

the fact he never strove to grow in God's grace and knowledge (2 Pet. 3:18), the idea is set forth that heaven is going to be his home. Is everybody going to heaven? The answer is "No!" Jesus said only a "few" would be saved and "many" would be lost (Matt. 7:13-14), Who is going to heaven?

Consider...

Only those who obey the one gospel of Christ will go to heaven (@ Thess. 1:7-9; John 3:5; Mark 16:16). Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God and has been raised from the dead can be saved (Ro. 10:9-10). This faith must respond in repentance and baptism "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). This new birth causes God to add the person to the one church of Christ, the body of the saved (Acts 2:47; Eph 5:23-25). No one can be saved separate and apart from this plan.

Only those who remain faithful to the gospel of Christ will go to heaven (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; Matt. 10:22). The man or woman who becomes a Christian becomes a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17).

He is to live differently from that point forward. He is not to be like the world (2 Cor. 6:17). His life is to be wrapped up in glorifying God through putting His kingdom first (Matt. 6:33) and by walking in the steps of His Son (I John 2:6). Only those who die "in the Lord" can move into the realm of eternity in a "blessed" state (Rev. 14:13).

Let us remember that when the final day comes, and we stand before God, it will not matter what some preacher said at our memorial assembly, rather it will be the choices made in

life that will make the difference (Josh. 24:15; Deut. 30:19). Is everybody going to heaven? Again, the answer is "No. 1" Only those who obey God and live as He dictates will enjoy the mansions that await (Matt. 7:21-23; John 14:1-3).

In Christ We Have

A love that can never be fathomed;
 A life that can never die;
 A righteousness that can never be tarnished;
 A peace that can never be understood;
 A rest that can never be disturbed;
 A joy that can never be diminished;
 A light that can never be darkened;
 A purity that can never be defiled;
 A beauty that can never be marred;
 A wisdom that can never be baffled;
 Resources that can never be exhausted.

In Sin We Have

Pleasure for a season;
 and punishment without end.
 Why would anyone choose sin?

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Heartland church of Christ

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Evangelist
 Michael Demory

Ministers
 All members of the church

Schedule of Services

Sunday—9:30am
 Wednesday—7:00pm

Evangelistic Efforts

Dubuque Advertiser &
 TV Program
"The Bible Says"
 Public Access
 Cable Channel 16
 Mon. & Thurs. @ 8:30pm
 Tues. @ 2:30pm
 Fri. @ 9:00am

Steps to Salvation

1. Hear the Word (Rom. 10:17)
2. Believe (Heb. 11:1,6)
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3)
4. Confess (Matt. 10:32-33)
5. Baptism (1 Pet. 3:21)
6. Remain Faithful (1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Pet. 3:14)

Virtue

by Tom L. Bright

THE promise of an entrance being ministered abundantly into the everlasting kingdom is conditioned upon that list of seven specific things mentioned by Peter, one of which is virtue (2 Peter 1:3-11).

About virtue, Webster says, "general moral goodness; right action and thinking;" he also gives, as an obsolete meaning, "bravery, valor, courage, daring."

Thayer says some take this word to mean "moral vigor." MacKnight, in his commentary on this passage writes, "This Greek word is commonly used by the poets, to denote military courage," and affirms it is so used here. Cremer adds, "steadfastness in maintaining and manifesting faith." Brother Guy N. Woods, in his commentary, wrote, "courage and soul vigor, the manliness and the determination to do that which is right." Manliness is essential to acceptable service in the kingdom of God.

Peter exhorts that, giving all diligence, we are to add (supply on our part) virtue. Brother Woods wrote of this word, "Originally it meant to find and support a chorus, to lead a choir, to keep in tune, and then, to supply or provide. As here used, the graces which adorn the Christian's character are to be chorused into a grand symphony to the delight and pleasure of Him who fashioned and made us for His own good pleasure" (A Commentary of the New Testament Epistles of Peter, John and Jude, Gospel Advocate Co., p. 150).

