

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of November 6, 2022 -

Sunday Morning Service	38
Sunday Evening Service	26
Wednesday Eve., 11/09/22 Service	8

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of November 6, 2022 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,230.31
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/06/22:	\$ 2,230.31

- Week of October 30, 2022 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,423.81
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/30/22:	\$ 1,423.81

- Week of October 23, 2022 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,228.10
Lighting for church street sign	\$ 55.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/23/22:	\$ 1,283.10

- Week of October 16, 2022 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 910.00
Love Offering, Bro. Meier	\$ 504.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/16/22:	\$ 1,414.00

- Week of October 9, 2022 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,099.11
Lighting for church street sign	\$ 50.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/09/22:	\$ 1,149.11

Average amount of **Undesignated Offerings** needed for church operating expenses **EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00**



LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.COM

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.



THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!

During the early part this pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Sadly, some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing **THEMSELVES** of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, most of our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

1. **By mail** - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. **Drop it off** - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. **Online** - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

**WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE!
YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR RENEWED OUTREACH EFFORTS!**

Church Directory

Todd W. White	Pastor
Lois Mae Floyd	Pianist/ Organist
Mickie Shatwell	Evening Pianist
Derek Quinnelly	Greeter
Larry & Mary Byars	Outreach
Bertha Segebart	Custodian
GinaMarie Shufelt	Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XXVIII

November 13, 2022

Number 45



DEPRESSION AND THE CHILD OF GOD

by Evangelist David W. Cloud

The following are some biblical truths that we must understand about depression and emotional melancholy. The quotes from Charles Spurgeon are from **Lectures to My Students** unless otherwise noted. We quote him because he described his depression so plainly and gave some excellent instruction about it.

Depression Is Part of this Fallen Life and its Reason Will Not Always Be Known (Psalm 119:28; Romans 8:22-23; 9:2; Philippians 2:26; I Peter 1:6).

- "I note that some whom I greatly love and esteem, who are, in my judgment, among the very choicest of God's people, nevertheless, travel most of the way to heaven by night" (Spurgeon)
- "I am the subject of depression so fearful that I hope none of you ever get to such extremes of wretchedness as I go to" (Spurgeon).
- "Hours after, I have been myself depressed, and I have felt an inability to shake it off" (Spurgeon).
- "I could weep by the hour like a child, and yet I knew not what I wept for" (Spurgeon)
- "... I need something which shall cheer my heart, why I cannot tell, wherefore I do not know, but I have a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me; my soul is cast down within me; I feel as if I had rather die than live; all that God hath done by me seems to be forgotten, and my spirit flags and my courage breaks down. I need your prayers" (Spurgeon).
- "We have our times of natural sadness; we have, too, our times of depression, when we cannot do otherwise than hang our heads. Seasons of lethargy will also befall us from changes in our natural frame, or from weariness, or the rebound of over excitement. The trees are not always green, the sap sleeps in them in the winter; and we have winters too. Life cannot always be at flood tide: the fulness of the blessing is not upon the most gracious at all times" (Spurgeon).
- "Causeless depression is not to be reasoned with, nor can David's harp charm it away by sweet discourings. As well fight with the mist as with this shapeless, undefinable, yet all-beclouding hopelessness. One affords himself no pity when in this case, because it seems so unreasonable, and even sinful to be troubled without manifest cause; and yet troubled the man is, even in the very depths of his spirit. If those who laugh at such melancholy did but feel the grief of it for one hour, their laughter would be sobered into compassion. Resolution might, perhaps, shake it off, but where are we to find the resolution when the whole man is unstrung? The physician and the divine may unite their skill in such cases, and both find their hands full, and more than full. The iron bolt which so mysteriously fastens the door of hope and holds our spirits in gloomy prison, needs a heavenly hand to push it back" (Spurgeon).
- "I know that wise brethren say, 'You should not give way to feelings of depression.' ... If those who blame quite so furiously could once know what depression is, they would think it cruel to scatter blame where comfort is needed. There are experiences of the children of God which are full of spiritual darkness; and I am almost persuaded that those of God's servants who have been most highly favoured have, nevertheless, suffered more times of darkness than others. The covenant is never known to Abraham so well as when a horror of great darkness comes over him, and then he sees the shining lamp moving between the pieces of the sacrifice. A greater than Abraham was early led of the Spirit into the wilderness, and yet again ere He closed His life He was sorrowful and very heavy in the garden. No sin is necessarily connected with sorrow of heart, for Jesus Christ our Lord once said, 'My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.' There was no sin in Him, and consequently none in His deep depression. I would, therefore, try to cheer any brother who is sad, for his sadness is not necessarily blameworthy. If his downcast spirit arises from unbelief, let him flog himself, and cry to God to be delivered from it; but if the soul is sighing--'though he slay me, yet will I trust in him'--(continued inside)

