

just where he is going, and what he will do when he gets there.

When God tells a man to get out of a place, it is best for him to get out. From what we know of Ur of Chaldea that was not a very good starting place. But we all have to start where we are. It is not where we start, but how we go on, and where we wind up, that counts.

Other voices are audible, and sometimes louder than the voice of God, and it seems that the majority of people respond to the voice that tells them to stay where they are. It is a lot of trouble to move, and when the Lord says for us to get out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light, only a few move.

Two preachers were working together in the evangelistic field. One was an optimist and the other was a pessimist. In a spell of blues one said to the other, I don't know what I am going to do with all my troubles. Before the other answered, he observed a cow looking over a stone wall. He said, Do you know why that cow is looking over the stone wall? I do not know was the reply. The other said it is because she can't see through it. Learn a lesson from the cow, and look over the troubles of life.

If one craves an enraptured vision, he must get it by faith, which enables men to rise above all the troubles of life. It is by faith that we look forward to the grandeur of full salvation.

*“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house, by which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith”* (Heb. 11:7).

Noah did not make suggestions to the Lord about how he could improve the ark. Every step he took was in accordance with the word of God. If he had tried to tell God of a more dignified way to save the world, that would have manifested a lack of faith. When one is not willing to be saved in the way God has planned for him to be saved, he has no faith. And the man who wants to be saved in his own way make himself his savior.

Here is what faith does, *“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal”* (2 Cor. 4:18).

Some people regard faith as a crutch for weak-minded people, and throw it away. They go nowhere except where they can walk by sight. Faith looks to the future. By faith men see the golden day, when they can enter heaven and see God.

## Why I Want to Go to Heaven

By Mike Demory

1. I sure don't want the alternative.
2. I don't want to disappoint the Lord who died that heaven might be my home.
3. So I can live a better life on earth and please my Lord.
4. Because I don't want to encourage the devil!
5. For the sake of my influence now.
6. Because there will be no evil there – no sin or temptation!
7. To be with God and Christ and all faithful Christians of all time.
8. To meet spiritual family members I have only read and heard of.
9. For the beauty and splendor to be found there.
10. To reach my goal and fulfill my hope.
11. Because there will be no suffering, darkness or despair.
12. It will be a place of joy, peace, happiness and eternal bliss.
13. Because there will be no war or hatred to surround us.
14. To continue the sweet fellowship Christians have on earth.
15. So I can praise God in person forever.
16. To express my gratitude to God face to face.
17. Because it will mean that I lived faithfully.
18. To live with God – what could be better?
19. It is my Christian duty!

### Heartland Herald

1899 Saint Joseph St.  
Dubuque, Iowa 52003



#### 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

Free Bible Studies

#### Steps to Salvation

- **Hear the Word**  
(Romans 10:17)
- **Believe** (Hebrews 11:6)
- **Repent** (Luke 13:3)
- **Confess Christ**  
(Matthew 10:32-33)
- **Baptism** (1 Peter 3:21)
- **Faithful Living**  
(Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58)
- **Bearing fruit**  
(Colossians 1:10)

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Practicing 1st Century Christianity in the 21st Century

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## Is Christ Our Life?

By Mike Demory

**E**VERY New Year, we sit down and make a list of the things we want to do differently in the coming year, or obtain goals that we had not done in the past. Whatever your New Years Resolutions may have been, for the Christian, have we considered spiritual growth over physical? It is no secret that the church is losing more gospel preachers every year. Most of what I have heard, and believe me, I have been there myself, is that no one seems to listen to the sermons, or read the articles that encourage the brethren to become more spiritual. Most of the preachers I know did not grow up in the church. They came out of denominationalism (as I myself) and are not held to the traditional thinking of generational members. I know that when I first obeyed the gospel, I was on fire for the Lord, wanting to do all I could. I could not get enough of the Word, so I took part in every Bible study I could find. I thought everyone in the church was as eager as I was to learn more about God's will – but it didn't take long to find out differently.