Virtue is the difference between standing for the right and falling for every-

thing. We see such bravery in the life of Jesus. "And it came to pass, then the time was come that He should be received up, He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem" (Lk. 9:51). Determination to do the right was manifested by the Lord in that lonely prayer "Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done" (Lk. 22:42). During His trial, even when confronted with false witnesses who could not agree with false witnesses who could not agree among themselves, Jesus manfully sought the Father's will (Mk. 14:56).

The church needs courageous elders who are "holding to the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict the gainsayers" (Titus 1:9). The flock will follow the shepherd.

In today's world, a man must be brave to stand in the pulpit and preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. We have too many men whose lessons do not come from the Book of God, but from books of men who do not believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible. Some say the "five steps" of salvation are out of date; that we should not oppose the use of mechanical instruments of music, nor refute the doctrine of Premillennialism, nor show the fallacies of denominational doctrine. Such cowardice is the opposite of Christian virtue.

Some say the proper meaning of the Bible doctrine of unity is to wink at denominational error. We now hear that the church has matured into a kinder, gentler church, willing to and accepting the good people of all churches as children of God. In the Disciples

of Christ denomination, this includes Hinduism, Shintoism, and Islam.

It requires virtue to "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of reason' reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2). The preacher who will "rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith" (Titus 1:13) is the same preacher who is to "not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:24-25).

One of the greatest blessings from the Lord is a child. "Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them" (Ps. 125:5). Our offspring impose upon us the responsibility courageously to rear them in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). We need parents who have the moral courage to say "No."

Virtue is the determination to do what is right, even when it is unpopular. In your faith supply virtue, and in your courage supply all other Christian characteristics, and you will have an abundant entrance into the eternal city of God. Take up your cross and follow Him "who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that hath endured such gainsaying of sinner against himself, that ye wax not weary fainting in your souls."



The Art of Forgetting

By Raymond C. Kelcy

ONE reason for Paul's success is that he practiced a wise forgetfulness. Most of us go about with an excess of unnecessary baggage. Fears, questions, and annoying memories take their toll on life and reduce our efficiency. For much of this, there is one remedy—the skill of forgetting.

To be able to dismiss annoyances is a great accomplishment. It is a necessity if one would be happy. There are many things which bring misery if brooded upon. Let each one do some serious thinking and let us talk to ourselves:

- ◆ "Is it going to give me peace of mind to harbor this incident?"
- ◆ "Will it destroy my poise and good humor?"
- ◆ "Am I keeping it in my memory in order to settle it or for the purpose of feeling abused?"
- ◆ "Am I eager to have a wrong made right or to have my own vanity satisfied?"

"I feel that I was a victim, and that I suffered an injustice," said one, "but when I began to add up the total of life, I

found I had more beautiful memories than sad ones. We, I, and myself, agreed to drop the matter."

Another said, "I found I was giving more worry to those matters than I could afford in view of the little energy I had to waste on such. So I decided to think on pleasant things."

When we have done what we can to correct our mistakes, when we have repented and obeyed God, He forgives and forgets (Hebrews 8:12). Why should we let the past haunt us and kill our usefulness?



Why Didn't Jesus Say "He That Believeth Not And Is Baptized Not Shall Be Damned"?

By B.J. Clarke

JESUS said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). This truth is "un-get-aroundable" for those who would deny the essentiality of water baptism. Just as 2 + 2 = 4, so likewise does Belief + Baptism = Salvation. It is not just he that believeth that shall be saved. Furthermore, it is not just he that is baptized who shall be saved, but rather he that believeth and is baptized who shall be saved (Mark 16:16). But what about the latter part of the passage where Jesus says, "but he that believeth not shall be damned?" They would argue that since Jesus only mentioned not believing as a condition of being damned, that believing is the only condition of salvation.