being slain is not a fault. The way of sorrow is not the way of sin, but a hallowed road sanctified by the prayers of myriads of pilgrims now with God—pilgrims who, passing through the valley of Baca [lit: of weeping], made it a well, the rain also filled the pools: of such it is written: “They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God” (Spurgeon Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, 1881, vol. 27).

Some People Are More Prone to Depression and Gloominess than Others.

- ❑ “As to mental maladies, is any man altogether sane? Are we not all a little off the balance? Some minds appear to have a gloomy tinge essential to their very individuality; of them it may be said, ‘Melancholy marked them for her own;’ fine minds withal, and ruled by noblest principles, but yet most prone to forget the silver lining, and to remember only the cloud” (Spurgeon, “The Minister’s Fainting Fits,” Lectures to My Students).

We must Trust the Sovereignty and Goodness of God (Romans 8:28).

- ❑ “It would be a very sharp and trying experience to me to think that I have an affliction which God never sent me, that the bitter cup was never filled by his hand, that my trials were never measured out by him, nor sent to me by his arrangement of their weight and quantity” (Spurgeon).
- ❑ “If you drink of the river of affliction near its outfall, it is brackish and offensive to the taste, but if you will trace it to its source, where it rises at the foot of the throne of God, you will find its waters to be sweet and health-giving” (Spurgeon).
- ❑ “As long as I trace my pain to accident, my bereavement to mistake, my loss to another’s wrong, my discomfort to an enemy, and so on, I am of the earth, earthy, and shall break my teeth with gravel stones; but when I rise to my God and see his hand at work, I grow calm, I have not a word of repining” (Spurgeon).

There Can Be Divine Purposes for Depression.

To prepare us to help others (II Corinthians 1:4)

- ❑ “One Sabbath morning, I preached from the text, ‘My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken Me?’ and though I did not say so, yet I preached my own experience. I heard my own chains clank while I tried to preach to my fellow-prisoners in the dark; but I could not tell why I was brought into such an awful horror of darkness, for which I condemned myself. On the following Monday evening, a man came to see me who bore all the marks of despair upon his countenance. His hair seemed to stand up right, and his eyes were ready to start from their sockets. He said to me, after a little parleying, ‘I never before, in my life, heard any man speak who seemed to know my heart. Mine is a terrible case; but on Sunday morning you painted me to the life, and preached as if you had been inside my soul.’ By God’s grace I saved that man from suicide, and led him into gospel light and

liberty; but I know I could not have done it if I had not myself been confined in the dungeon in which he lay. I tell you the story, brethren, because you sometimes may not understand your own experience, and the perfect people may condemn you for having it; but what know they of God’s servants? You and I have to suffer much for the sake of the people of our charge ... You may be in Egyptian darkness, and you may wonder why such a horror chills your marrow; but you may be altogether in the pursuit of your calling, and be led of the Spirit to a position of sympathy with desponding minds” (Spurgeon, An All Round Ministry, pp. 221-222).

