

October – November 2021

**Faith
&
Family**

Connecting the Community to the Christ

Connect

A Ministry of Victory Baptist Church

A Lonely World

Bob Valleau

“A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”
(Proverbs 18:24, KJV)

A man told his friend: "I'm on Tumblr, Facebook and Flickr. I blog, I text and I Twitter, and I'm still lonely." How ironic. In this age of everything digital that you can imagine to connect to another human being, we can still end up being lonely.

We humans are a peculiar lot. There are times we want to be left alone, but, in reality, we can never abandon our God-given desire to connect with another person on some level. It's called the "connect and communicate" function that is part of our need to survive. This isn't a bad thing. From the cradle to the grave, we long to connect with another in some form or fashion.

Today's technology can aid us in our quest to connect and communicate. But that is all it can do. It can never replace hearing someone speak, feeling their warm touch or seeing how much they care. Our desire to connect with another goes deeper

than mere friendships and casual acquaintances. Adam's sin left a hole in our soul. Without our connection to something greater, we can wander around in life aimlessly for years and not have the satisfying relationships we desire. The only remedy for this is to reconnect to the Great Connector and keep our connection to Him current. And nothing digital we have will ever do that for us.



Proverbs 3:5-8 KJV [5] Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6] In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7] Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. 8] It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Faith & Family *Connect* – A Ministry of Victory Baptist Church, Kokomo, IN

Mike Ennis – Senior Pastor

Morris Starkey - Editor

Landon Bagley – Pastor

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The Good, Great and Glorious God

Fenny West

My God is glorious and victorious
Too awesome and fearsome.
He's precious and righteous,
Bounteous, gracious and splendidous.

My God is wonderful and beautiful;
Beyond every imagination and
comprehension.
He is powerful and merciful.-
The God of Hope, powerful and faithful.

He is the great , good, God of gods
Declaring the end from the beginning.
He's the king of kings and the Lord of lords;
Unconquerable but always conquering.
He is the End just as He is the Beginning.

Praise and honour and glory belong to Him
He is the Master of the Sea
He rules from sea to sea. Praise Him.
No one compares to His Majesty and
beauty,
Sovereignty, integrity and excellency

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Dedicate Your Speech to God

Robert Schaetzle

'Commit your works to the lord, and your
thoughts will be established.' [*Proverbs 16:3*]

Over the years God's wisdom and authority
have taught me much how to lean on Him.
Before leaving my car as I began my work
day I would pray; 'Father let your light so
shine through me this day that others will
see your good work as I dedicate and
purpose this day for your honor.' Taken from
Mathew 6:33, I found my work not without
temptation, but through those moments,
His presence was there for me, to walk with

Colossians 4:6 KJV

**Let your speech be always
with grace, seasoned with
salt, that ye may know how
ye ought to answer every
man.**

me throughout the day. Were all days alike
or without moments of extra strength
needed from our lord...no, by all means.

Throughout my 40 plus years working as a
'Civil Servant' dealing and interacting with
all kinds and types of people personalities, I
realized many moments when after many a
given situation I would say; "Thank You
Lord for walking with me through this."
There are many who probably memorized.
Proverbs 3:5-7 also very good words of
admonition, encouragement, and truths
that give maturity to trusting more in His
leading rather than self. Verse 7 [be not
wise in your own eyes] especially of
proverbs 3 teach that resting in human
reasoning or thoughts can cause one to
stumble into temptation to answer before
he listens. [Proverbs 18:13]

When serving others, whether it be in
'customer relations' or in every day
communication needs, following the wisdom
of James 1:19: 'Know this, my beloved
brethren. Let every man be quick to hear,
slow to speak, slow to anger.' In these days
of volatility consider how we're to let 'His
Light' shine through us.