I have learned that as a preacher, I am not a policeman. My job, as has been the job of every messenger of God in the past, is to simply preach the truth and sound the warning trumpet. It is then up to every individual to take what is said, study it for themselves and apply it to their lives. Although I understand my role in God's kingdom, there are times that I become disappointed. Like when I study with a non-Christian – why don't they get it like I did? Why are they unwilling to see the truth that there is only one church into which everyone must be added to be saved? Why are relatives, friends, and neighbors so hard to talk to about the Bible? Why are my brethren not as willing to serve the Lord as I have been? As long as I have been a Christian, I have been unable to answer that one. I have always been willing to try anything. I'm certainly not the best singer, but I'm willing to lead a congregation in spiritual songs. I don't see myself as the best Bible class teacher or preacher of the gospel, but I'm willing to do my part in teaching the truth and spreading the good news. As the apostle Paul said, *“I CAN do ALL things, through Christ that strengtheneth me”* (Phil. 4:13).

I'm often told of how it used to be in the church, when every member knew the Scriptures and were not afraid to tell someone that the church of Christ was the only church approved by God. Or that men and boys were involved in weekly training classes to learn their respective roles in the church. Today we are lucky to get men to attend services, let alone be willing to attend classes that will train them to become better husbands, fathers and servants of God. The church in Dubuque has been a wonderful change to see men who hunger to learn more and help in every way they can. There are still some problems that need work, but mostly we have been blessed to be here with these brethren.

Think of the parable of our Lord in Matthew 13:44-46. One of the kingdom parables that likens the kingdom of God (the church of Christ) to a hidden treasure and a priceless pearl.

## Remember in Prayer

### Special Prayers

Mya Kulle (tumor)  
 Kristy Farr  
 Jo Gordon  
 Ruby Bagwell  
 Scharles & Graham Ballard  
 Preston Estes family  
 Our new evangelism effort  
 Lilly Rucker & family  
 Lyra Grochmal (7 yrs)—spine cancer— more tumors are growing  
 Laurie Davis—Multiple Sclerosis

Yolanda Ritchwood—M.S.  
 Natalie Bauman—M.S.  
 Wade Miller—diabetes  
 Susan Noel— that she studies to understand God  
 Russell Bender— that he studies to understand God  
 Freeman Dudley—liver cancer  
 Kaiser family  
 Eric Boor—blood disease  
 Rockfalls church of Christ  
 TV Program  
 State of our Nation  
 The closing of Planned Parenthood  
 The church  
 The erring & the Lost

### Military

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

### Evangelizing the World

Garret Derouin—Webster, Wisc.  
 Scott Nedland—Rice Lake, Wisc.  
 Brian Sherrell—Rockfalls, IL.  
 Bernie Guzman—Philippines

Robert Lukenbill—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

## Calendar of Events

- **May 26**—Edit new program @ Mediacom 1-5pm
- **June 6-10**—Gospel Meeting; Dubuque, IA
- **July**—County Fair Booth
- **August/2nd week**—Power Lectures—Southaven, MS
- **Sept/3rd week**—St. Louis Lectures
- **October 18-21**—Lectureship—Dubuque, IA

The merchant sells all that he has to purchase this treasure. Jesus is showing us that the kingdom should be just as valuable to us that we are willing to give up everything we have to obtain it. I've had people, both Christian and non, tell me that you can be too religious. Allowing my service to God to take up too much of my time. They say that God does not expect us to spend more than Sunday's in service to Him. Yet the Bible (God's own Word's) tell a different story. The apostle Paul exhorted the Christians at Colossae to; *"set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory"* (Col. 3:2-4). If that isn't clear, then I don't know what is. Why should it be our goal to make Christ our "life?" It guess it wouldn't be because He bought us with the price of His own life (1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23). It couldn't be because He took away the sting of the grave and offered us eternal life (1 Cor. 15:54; 1 Jn. 3:14-16). And who cares that Jesus offers to all the opportunity to become an heir of the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:7; 1 Pet. 3:7). None of these things would make me do something I didn't want to do, or even try.

But the fact of the matter is that they should. The very gift of God's grace through His Son, should cause every one of us to step up to the plate and say *"here am I, send me!"* (Isa. 6:8). His death on the cross for my sins and yours, should cause us to be on time to Bible classes, and worship, and to want to attend every service, every meeting, and to serve God in EVERY way possible. The threat of that hope of life everlasting should concern us when we turn down an opportunity to lead singing, teach a class, give a devotional lesson, become qualified to be an elder or deacon, make announcements, visit the sick, discipline the erring, etc., etc. Brethren, we have a lot of growing to do.