- ❑ “I often feel very grateful to God that I have undergone fearful depression of spirits. I know the borders of despair, and the horrible brink of that gulf of darkness into which my feet have almost gone; but hundreds of times I have been able to give a helpful grip to brethren and sisters who have come into that same condition, which grip I could never have given if I had not known their deep despondency. So I believe that the darkest and most dreadful experience of a child of God will help him to be a fisher of men if he will but follow Christ” (Spurgeon, The Soul Winner, chapter 14).

To Humble us (II Corinthians 12:7-10)

- ❑ “Those who are honoured of their Lord in public have usually to endure a secret chastening, or to carry a peculiar cross, lest by any means they exalt themselves, and fall into the snare of the devil” (Spurgeon)

For Spiritual Growth (Romans 5:3-5)

- ❑ “I am afraid that all the grace that I have got of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours, might almost lie on a penny. But the good that I have received from my sorrows, and pains, and griefs, is altogether incalculable ... Affliction is the best bit of furniture in my house. It is the best book in a minister’s library” (Spurgeon).

The Ministry Brings Special Cares and Sorrows (II Cor. 7:5; 11:28).

- ❑ “Passionate longings after men’s conversion, if not fully satisfied (and when are they?), consume the soul with anxiety and disappointment. To see the hopeful turn aside, the godly grow cold, professors abusing their privileges, and sinners waxing more bold in sin—are not these sights enough to crush us to the earth? The kingdom comes not as we would, the reverend name is not hallowed as we desire, and for this we must weep. How can we be otherwise than sorrowful, while men believe not our report, and the divine arm is not revealed? All mental work tends to weary and to depress, for much study is a weariness of the flesh; but ours is more than mental work—it is heart work, the labour of our inmost soul. How often, on Lord’s-day evenings, do we feel as if life were completely washed out of us! After pouring out our souls over our congregations, we feel like

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above

I have a strong, a perfect plea:

A great High Priest, whose name is Love,

Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands,

My name is written on His heart;

I know that while in heaven He stands

No tongue can bid me thence depart

No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,

And tells me of the guilt within,

Upward I look, and see Him there

Who made an end of all my sin.

Because a sinless Saviour died,

My sinful soul is counted free;

For God, the Just, is satisfied

To look on Him and pardon me

To look on Him and pardon me.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the One,

Risen Son of God!

Behold him there, the risen Lamb

My perfect, spotless Righteousness,

The great unchangeable I am,

The King of glory and of grace!

One in Himself, I cannot die

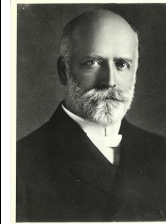
My soul is purchased by His blood

My life is hid with Christ on high,

With Christ, my Saviour and my God

With Christ, my Saviour and my God!

- Charitie L. Bancroft, 1863



SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE USE OF TRACTS

by Dr. R. A. Torrey

1. Always read the tracts yourself before giving them to others. This is very necessary. Bad tracts abound to-day, tracts that contain absolutely pernicious doctrine.

They are being circulated free by the million, and one needs to be on his guard, lest he be doing harm rather than good in distributing tracts. Of course we cannot read all the tracts in foreign languages, but we can have them interpreted to us, and it is wise to do so. Besides positively bad tracts, there are many tracts that are worthless.

2. Suit your tract to the person to whom you give it. What is good for one person may not be good for another.

3. Carry a selection of tracts with you. I do not say a collection, but a selection. Tracts are countless in number, and a large share of them are worthless. Select the best, and arrange them for the different classes of people with whom you come in contact.

4. Seek the guidance of God. This is of the very highest importance. If there is any place where we need wisdom from above, it is in the selection of tracts, and in their distribution after their selection.

5. Seek God's blessing upon the tract after you have given it out. Do not merely give out the tract and there let the matter rest, but whenever you give out a tract ask God to bless it.