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Playing the Bad Guy

Noel Mitaxa

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5: 21

In old-time westerns, the good guys wore white hats and they had to win. Bad guys wore always black hats—to simplify our suspicions. The sixties shifted the ground when anti-heroes arrived. We learned to understand what made bad guys tick, but suspicion fell on lawmen, so colors of hats could no longer determine characters' character!



Many actors enjoy bad guy roles, which allow them to express attitudes or actions that real life would never allow. Anyway, it's only a play or a

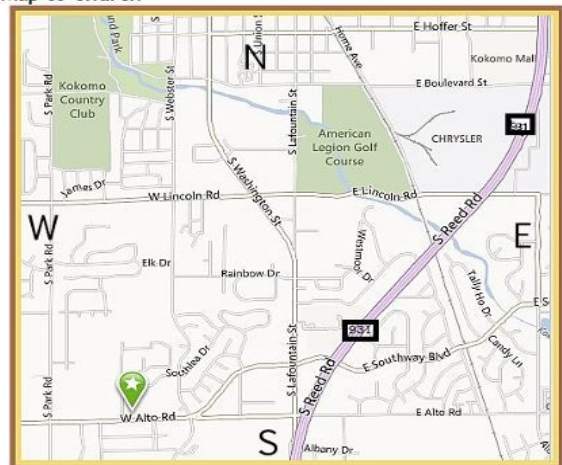
movie. The curtain will fall, or the credits will roll.

Religion defines good and evil, but it can sadly produce holy huddles that avoid the world. Yet the bible describes Jesus spending so much time with non-religious people: healing their hurts and their hearts; and inviting them into an open-hearted, eternal relationship with him. This was too much for the religious leaders. They killed him—unaware that he could turn his death to everyone's advantage. For Jesus did not just play the bad guy, he actually became the bad guy!

He has personally shouldered the full effects of our sins; to help us overcome our past and to embrace personal fulfillment as we find creative, authentic ways to help anyone around us—good guys or bad guys—to discover his grace for themselves.

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Map to Church



610 West Alto Road. Kokomo.

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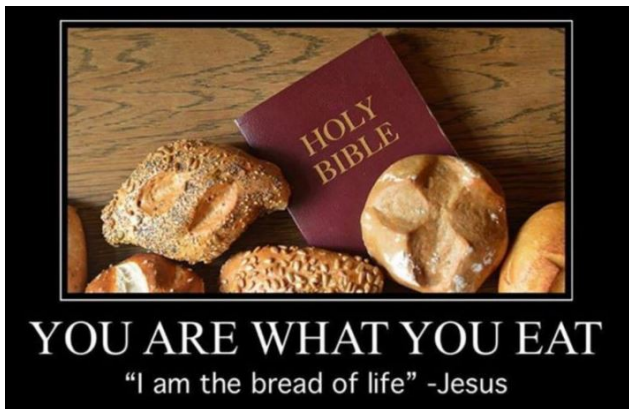
Landon Bagley – Pastor

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FAITH: An Action Based on Fact!

Robert Schaetzle

Daily listening to our Lord in prayer, brings greater dependency upon wanting the presence of His holiness. Recognize this as an action of faith. Remembering something I heard by a well-recognized pastor; 'It's not the amount of faith we have, but the size of our God who gives us faith.'
"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act." Psalm 37:4-5
Assigned faith through fellowship with God and others in Christ, becomes a delight, holding unto what God abundantly apportions to us.



These are facts of faith, given for each one of us to take hold of. Too often I feel we're not always mindful; everything we do, demonstrates our faith!
"And without faith it is impossible to please him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that he

exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Hebrews 11:6

Ask yourself; 'what is God teaching you and me through our challenges and circumstances?' Is it not the evidence of our God, as we work through our salvation who portions out faith so liberally? The security of our faith is the object of our faith. Faith can only be proven by our actions!
God's actions of faith to us are promised. "If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself." 2 Timothy 2:13 Faith based on fact!

