

onto joy through memory. We make the most of the future when we lay hold of it by faith and hope. Faith and hope outrun the present, running forward as memory runs backward. When faith and hope take hold of the future, we can face it with full conviction that God's power is behind us and before us.

"What future is there," you may ask, "to a person who is ninety-five?" Obviously, if this life was all, there would not be much future, but the same thing could be said of a person who is much younger. Life on earth at its longest is short. Centuries ago the question was asked, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). The question has been answered emphatically by Jesus who said: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (Jn. 11:25).



Selfishness

by Tom Kelton

AT the entrance to every Jewish home was a large pot of water to wash dirty feet. Normally, foot washing was the duty of the lowliest slave. When guests came, that slave had to go to the door and wash their feet – not a pleasant task. In fact, washing feet was probably his most lowly duty, and only slaves performed it for others. Even the disciples of rabbis were not to wash the feet of their masters.

As Jesus and His disciples arrived at the upper room,

they found no servant to wash their feet. Only days before, Jesus had said to the twelve, "...but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant" (Matt. 20:26-27). If they had given mind and heart to His teaching, one of the twelve would have washed the others' feet or they would have shared the task. The act could have been a beautiful thing, but the idea never occurred to them because of their selfishness.

A parallel passage in Luke 22:24-26 gives us an idea just how selfish they were and what they were thinking about that evening:

"And there was also a strife among them, which of them it was that should be accounted the greatest. And He said unto them, the Kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors, But ye shall not be so; but he that is greatest among you, let him be the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve"

What a sickening picture this is! They were bickering about who was the greatest. And in an argument about who is the greatest, no one is going to get down on the ground and wash feet.

The basin was there, the towel was there, and everything was ready. But no one was moved to wash the others' feet. Only Christ was willing to humble Himself enough to perform the lowly task of washing feet.

When we are tempted to think of our own dignity, prestige and rights, we need to open our Bibles to John 13 and get a good look at Jesus – clothed like a slave, kneeling, washing dirt off the feet of sinful men who were utterly indifferent to His impending death. Seeing our Lord's indescribable humility should destroy our selfishness.

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Website—<http://www.dbqheartlandcoc.org>
Email: the_bible_says@dbqheartlandcoc.org

Heartland church of Christ

3430 Dodge St., Suite 1
Dubuque, Iowa 52003
(563) 588-1974

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

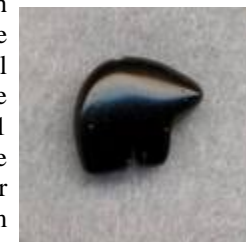
Steps to Salvation

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)

The Stone of Patience

By Mike Demory

PERSIAN folklore tells of how a person may sit before a "Syngue Sabour" (a "magical" black stone) and pour out all of one's sorrows, pain and anger for the stone to absorb. It is believed that when the stone has received all that it can take, that it will explode, releasing the person from their problems. This stone also called "The Stone of Patience," from the Arabic "Syngue" for 'stone' and "Sabour" - 'patience' is believed to start the Apocalypse when the stone explodes. Much like the superstitions of the people of old when 400 prophets of Baal were challenged by Elijah to prove who the one true God was (1 Kings 18:22ff); these people are depending upon the created, rather than the Creator to help them (Romans 1:25).



Oh, that men and women would learn to put their faith in God alone. While heathens have their gods that are never satisfied, Christians have the one true living stone of patience before whose feet we are able to lay our burdens down. Peter reminds us of this fact when he said; "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And his ears unto their supplication: But the face of the Lord is upon them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be zealous of that which is good? But even if ye should suffer for righteousness' sake, blessed (are ye:) and fear not their fear, neither be troubled;" (1 Peter 3:12-14ASV). The author of the Hebrews letter said, "...for Himself hath said, I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee" (Heb 13:5ASV).

For generations, men have forsaken their Creator for their own gods, or even for the assistance of other men. Take for example king Asa, who worked at turning the Southern kingdom of Judah back to God, and was blessed in so doing (2 Chronicles 15:16-19; 16:8-9). However, when Asa forsook God, and turned to the king of Syria for help, God was not pleased, and Asa was no longer victorious (2 Chronicles 16:1-7). King David being a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), depended upon God as his "rock" (Psalm 19:14).

David is recorded as pleading to his stone of patience, "I cry with my voice unto Jehovah; with my voice unto Jehovah do I make supplication. I pour out my complaint before him; I show before him my trouble. When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, Thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walk have they hidden

a snare for me. Look on (my) right hand, and see; for there is no man that knoweth me: refuge hath failed me; no man careth for my soul. I cried unto thee, O Jehovah; I said, Thou art my refuge, My portion in the land of the living. Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks unto thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou wilt deal bountifully with me" (Ps 142ASV).

The words of J.P. Lane's hymn remind us that we have a true stone of patience that need not explode to release us from our troubles.

For the Lord is our Rock and is mighty and strong, and in Him we are safe

He's our help and our song, In the Rock we will rest till the storms all are past; He will guide thro' the gloom, He will guide thro' the gloom 'till the light dawns at last, dawns at last.

Our God is far better than any shiny black stone, which is nothing but a dead stone, not the living Rock. While the wisdom of the world that works feverishly to mock Christianity, and lifts up dead matter over the living Spirit; we children of God can know that our stone of patience is at all times ready to hear our supplications, and to help us through our darkest hours.



Fifteen Miles from Heaven

By Earl Kimbrough

Moses E. Lard, well known gospel preacher of the nineteenth century, kept a preaching appointment at Richmond, MO in 1853. As he was hitching his horse near the meetinghouse, a black man named Dick, a brother in Christ, approached him and introduced himself. Dick had once been a member of the church, but the congregation in his small community has ceased to meet. His faith remained strong. He said, "I have come fifteen miles to hear you preach, and I have brought with me my young master Thomas. I think he would be a Christian if he knew how."