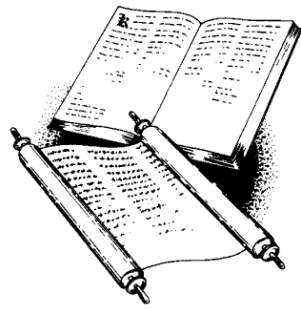
6. Oftentimes give a man a tract with words and sentences underscored. Men are curious, and they will take particular notice of the underscoring. It is oftentimes a good thing to have a tract put up in your office. Men who come in will read it. I know a man who had a few words put upon his paper weight. A great many who came into his office saw it, and it made a deep impression upon them.

7. Never be ashamed of distributing tracts. Many people hand out tracts to others as if they were ashamed of what they were doing. People are not likely to read tracts if you hand them to them as if you were ashamed to do it; but if you act as though you were conferring a favor upon them, and giving them something worth reading, they will read your tract. It is often well to say to a person, **"Here is a little leaflet out of which I have gotten a good deal of good. I would like to have you read it."** ■

R. A. Torrey (1856-1928) was an evangelist, teacher, & author. He was educated in Yale University and Divinity School. After a period of skepticism, he trusted in Jesus Christ as Saviour. In 1889 Dwight L. Moody called him to Chicago to become the superintendant of the school which became known as the Moody Bible Institute. He also served as pastor of the Moody Memorial Church for 12 years. Between 1902-1906 Torrey and Charles Alexander conducted a very fruitful evangelistic outreach. From 1912-1924 Torrey was dean of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles during which time he pastored the Church of the Open Door.

WHICH BIBLE IS PRESERVED OF GOD?

by the late Dr. David Otis Fuller (excerpted)



You and I are facing, as I have said before, the most vicious and malicious attack upon the Word of God that has ever been made since the Garden of Eden, and the modern attack began with the publication of the

Revised Version of 1881. This is an unpopular cause at present in Christian circles. I have found this out again and again, and I am going to find it out in the future. But I can say that, as far as I am concerned, it doesn't make any difference what happens to me, but it makes a whale of a difference what happens to the cause of Jesus Christ. And someday you and I, my friend, will have to stand before a holy God and give an account to what we did or did not do in seeking to open the eyes of people to the facts that have been covered up for so long concerning His holy, indestructible, impregnable Word.

The hour is late; the time is short; hell is filling; Christ is coming; and what do we had better do in a hurry. I have told my people, and I am telling you, if you are willing to sweep the television cobwebs out of your brain and put that boob tube down in the basement two, three, or four weeks, or even longer, as far as I am concerned, and sit down and study this issue carefully, you will learn firsthand just what the score is. And it will increase your faith immeasurably, even as it has done mine. I am hoping that those who are listening will get the vision of this whole situation, because if we do not have an infallible, inerrant, inspired Book to rest our weary souls upon for time and eternity, then your salvation and mine isn't worth the paper it's printed on.

This is the most important question anybody could ever discuss in Christian circles, far more than your salvation and mine. The reason for that is that the battleground is the Bible. Is it true, or is it not true? Is it without error, or is it filled with error? I maintain that the whole reason why there are nearly one hundred versions in print is because of one main reason: **MONEY**. And you can spell that with capitals, and you can underscore it, and put it in red, if you want to. May God help us! May God help you listening now to take your stand for what you know is right, and not budge or move for one single minute. You may be laughed at, scorned and scoffed at, and treated with contempt, but so what - if God be for us who can be against us? Those in the past who have done a tremendous work for God have had these same things to face. We need men, we need women, we need young people today with backbone made out of pig iron instead of wet spaghetti.

I want you to keep clearly in mind this, which is a basic essential to understanding something about this complex question, namely, the King James Version is founded squarely on

the Textus Receptus, which is in 90-95% agreement with the five thousand extant Greek manuscripts. But the Westcott and Hort text is in **disagreement** with them just about as much, and is founded upon two of the **worst** of texts, Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus. Thus if you reject or look down upon the KJV, and settle for a mutilated Bible, you go ahead, but count me out. I do not say that you cannot profit from reading other versions. You can. But if they are based on the Westcott and Hort text, they are immediately suspect and you should be mighty careful that you check that version with the KJV as closely as possible.

