

REMINDER

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Thankful for Quiet Time

by Dr. Paul Chappell - Pastor, Lancaster Baptist Church of Lancaster, California

""Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:36-39).

Our Daily Strength Comes from Daily Time Alone with God.

A man took a trip overseas to the United Kingdom to visit many of the famous landmarks of England, Ireland, and Wales. While in England, he stopped in a phone booth to make a telephone call one evening. Upon entering the booth, he realized there was insufficient light to read the phone book. Looking around, he saw a light above him but found no way to turn the light on. As he struggled to read the phonebook, a passerby stopped and said, "If you want the light to come on, you must close the door." The man closed the door, and sure enough, the light came on.

Much like the Christian's quiet time with God, this man found that when the door was closed and he was all alone, the light would come on. While God will meet with us anywhere and is with us always, it is often during those quiet alone times that we are drawn closest to Him.

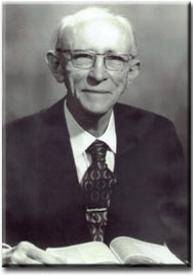
Our verses in Matthew 26 show us that even Christ needed quiet time with His Father. As He lived out His last few minutes on earth and as He prepared to endure the Cross, He took time to step away from everyone and seek God's face.

If Christ took time to seek His Father, even more so must we. God offers us the ability to meet with Him—just Him and us. Through this time comes strength, direction, and spiritual growth. Early Christian and politician William Wilberforce once made this comment after a failed meeting in Parliament, "I must secure more time for private devotions. I have been living far too public for me. The shortening of private devotions starves the soul. It grows lean and faint." He realized that his wisdom and guidance came from his personal time with the Lord.

Whether you're a government official or a parent, you need quiet time with God. There needs to be a part of your day when you come away from the distractions of the world, leave behind the thoughts of the future, and set aside the daily to-do list. There must be a focus on God and God alone.

God is everywhere, and we are thankful for that. And God desires that we would seek Him whenever and wherever we are. Yet God also wants us to take time to meet with Him personally. Through Bible reading, prayer, praises, godly music, or simply talking with Him; God desires that we would spend quiet time with Him each day.

Have you ever just wanted to find a quiet place and allow the "light" to be turned on? This world can get hectic if you don't take time apart from it to refocus your life on God and His will for you. Think about your day today. When can you take time apart from everything to be with God? Perhaps you could give up lunch to drive somewhere and be alone with God. Maybe you could forgo watching television to be with Him. Or perhaps you could get up earlier tomorrow to be with God. Plan a time today when you will step into the "phone booth" of solidarity and allow God to turn the "light" on in your life. ■



Vance Havner

Jesus Only

I would like to begin with a personal testimony. My own spiritual experience has gone through three stages. I was converted at the age of ten. The next year I became a preacher and for some years thereafter preached a simple Gospel message.

Later I moved into a more liberal position. It was during these halcyon days just after the first World War. Dreams of world peace and human brotherhood were challenging youthful enthusiasm. Certain modernist preachers were becoming popular and their new approach seemed to set forth the old wine in new bottles. It was evident to me later that the old wine was thrown out with the old bottles but I had not discovered that as yet. I felt that the time had come to strike out on new trails for higher altitudes and so I began to preach about the "new position" and "outmoded categories."

But the trail of the modern mind, left to itself, runs out in the wilderness, and blessed is the man who wakes up in time to how he is being deceived by these peddlers of new light. From this muddle the Lord delivered me. My first reaction was to plunge into a very stern fundamentalism. I fear that I was rather like the Scotsman who said he was open to conviction but would like to see the man who could convict him! There was a tendency to call down fire on the Samaritans and an inclination to forget what manner of spirit I was of.

For years now I have moved around among many grades and shades and varieties of conservative Christians, preaching in churches and conferences. Such a ministry ranges from staid old churches to popular Gospel tabernacles. In some places I have almost frozen, spiritually, and in others I have almost fried. I have listened to many voices, some well-known and many unknown, analyzing the situation and prescribing the remedy. I have tried to move among all groups belonging to as few as possible in order that I might be the servant of all. It has been and still is a rich and rewarding experience, for in this day of apostasy there are many precious souls all over the land who fear the Lord and speak often one to another. They have many faults and failings but I had rather take Bible Christians at their worst than this world at its best. I bless God for the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

