love that is demonstrative. "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

The second thing I would have you notice in our text is . . .

II. The Gift That Is Unspeakable—Christ

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son. . . ." The divine Gift, what an inexpressible Gift! This is the Gift of gifts! "Unspeakable"—Anyone attempting to describe this Gift must be gripped with the thought of the hymn writer who wrote, "How shall my tongue describe Him?" Awesome is the Gift. Amazing is the Gift. Available is the Gift. All and in all is the Gift. Where do you stop? He is incomparable, indispensable, immutable, invincible, immortal, incomprehensible, and inexhaustible. This Gift cannot be EQUALED. He's God. This Gift cannot be EXCELLED. He's the highest. This Gift cannot be EXPLAINED. He's past finding out. The Gift cannot be EXPELLED. He's the King of kings and Lord of lords. This Gift cannot be EXAGGERATED. You may praise, celebrate, exalt, extol, and glorify Him to the very bounds of your ability without ever being reprimanded by Heaven for exaggerating His excellencies.

This Gift is peace that surpasses all understanding, joy unspeakable. Nouns are too feeble to name Him. Verbs cannot exhaust His being. Adjectives cannot describe Him. This is a gift of such infinite glory that language breaks down. Paul knew how to use acceptable words when occasion demanded. He could pile superlative upon superlative, but when he wrote of this Gift of God, being overwhelmed by the character of the Gift, he tells us in one brief sentence that He defies definition and baffles all description. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

The final thing I would call your attention to is . . .

III. The Giver That Is Unequaled—God

John 3:16, "For God so loved . . . that he GAVE. . . ." Not all love is giving love. God's love had a giving quality that was willing to share Heaven's finest with sinful man in order to provide redemption. God gave His Son. The Son gave His life. "For even the Son of man came . . . to give his life a ransom for many," Mark 10:45. The Divine Giver was God. The Divine Gift was Christ. This Giver is unequalled and will remain unmatched for His giving is ultimate.

Christ, God's redeeming Gift to us, reveals the concern of the Father for man. If He would allow the Son of His love to suffer the shameful humiliation and agony of the cross, then how great must be His concern to save us. Don't reject this free Gift. ✠

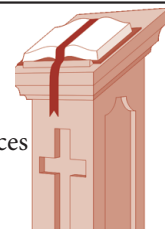
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**“As an eagle stirreth
up her nest . . .”**
Deut. 32:11



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