Now - practically all versions of the Scriptures today, with exception to the King James, are based upon the Westcott and Hort Greek text. So there you are; take your choice. When you see that the King James Version is nearest to the original manuscripts, in spite of what hundreds and thousands of others say, it's going to be an uphill battle and it's going to be a rough. But, then, who are we "to be taken to the skies on flowery beds of ease, while others fought to win the prize and sailed through bloody seas?"

There is so much at stake just now - the authority, the accuracy, the inerrancy of the holy Word of a holy God. And if ever the Lord needed those of His followers to take a stand for His Word and refuse to budge, it is now.

Over one hundred years ago, in 1863, a convocation of the bishops and archbishops of the Church of England was held. They were meeting to protest and censor the heresy of one of their number, Bishop Colenzo, concerning the Word of God. They issued the following statement: "**All our hopes for eternity, the very foundation of our faith, our nearest and dearest consolation, are taken away from us if one line of that sacred book, the Bible, be declared unfaithful or untrustworthy.**"

And this man wants the world to know that he stands squarely with these great scholars of the last century on this all-important subject, the infallibility and inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures. It is true that God can use almost anything or anyone to bring souls to Himself. He used Balaam to utter some of the greatest prophecies, and God also used a dumb animal to rebuke the madness of the prophet (II Pet. 2:16). And, yes, God uses perversions of His Word in the salvation of souls, but this fact does not for one moment warrant us in keeping quiet when the Holy Bible is being treated in such a slipshod, untrustworthy manner.

These are desperate days. They are filling with fear and foreboding. The end is in sight. Multitudes of Christians are confused, with nearly a hundred versions, or paraphrases, of God's Holy Word in print. We dare not, if we truly love Him, play with the living Word of the living God. I urge my listener to keep before him the KJV as the one safe, sure standard to go by in measuring other versions. ■

empty earthen pitchers which a child might break" (Spurgeon).

Depression Can Be Associated with Spiritual Warfare (Ephesians 6:10-12).

Depression Can Precede Times of Victory. Many times the devil will fight hardest and send dark times prior to great spiritual breakthroughs and victory.

- ❑ "This depression comes over me whenever the Lord is preparing a larger blessing for my ministry; the cloud is black before it breaks, and overshadows before it yields its deluge of mercy. Depression has now become to me as a prophet in rough clothing, a John the Baptist, heralding the nearer coming of my Lord's richer benison" (Spurgeon).

Depression Can Also Follow Times of Victory, as with Elijah who was so downcast after his great victory at Mt. Carmel that he wanted to die (I Kings 19:2-4).

WE MUST LOOK TO OUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH (II Peter 1).

- ❑ If you are not growing, you are going backwards, and backsliding can cause depression
- ❑ Don't neglect the daily quiet time with God in serious Bible study and prayer, walking in communion with Christ, yielding to the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18), putting off the old man and putting on the new (Eph. 4:22-24).

Sin Can Cause Depression. Though not all depression is caused by sin (e.g., Christ in Psalm 69:20), much of it is. We all have a fallen nature, and a deceitful, wicked heart, and we all live under the curse of death because of sin, so there is no such thing as perfect health as God originally intended it. Paul spoke of "the body of this death" (Rom. 7:24), and life in that body is the reality even for born again Christians.

- ❑ Sin grieves the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) and brings divine chastening (Hebrews 12:6). Sin can even lead to premature death if not repented of (I John 5:16-17).
- ❑ A great many cases today that are diagnosed as clinical depression are doubtless the products of sin and false doctrine, though such things are rarely acknowledged.
- ❑ In modern psychology, sin is typically dismissed as a result of depression, rather than the cause of depression. One drinks, abuses drugs, and commits adultery because he is depressed. Depression is treated as a disease, never an effect of one's sinful lifestyle. The depressed is a hapless victim of circumstances.