After being introduced to Thomas, Lard went into the house to being his services. The audience was large, but not a Christian there had come fifteen miles, a considerable distance in that day. But here was a bondservant with his master in the audience.

Lard preached for an hour and a half, keeping young Thomas in his mind for the full sermon. When the invitation was extended Thomas went forward and made the good confession. He was baptized that same evening.

Poor Dick was as near heaven then, as he will be again until he reaches that blessed abode. He could not sit; he could not stand. A little more than two weeks later, at the request of Dick and Thomas, Lard went to the community near their home to preach for two days in the shade of some large trees. A modest stand and some crude seats had been erected to accommodate the services. Resolved to make the most of the limited time, Lard preaches for two and a half-hours.

The sermon made a favorable impression on most of those present. The next day the audience, undiminished in size, gathered again to hear another equally long sermon. At the close, four men came forward and confessed Christ. Lard decided to stay

on a few days, and before the meeting closed forty people had been baptized for the remission of their sins.

One the Lord's Day, the brethren met at a convenient place a mile distant to organize the New Testament church. They invoked the protection of God and resolved to be faithful in His service. The Lord's Supper was observed.

The church known as South Point was located in Ray County, Missouri. It came into existence primarily because a chattel slave, who was also a bondservant of Christ, loved both masters enough to travel fifteen miles to the gospel.



Tarry by The Stuff!

By T. Pierce Brown

In 1 Samuel 30:9-10 we find David pursuing the Amalekites with 600 men, but 200 of them become too exhausted to follow all the way. They stayed behind with the baggage. When the men who had borne the heat of the battle return victorious they wanted to refuse to share the glory and proceeds of victory with them, but David said in verse 24, "as is his part that goeth to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff."

There are some lessons in that story, which foreshadow some things in the Christian system that are important to us.

Those of us who have been actively involved in personal evangelism for the past 30 or 40 years have been accustomed to emphasizing that every Christian is responsible for his part in carrying out the Great Commission. And that is so. But we have often presented it as if all in the congregation who did not get involved in our particular program of personal evangelism were second class citizens. We may assume that only those involved in the "Crossroads Movement" have done this. But many of us were doing it the wrong way before the Crossroads church even existed. But no matter who has done it, that emphasis is wrong.

Paul clearly shows in 1 Corinthians 12:14ff that the body consists of many members and not all have the same function. We would have known that even if Paul had not said so, but he is emphasizing an important point of which every member needs to be aware. YOU ARE IMPORTANT to the body, and to God, no matter how limited your ability!

We do not all have the same talents or the same strength. We cannot all travel as fast or as far. We cannot all fight as well or as hard. But notice some things about those who stayed behind.

First, they did not desert nor rebel. Second, they did not try to discourage those who went to battle. Third, they rejoiced at the triumph and victory of others that did the fighting and waited for their return with hope. Fourth, they did what they could, where they were, with what they had, and

both David and the Lord indicated that they would be rewarded.

Not everyone can go overseas and preach the gospel. Even of those who can, not everyone should, for some are not able to stand the culture shock. But those who stay with the baggage can encourage and help those who go!

Contrary to what I at one time implied, not everyone should be out knocking on doors and trying to set up Bible studies. But everyone can find some method to assist and encourage the saving of souls. If, for example, you do not think you can teach a person in an open Bible study or even show a filmstrip, you can at least invite him to your house for a meal, along with someone who can do the teaching. You can at least tarry with the stuff! And DO WHAT YOU CAN, WHERE YOU ARE WITH WHAT YOU HAVE!



Beautiful Memories

By Virgil Bentley

It is ironic that such great stress is placed upon memory when at the same time some people ridicule the vivid memory in old age. A typical expression is: "My grandmother can remember with great clarity what happened forty years ago, but she can't remember what she had for breakfast yesterday morning."

My answer is, "that's wonderful! She can recall and relish the past, enjoy the present and anticipate the future!"

It really is not so important to remember what you had for breakfast yesterday morning! The rich memories of older people can be stimulated by recalling sights, sounds and events of the past. How many of you can remember, for example, the sound of an ice wagon making the rounds on a hot summer day? Do you remember when they had board sidewalks, when the only fuel was wood or coal, and when people broke their arms cranking a Model-T Ford? Can you remember when the only drinking water you had was drawn from a well with a bucket and rope on a pulley and when wooden water buckets and gourd dippers were used?

A person of eighty has many more things to remember than a person of forty! One use of memory is the sheer joy of remembering the beautiful experiences. Another use of the memory has to do with our spiritual life. Spiritual memories are useful in keeping faith, hope and love alive. "Remember," and synonyms for it will be found more than 300 times on the pages of God's Book. The book of Deuteronomy is called "God's book of remembrance." Contrary to popular opinion, it is not bad to remember the days of old: "Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee" (Deut. 32:7).

A distinction should be made, of course, between remembering the past and living in the past. "A man's real possession is his memory." Sometimes we experience high moments of joy that we know cannot possibly last, but we can hold

Remember in Prayer

Special Prayers

- Ben Griffith—strep infection
- Wade Miller—diabetes
- Susan Noel
- Russell Bender
- Freeman Dudley—liver cancer
- Kaiser family
- Jones family
- Walker family
- Julie Bender—Cellulitis
- Brother Odom (Abilene)—COPD
- Laurie Davis—Multiple Sclerosis
- Cody Ledesma—Drug Rehab
- Eric Boor—blood disease
- Lyra Grochmal (7 yrs)—spine cancer
- Melissa McClish—Depression
- Lilly Rucker and family—
- 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
- Ernie Lawrence—Hutto, Texas

Military

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