Out of all this I have come to a fixed conclusion: the issue is simply Jesus Christ. Spurgeon said: "In the days of Paul the sum and substance of theology was Jesus Christ. I am not ashamed to vow myself a Calvinist. I do not hesitate to take the name of Baptist. But if you ask what is my creed, I must answer it is Jesus

Christ." One thinks of A.B. Simpson's early years of seeking this experience and that, culminating in the conclusion so well stated in his poem, beginning,

*"Once it was the blessing,
Now it is the Lord."*

How we like to make a Santa Claus of the Lord, seeking only His gifts! Happy are we when we seek the Giver rather than the gift and can both sing and pray:

*"Now Thee alone I seek,
Give what is best."*

My message therefore is simply Jesus Christ. He is enough. Of course we are familiar with the fact that Christ is the Christian's life and message, but we need to familiarize ourselves with the familiar. We assume what we ought to assert. He is the hub, but too many of us are out on our favorite spokes like owls on different limbs. When we stand at the hub all the spokes are ours. And the closer we are to the hub the closer we are to all the spokes!

Of course, I do not mean the Christ of Partyism. Some say, "I belong to Christ," just in order to dodge issues. There was a Christ-party in Corinth along with the Paul-party, the Cephas-party and the Apollos-party. And they were as bad as the others and maybe a little worse! Christ does not exclude Paul and Cephas and Apollos, He includes them. All the Gospel preachers are ours because we are Christ's. The only thing that is not ours is us, we are not our own, we are bought with a price.

Certainly I do not mean the Christ of modernism. That is a false Christ. My Christ is the virgin-born Son of God who lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary, atoning death, rose bodily from the grave and is coming again to reign.

Some years ago, while preaching in a small Southern town, I was walking around one afternoon meditating on the evening message. I became impressed that I needed to preach "Jesus Only" more than I had been doing. I remember that I asked the Lord to confirm that impression by giving me one soul that night. Evening came and I preached. I gave the invitation but no one responded. As I pronounced the benediction, I thought, "Lord, where is the soul I asked for?" Before the "amen" was reached a downpour of rain set in, so that the people could not get home. A man came to me and asked that we might pray together. We went to a small room and there he received Christ as his Saviour. I have thought of that incident many times since and have tried to be true to the impression it confirmed.

There is only one safe and sure center of Christian experience, doctrine and testimony and that is Jesus Christ. Stand at any other point, no matter how good, and you will become lopsided. Stand with Him and you keep your balance, for by Him all things consist. ■

Vance Havner (1901-1986) started preaching at 14, and didn't stop 'til he went to glory! That alone is a great legacy. He was the most homespun of country preachers, possessing a southern charm that always belied his great intellect and persuasive power. A preacher once said that: "Old Vance was half Charles Spurgeon and half Billy Sunday with the voice of Will Rogers."

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

by Evangelist David W. Cloud

□ **LEE STROBEL'S DANGEROUS ASSOCIATIONS** - Lee Strobel, the influential author of several widely-used apologetics books including **The Case for Christ**, is an "evangelical" whose associations with rank heretics sounds loud warnings. In January 2010 he is scheduled to speak at the Break Forth conference in Canada with William Paul Young, author of **The Shack**, and Leonard Sweet, a New Age contemplative.

Lighthouse Trails observes, "[*Though many have admired Strobel's work in the past*], it is really no surprise that he is attending Break Forth. With his sponsorship of his son's very contemplative/emerging ministry *Metamorphia*, multiple appearances at Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral over the years, and his ongoing connections with Saddleback and Willow Creek, discernment is not something that Strobel appears to give much attention to" ("Why Are Joel Rosenberg and Frank Peretti Appearing with New Age/New Spirituality Sympathizers," Lighthouse Trails, Nov. 9, 2009).

Strobel's fellow speaker Paul Young depicts God as a woman and claims that He/She does not judge sin or send anyone to hell. Leonard Sweet promotes a New Age universalist spirituality that he calls New Light and "the Christ consciousness." He describes it in terms of "the union of the human with the divine" which is the "center feature of all the world's religions" (Quantum Spirituality, p. 235). He says it was experienced by Mohammed, Moses, and Krishna. He promotes Matthew Fox, M. Scott Peck, and Ken Wilber, New Agers who believe in the divinity of man. Sweet says humanity needs to learn the truth of the words of the Buddhist-Catholic priest Thomas Merton, "We are already one" (Quantum Spirituality, p. 13). The Bible warns that it is impossible to join hands with such men in ministry without becoming partaker of their evil deeds (II John 8-11).