Examples of Sin-Caused Depression

- ❑ Tina Campbell of the black gospel duo Mary Mary contemplated murder and suicide in 2013 after her husband committed adultery. She said, "I'm sad; I'm broken, I'm insecure.... I considered taking my life. I considered taking me, my children. I was just like, 'I don't want to leave a legacy of suicide to them, so maybe I should just take all of them.' ... I was like, 'Maybe I should take out these people who did me wrong and then take us out, and leave my

husband here to figure it out, so that he can realize, 'look what you did'" ("Mary Mary's Tina Campbell," TheGrio.com, Mar. 3, 2016). The violence was not limited to her thoughts. She used a hammer and scissors to destroy her husband's car. In public testimony, Tina never acknowledges her worldly "after your own lusts," II Timothy 3:3-4 lifestyle and her false charismatic theology as a possible factor in her depression. She was a victim.

- ❑ CCM artist Sheila Walsh, then co-host of Pat Robertson's 700 Club, was hospitalized in 1992 and underwent psychiatric therapy, including drug treatment, because she was "wrestling with a disease of the mind." She says that it is wrong to assume that "your behavior or a perverse lack of faith brought it on" ("Sheila Walsh Escapes the Darkness of Depression," The 700 Club, n.d). She says that we should always say to those suffering from depression, "It's not your fault" ("Sheila Walsh Thanks God Every Day for Her Mental Health Treatment," Assist News Service, Oct. 21, 2015). She was diagnosed with severe clinical depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, as if she had been in fierce military combat, and more than 20 years later, Walsh continues on medication. Again, in her public testimonies there was no acknowledgement of the possibility that her non-judgmental ecumenical philosophy and worldly lifestyle, including her disobedient marriage to an immoral, divorced man, had anything to do with her mental condition.

We don't know what really caused these women's mental problems and depression, but I do know that it is wrong to leave out the possibility that sin and false teaching had anything to do with it.

Depression Is Often the Result of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. This was true in my case (David Cloud).

Depression Can Also Be Caused by the Sin of Other People Who Effect me (Proverbs 10:1).

WE MUST LOOK TO OUR PHYSICAL HEALTH.

- ❑ Bad health can cause depression. "Has it not often happened that dyspepsia has been mistaken for backsliding, and bad digestion has been set down as a hard heart?" (Spurgeon).

Spurgeon suffered terribly from gout, sometimes bedridden for weeks at a time, racked in pain. He said, "I have been brought very low. My flesh has been tortured with pain and my spirit has been prostrate with depression. ... With some difficulty I write these lines in my bed, mingling them with the groans of pain and the songs of hope."

- ❑ Lack of sleep can cause depression. When I am tired, I am much more subject to depression. I have learned not to make decisions late at night. I know that things will look much darker then.
- ❑ Lack of rest can cause depression. Some people need more rest and "down time" than others. We need to understand

ourselves and be wise with our lives, but we must be careful not to pamper ourselves.

- ❑ “It is wisdom to take occasional furlough. In the long run, we shall do more by sometimes doing less. On, on, on for ever, without recreation may suit spirits emancipated from this ‘heavy clay’, but while we are in this tabernacle, we must every now and then cry halt, and serve the Lord by holy inaction and consecrated leisure. Let no tender conscience doubt the lawfulness of going out of harness for a while” (Spurgeon).
- ❑ Lack of physical exercise can cause depression. It is important to get regular physical exercise to keep the body healthy.

David Brainerd, famous missionary to the American Indians, tended toward great emotional extremes, sometimes feeling spiritual passion and love for God, but often being afflicted with dark depression. At least 22 times in his diary he expressed a wish for death. At the beginning of his Journal he wrote, “I was, I think, from my youth ... inclined rather to melancholy than the other extreme.” Doubtless Brainerd’s tuberculosis, which took his life at age 29, contributed to his depression.

I recall a preacher friend who had kidney failure, and it brought him into a deep spiritual depression. He told me that whereas the Bible had been his delight, it now mocked him. When he had a successful kidney transplant, this condition was healed.