When there are moments of anxious doubt, surrendering our heart to the Savior is faith in action, of God's presence. The assurance of things hoped for, evidence of factual faith.
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An Old Sweet Song

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Back in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Lawrence Welk Show was the Saturday night choice of the former children of the Great Depression, the ones truly who knew what it meant to be thankful. Whether it was sung by Joe Feeney or Jimmy Roberts, this generation who grew up with nothing, loved to hear the that old sweet song of Thanksgiving named "Be Thankful".



Always sung as a part of the Thanksgiving Show, and either staged and sung around a thanksgiving table, or performed before a full chorus, the lyrics carried a message that defined

God centered people who had seen good times and bad, and who were thankful for all that God had given them:

"Be Grateful, be grateful and know He will always be caring, Be Thankful, be thankful and know you'll be repaid with his love.."

A song that spoke to a generation that had a sense of gratitude and love for God that we will probably never see in those numbers again. (90% of Americans were Christian in 1955)

Every generation has good cause to be thankful to God, and hopefully some of the traits of the "Greatest Generation" will carry on with time and inspire some to realize that God has blessed them far beyond what they realize. True thankfulness to God brings that realization, and it will allow them to know that, like the song says, "He will always be caring." May the Word of God settle upon their hearts and bring them the joy of a personal and eternal relationship with Christ, and may they always be thankful. <>



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God is Speaking! Are You Listening?

Greg Mancini

God speaks, but are you listening? Like a gentle summer breeze comes His small still voice in your heart. Jeremy Camp said it well in a song, "How majestic is your whisper." His voice is symbolized in the bible as being like many rushing waters, God speaking is powerful as well as gentle.

God began the whole creation process with speech "Let there be light and there was light. His Word is so powerful and alive that when He speaks it, instantly reality is revealed. Hebrews 4:12" For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Imagine Jesus swooshing a sword every time He utters a Word, that driving Word directly into your heart being able to judge your every thought spiritual from physical. The intentions are of your heart cannot be hidden from His powerfully spoken Word.



His very spoken Word that created the stars, galaxies and neighboring planets of earth, is the very same Word that creates within a the human heart a new spirit and a new creation. God's word transforms a listening ear from glory to glory and makes a man of wisdom and learning all the wiser.

Heed the Word of God and you will be changed into a new creation from being born again to evolving into a powerful tool in the hands of the living God.

Paul the greatest of the apostles, the shining example in the New Testament was surrounded by the glorious word of Jesus Christ in the form of blinding light. Jesus the Son of God spoke these life changing words to him " Arise go into the city and you will be told what to do." This word encounter changed Paul's life direction and transformed him into the legendary apostle who changed the world for Jesus Christ through his powerful writing and preaching!

Many years ago, God spoke to my heart as a young teenager lost in the world of drugs and liquor saying "Where would you go if you died tonight? You are presently separated from My presence. Come to Me and I will turn your life around and deliver you from the snare of death, drugs and permanent separation from Me."

I heard God's voice and He changed my life forever and saved my soul from hell and death by his powerful word found "in John 3:16" For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." So you see God is speaking and if you are listening His Word will change you forever!

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Victory Baptist Church
SCHEDULE
Prayer Time 9:00 am
Sunday School 10:00 am
Worship Hour 11:00 am
(Early Worship is at 10:00 am)
Come out, bring your friends
and family and worship the
Lord with the people at Victory!

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“He that hath the son hath life...”