□ **THE NEW IRON CURTAIN** - The following is excerpted from "The Iron Curtain" by Paul Proctor, Nov. 10, 2009, Newswithviews.com, watchman@usa.com - "On this 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, with America deteriorating like an old and obsolete relic of our patriotic past, I'm left to wonder if the event let freedom in or tyranny out. You see, as I write, the wall is being rebuilt--not with concrete, mortar or razor wire--but instead, with satellites, cameras, computers, databases and an array of impressive and oppressive technologies that can monitor, record and analyze the movements, expressions, words and even thoughts of an unsuspecting populace now evermore willing to exchange God-given liberties and freedoms for governmental guarantees of health, safety, security and prosperity.

These are the new guard towers that cast long shadows from above that to many are far more intimidating than they are comforting. ... I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but the wall is indeed returning--and this time it extends around the world. When the powers that be are finished with it, there will be nowhere to

run and hide. It won't protect us from the evil without, but will only chain us electronically and spiritually to the wickedness within. It doesn't matter how many guns are purchased or how much ammo one has stored away.

Ultimately, this is a spiritual battle with eternal consequences and God Himself is the only One who can deliver us from what lies ahead. The sooner we fall to our knees, confess our sins, repent and cry out for a salvation that comes only by Jesus Christ, the sooner we will have 'the peace of God which passeth all understanding' and the wherewithal to carry on into the future, uncertain as it may be. 'For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved' (Romans 10:13). That's real freedom, liberty and security--the kind the Apostle Paul sang about joyously while bound and imprisoned for his faith as told in the 16th chapter of Acts. Without it, there is no hope---not in this life or in the life to come."

□ **IRANIAN PRESIDENT SAYS OBAMA MUST CHOOSE ISRAEL OR IRAN** - The following is excerpted from The Jerusalem Post, Nov. 11, 2009:

"Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called on the US to choose between Israel and Iran on Tuesday night, according to Iranian state media. Ahmadinejad said that for a real change in relations to take place, a choice must be made. Speaking in Istanbul at the 25th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Iranian president said that it was up to US President Barack Obama to illustrate his motto of 'Change.' 'The support of both Israel and Iran can't go hand in hand,' he was quoted as saying by IRNA. 'No change is made unless great choices are made.' Addressing the same conference a day earlier, Ahmadinejad said that capitalist excesses caused the global economic meltdown and are un-Islamic. ... Ahmadinejad did not mention Iran's struggling economy."

□ **WORSHIP SERVICES FOR PETS** - Some churches in the U.S. are holding worship services for animals, believing that they have souls. Covenant Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles recently started a Canines service, which features a 30-minute service with doggie beds, dog treats, hymns about dogs, and prayers for dogs (both living and dead). Pastor Tom Eggebeen hopes it will "reinvigorate the church's connection with the community, provide solace to elderly members, and possibly attract new worshippers who are crazy about their four-legged friends" ("Gone to the Dogs," AP, Nov. 8, 2009). Eggebeen says that "when we love a dog and a dog loves us, that's a part of God." Laura Hobgood-Oster, religion professor at Southwestern University, found 500 churches that have blessings for animals and about six that hold pet worship services. One in a Boston suburb is called Woof 'n Worship. One of the attendees at Eggebeen's Canines service said, "I don't have any kids, so my pets have always been my children." In fact, though animals can be a blessing, because God made them for man, they are not children and they don't have eternal souls. They have no consciousness of God, and when they die, they die.

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford
 Cradle Roll 2: Brian Crawford
 Justin Geroux
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper
 Cradle Roll 2: Kelsey Moreno
 Andrea Hooper
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
 Cradle Roll 2: Seth White
 Shirley White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of November 22, 2009

Sunday School ----- 21
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 38
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 31

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of November 2, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings -----  \$ 1,306.00
 New Hymnals Fund ----- \$ 10.00
Total Received for Week of 11/22/09: \$ 1,316.00

**Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed
 to operate the church
 EACH WEEK,
 as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00** 

FUND DRIVE REPORTS

***We Are Suspending Our Specific Fund
 Drives Until Our Regular Weekly
 Offerings Come Back Up To Where They
 Need To Be. Please Give As Much As You
 Can To Help Us Catch Up After The
 Extremely Low Giving We Experienced
 This Summer And Fall.***

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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. ***Admit that you are a sinner.***
2. ***Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.***
3. ***Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.***
4. ***You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).***
5. ***By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.***



***Please Remember To
 Be Faithful to Give!***

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today** - OK? Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English, Geroux family ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White