We think of Eric Liddell, the famous Scottish Olympic runner who became a missionary to China and died in a Japanese prison camp. He was known to be an exceedingly cheerful person, but in his final sickness he was thrown into depression.

“In the evening especially, shortly before lights out in his room, the melancholy threatened to drown him. This wasn’t unusual among the men in his dorm as the war dragged on. What became noticeable, however, was that Liddell couldn’t shake himself out of it the next morning. His depression wouldn’t go away. ... The doctors mentioned the possibility of a ‘nervous breakdown’” (Duncan Hamilton, *For the Glory*).

It turned out that Liddell had a brain tumor. He soon had two strokes and died at age 43.

WE MUST CRY OUT TO GOD FOR HELP (Psalm 138:3; I Peter 5:9).

- ❑ “When I was racked some months ago with pain, to an extreme degree, so that I could no longer bear it without crying out, I asked all to go from the room, and leave me alone; and then I had nothing I could say to God but this, ‘Thou art my Father, and I am thy child; and thou, as a Father art tender and full of mercy. I could not bear to see my child suffer as thou makest me suffer, and if I saw him tormented as I am now, I would do what I could to help him, and put my arms under him to sustain him. Wilt thou

hide thy face from me, my Father? Wilt thou still lay on a heavy hand, and not give me a smile from thy countenance?’ ... So I pleaded, and I ventured to say, when I was quiet, and they came back who watched me: ‘I shall never have such pain again from this moment, for God has heard my prayer.’ I bless God that ease came and the racking pain never returned” (Spurgeon).

- ❑ We must have the upward look (Colossians 3:1-4).
- ❑ We must have the long look (II Cor. 4:17; Romans 8:18).
- ❑ We must understand that heaviness can be spiritually beneficial (James 4:9).
- ❑ We must keep our eyes upon God and our faith in His promises (Job 13:15).

“I am the subject of depression so fearful that I hope none of you ever get to such extremes of wretchedness as I go to. But I always get back again by this – I know that I trust Christ. I have no reliance but in Him, and if He falls, I shall fall with Him. But if He does not, I shall not. Because He lives, I shall live also, and I spring to my legs again and fight with my depressions of spirit and get the victory through it. And so may you do, and so you must, for there is no other way of escaping from it” (Spurgeon).

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ ***JOYCE MEYER BRAGS ABOUT GETTING TATTOOED AT AGE 79 TO HONOR GOD*** - Joyce Meyer is well-known for her Prosperity Gospel preaching. The Prosperity Gospel—also known as “Health and Wealth Gospel,” “Name it and Claim it,” and “Word of Faith”—is a perversion of the biblical gospel that teaches that the primary purpose of Jesus’ death and resurrection is to create material gain for those who have enough “faith.”

But Joyce Meyer is also a proponent of the “little god” heresy that teaches that being indwelt by the Holy Spirit makes us both God and man at the same time, like Jesus. So it kind of came as a surprise when she preached a sermon last month bragging about how she got all tatted up to honor God.

Several years ago, Meyer preached a sermon saying that she was going to get a tattoo on the back of her shoulder that states “I belong to the Lord” just so she could “push religious people off the cliff.” Of course, the “Lord” she belongs to isn’t the God of the Bible as she has been preaching a false gospel and false Jesus her entire life. But that didn’t stop the glowing accolades and standing ovation she received from her blinded audience which included a cameo of notorious Hillsong heretic, Christine Caine.

“I’m going and gettin’ a tattoo,” she said during a sermon a few years ago, pointing to the back of her shoulder, “right back here. I belong to the Lord. You’ll go with me won’t you.”

“I thought I’d just push all the religious people off the cliff and get it over with.”

Now, in her sermon last week, she revealed that not only did she get that tattoo, but at age 79, she also got a tattoo on her ankle

that said “Love,” which she said is supposed to remind her to “walk in love.”