The answer to such a quibble is seen in both a scriptural and practical way. In John 3:18, Jesus said, "he who does not believe is condemned already." Hence, if a man is an unbeliever, he is lost. Jesus didn't waste words. In all of the time that I have been preaching, I have never yet had someone say, "I don't believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Would you baptize me?" Jesus didn't say "he that believeth not and is baptized not shall be damned" for the simple reason that if a man doesn't believe, he will never desire to be baptized. His unbelief is sufficient all by itself to damn his soul. For example, Jesus didn't say, "he that believeth not and repenteth not shall be damned," because if a man doesn't first believe, he will never be led to repentance. If I say, "He that eateth and digesteth shall live, but he that eateth not shall die," it is not necessary for me to mention digestion in the latter part of the statement, because if a man doesn't do the first thing (eating), he will never do the second thing (digesting).

Likewise, Jesus knew that if a man didn't do the first thing (believing), he would never do the second thing (be baptized). In short, the teaching of Mark 16:16 shows us that it takes one condition to damn our soul, but there are at least two conditions (Belief + Baptism) necessary to the saving of it.



Is Everybody Going to Heaven?

by Bill Burk

FUNERAL services are for the living. These services are good because they help us to consider our mortality (Ecc. 7:2). I heard the story of a preacher once who stood before a grieving family and "let the hammer down" in regard to the unfaithful life of the one that had died. The preacher brought up the fact that the man had been lukewarm in his service and devotion. The conclusion was clear, the man died lost. Seldom do we hear of such a take being given at a funeral. Most of the time, when we attend a funeral service, it doesn't matter who it is that has died, whether it be the most faithful Christian in town or the worst reprobate, the indication will be given that the departed in now with his God in bliss. Perhaps those of us who speak at these events ought to consider the fact that we cannot preach anyone into heaven nor can we preach anyone into hell. The life the individual led will determine his or her eternal destiny (2 Cor. 5:10; Ro. 2:6) not what a preacher may say after the person's spirit returns to God who gave it (Ecc. 12:7).



Who will go to heaven? Considering that at funerals, if a person had any semblance of religion, he is said to be saved. We have all heard it, "brother Jones was a member of such and such church, he accepted the Lord at the age of seven, he was a good man, who loved his family and his kids, who worked hard...therefore we can know that he is with his Lord." Despite the fact the man never obeyed the pure New Testament gospel (2 Thess. 1: 7-9), despite the fact that he was never a active member of a congregation of God's people (Acts 2:42), despite

Remember in Prayer

Special Prayers

- Russell Bender
- Freeman Dudley—liver cancer
- Kaiser family
- Jones family
- Walker family
- Williamson family in the loss of Naida
- Julie Bender—Cellulitis
- Brother Prasad (India)- is facing many trials
- Brother Odom (Abilene)—COPD
- Eric Boor—blood disease
- Melissa McClish—Depression
- Lilly Rucker and family—
- Lyra Grochmal (7 yrs)—spine cancer
- Laurie Davis—Multiple Sclerosis
- Rockfalls church of Christ
- Platteville church of Christ
- TV Program & Advertiser Ads
- State of our Nation
- The closing of Planned Parenthood
- The church
- The erring & the Lost

Evangelizing the World

- Garret Derouin—Webster, Wisc.
- Scott Nedland—Rice Lake, Wisc.
- Brian Sherrell—LaCrosse, Wisc.
- Bernie Guzman—Philippines
- Fred Rhodes—Newton, Iowa
- Johnny Robertson—Martinsville, Vir
- James Oldfield—Riedsville, NC
- Derrick Brown —Jamaica
- Gary Workman—Ukraine
- Kolakaluri Prasad—Nalgonda, Dist., India
- G. Prabhu Kumar—Chennai, India
- John O'Neal—India & Ghana
- Tom Wacaster—India & Russia
- Holger Neubauer—South Haven, Michigan

Military

- Chip O'Neal—Afghanistan
- Jonathan Duckstein—Afghanistan
- Michael Chlamon—Ft. Drum, NY
- Daniel Heflin—Ft. Drum, NY
- Jason Cunningham—Stateside
- Jon McCain—Stateside
- Military families who are coping while loved ones in harms way