1 John 5:12

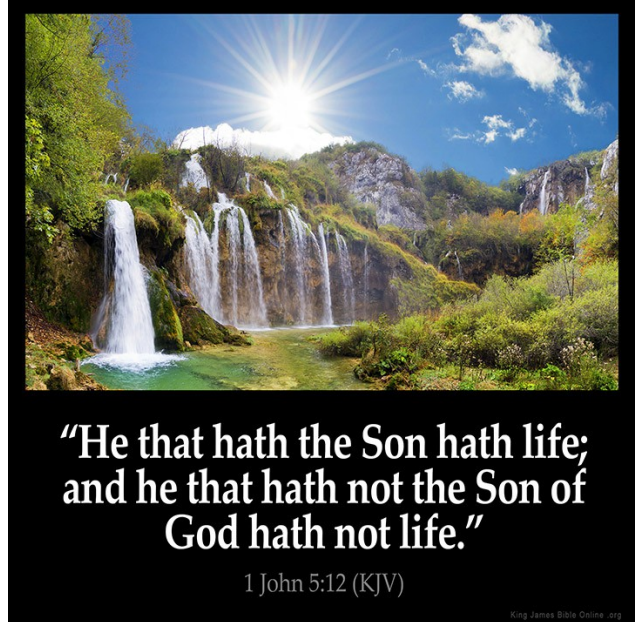
Antje Mill

The calendar had proclaimed spring-time, but it continued to evade us. My husband went out to straighten our bird house the wind had blown to the side. I followed. Suddenly the sun moved from behind a cloud and I felt warmth. I looked at the furniture on our patio. I had planned to give it a face lift by now. But the cold damp weather had taken away the urge to get it done. I picked up the wire brush and gave a few swipes across one of the chairs.

The sun disappeared as Richard walked toward me. The wind felt cold again. “Not a job for today,” he surmised, taking the brush from my hand. He opened the door for us to go back into the warmth of our home. I looked at him hopefully, “But today, just briefly, a ray from the sun gave me a rush of new life.”

It was then I felt God smile and say, “You’re right, the “son” makes all the difference. He brings light to darkness. He gives hope for despair. He changes life!” I smiled at the thought. Once again God had turned an ordinary moment to a God wink. How I love it when He lets me know He’s close by.

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Forever Blue

by Wesley Hesketh

**Thank You for having ears,
That You might hear.
Thank You for having eyes,
To see me as I draw near.**

**Thank You for Your forgiveness,
For all my sins
Thank You for molding me
Into the shape I’m in.**

**Without You my love would surely die,
You have shown the way.
Without You my heart would cry,
I hear just what You say.**

**So hold me close forever,
Open my eyes to You.
For without Your tender touch,
I would be forever blue.**

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Things We Have In Common - Honesty

"What draws people to be friends is that they see the same truth. They share it."
..CS Lewis

In today's society where pretty faces, prominent social standings and all way of influences are so greatly admired, honesty is the reset that invites us to take a second look at just how small we truly are. It matters little as to whether you are a hero or a zero during our short time here in this reality, because you exist only for the sole purpose of being loved by God. That is truth.

Honesty is also the truth that binds agreements. It is within the faith that two people have in each other as they share their pasts and futures together in marriage, or It is the foundation for the trust between two parties in contract with each another. It shows in the face of a true believer who will share with others what Christ did for us, regardless of what he is called by others for doing so. Such caring and honest attempt builds a strong character and a heart for Christ. Both yield the far better reflection of what people could become when God's Holy Spirit of Truth resides within them.

For those who have either avoided or have never dealt with the truth that the Holy Spirit "hounds" [Martin Luther - *The Hound of Heaven*] them with have led many to a lifelong unhappiness and will remain so until they yield to God's love for them. Like fallen runners, Father will pick them up if only they would choose to believe it, and your heart goes out to them but until they surrender their will to the One who loves truth and honesty, they will stay upon that winding trail of many disappointments.

Honesty is even respected by the skeptical observer when presented with God's Plan of Salvation, as the latest polling indicates that most have already prejudged you as being a typical judgmental and over bearing insensitive stuck in a faith that will not change with the times he relates to. If you are the kind of Christian that no one wants to meet, you confirm that, but if you are the kind of Christian who is forthright in your way and example, they may reject the message, but they will not forget the meeting.

There is hope through honesty and it is the better ground that we hold as we stick to our beliefs and defend the truth within.

" I am not bound to win, but I am bound to live up to what light I have" .. Abraham Lincoln"

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18

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