❑ ***19-YEAR-OLD BOY IN DRESS WINS OFFICIAL MISS AMERICA ORGANIZATION “MISS GREATER DERRY” PAGEANT AND SCHOLARSHIP*** - Brian Nguyen, 19, won Sunday night’s pageant to become “Miss Greater Derry 2023,” which awards the winner a crown, title, and scholarship.

“In the 100 year history of Miss America, I have officially become the FIRST transgender titleholder within the Miss America Organization,” Nguyen announced on Instagram.

“No words can describe the feeling of having the opportunity to serve my community and represent my community for the very first time at Miss New Hampshire,” Nguyen continued. “I am so honored to be crowned your new Miss Greater Derry 2023, and I am thrilled to show you all what I have up my sleeves. This will be an amazing year.”

According to the organization’s web page, the mission of the organization is to “provide scholarships to young women between the ages of 17 and 24 living in the Greater Derry area recognizing their outstanding achievements in scholastic aptitude, talent, character, community service and poise within the guidelines of the Miss NH and Miss America Organizations.”

❑ ***MICHIGAN PASSES BALLOT MEASURE TO AMEND CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW ABORTION UP TO BIRTH*** - Tuesday, Nov. 8th, Michigan passed its Proposal 3 which is a constitutional amendment that will codify the right to an abortion all the way up to birth into the state’s Constitution.

This proposal, which passed by nearly 12 percentage points, says that it will “provide that every individual has a right to reproductive freedom, including the right to make and carry out pregnancy-related decisions such as those concerning prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion, miscarriage management, and infertility care.”

“The state could not discriminate in enforcing that right,” the Proposal continues, “and it could only deny or infringe that right if advancing, in the least restrictive way, a compelling state interest in the health of an individual seeking care.”

The proposal does read that the state could regulate abortion after “viability” but then it “could not under any circumstances prohibit an abortion that is medically indicated to protect the life, physical health, or mental health of the pregnant individual.” The key phrase here is “mental health” - essentially, anyone could claim mental distress and the state would have no authority to intervene and protect the life of the unborn at any stage during the pregnancy.

❑ ***HOLY SPIRIT OUIJA BOARD LETS YOU “COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH JESUS CHRIST”*** - Of course, Christians should stay far away from ALL Ouija Boards and other such occultic items, but now a company called Holy Spirit Games has released a new Ouija Board-like game called the Holy Spirit Board which claims it will let you communicate directly with Jesus Christ. Do not be fooled by these types of

tricks of satan!

❑ ***CHURCH GIVING AWAY LUXURY CAR TO ATTRACT NEW WORSHIPPERS*** - Revival City Church in Fort Worth, Texas is seeking to attract a host of potential guests and congregants to their new church launch, giving away a used 2007 Mercedes to one lucky attendee.

Though not the first church to give away cars as a way to lure people in, this particular giveaway is the brainchild of “pastors” David and Rileigh King, traveling evangelists, and “healing crusaders” who claim that one day they had a vision from God to start a church, and then, it seems, just started one. They explain:

“Throughout 2021 as we were doing extended meetings, we came face-to-face with the reality that there aren’t enough Book of Acts churches for us to unite with in this city in order to reach the entire city...After we wrapped up a month-long revival meeting in Huntington, Texas with Pastor John Wallace of Revival House church, the heavenly vision that has guided me accurately in the ministry since 1993 was 100% on planting a church...This February The Lord’s heavenly vision was 100% planting a church.”

The Kings have a few distinctive beliefs but nothing out of the ordinary from run-of-the-mill charismatics. They have a high emphasis on heating the “foundations” of “preaching, teaching, demonstration, and impartation” where “demonstration (Ed Note. signs and wonders) proves the Gospel to the lost, builds the faith of the believers and greatly accelerates the growth of the Gospel.” They also teach that “Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel” and believe “The Baptism of Believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues.”

The car giveaway is scheduled to coincide with their grand opening in December. It is unknown what the exact model is or how much it costs.