Yes, I do get discouraged once in a while, wondering what else I can to light a fire under us all. We need to be setting goals throughout the year to evangelize the world. We all need to become involved in helping the church of our Lord grow both spiritually and numerically. It is my prayer that each of us will determine to do a better job of making Christ our life this year and in the years to come. Let's put into practice Matthew 6:33, Colos-

sians 3:4; 1 Timothy 4:8 and many other passages. And in so doing we will be able to do all things through Christ (Phil. 4:13)!

## Lovingkindness

By Roelf Ruffner

**T**HE word "lovingkindness" is not found often in our modern vocabulary. But I believe it exemplifies the unique quality of God's grace. He is loving and kind. A perusal of God's word reveals the depths and riches of this divine quality. *"How excellent is Thy lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings"* (Ps. 36:7).

Because of Jehovah's lovingkindness, He has not given up on the human race. In the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve fell from innocence to the shamefulness of sin, God extended His helping hand. He provided animal skin coats so they could cover their shame as He sent them forth, out of the garden (Gen. 3:21-24). Even outside of the Garden, God continued to show His lovingkindness to Adam and his descendants by giving them the bounty of creation, the incredible beauty of nature and the joy of marriage and family, all of which point to the existence of God (Acts 14:17; 17:26-27).

Jehovah further displayed this attribute of lovingkindness by delivering an obscure nation of slaves, the Israelites, out of the house of bondage "on eagles wings" (Ex. 19:14). These desperate people were the descendants of God's friend Abraham. The Lord fed them, clothed them and provided them with water in the desert during their wanderings. But His greatest gift to them was His law. *"And I will walk at liberty; for I seek Thy precepts"* (Ps. 119:45). *"Wherefore Thy law is holy, and Thy*

*commandment holy, and just, and good"* (Rom. 7:12). Only the lovingkindness of the Father would attempt to dust off this rabble and make them into a nation.

The Lord continued to show His lovingkindness to Israel even as they constantly rebelled against Him. As they hid in holes in the ground and caves in the rocks to escape their adversaries, He heard their cries and sent a deliverer. Later, when they had sunk into the pit of idolatry and immorality, He still showed His lovingkindness to them. *"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee"* (Jer. 31:3).

Yet through the millennia, Jehovah was planning an even greater display of His lovingkindness – His Son, Jesus Christ. In the midst of the gloom, brutality, baby killing and hopelessness of Palestine, He caused the Word to appear (John 1:14). *"The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up"* (Matt. 4:16).

The Christ was the embodiment of God's lovingkindness (Jn. 3:16). IN the midst of Satan's demons, He unleashed the Sword of the Spirit. With Biblical love He lifted up the downtrodden, gave hope to those in despair, healed the sick, fed the hungry, forgave the penitent and rebuked the gainsayer. In His final act of lovingkindness He willingly shed His blood, tearing in two the veil separating God and man and offering His blood as atonement for our sins (Matt. 27:51; Heb. 9:11-14).

But God's lovingkindness did not end at Calvary. God left us a way of salvation – the gospel of Christ. It is God's power to save (Rom. 1:16). Since the old Law of Moses was imperfect, God gave us the *"perfect law of liberty"* (Jas. 1:22). Through it men, women, boys and girls have stepped out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light (Eph. 2:1-2).

Finally (or is it?), Jehovah has bestowed His lovingkindness on us by giving us His inspired, infallible, inerrant Word – The Bible. In our age of moral confusion, ethical aimlessness and cynicism, there is no better compass. Only the love and kindness of God could have inspired and preserved this book for all ages. *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* (Ps.

119:105).

Have you observed and known God's lovingkindness in your life? Have your become a Christian and remained faithful to the epitome of His lovingkindness – Jesus Christ? *"If you love Me, keep My commandments"* (Jn. 14:15).

## By Faith

By W.M. Davis

**I**F I remember correctly, "by faith" is repeated nineteen times in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Of the children of Israel it is said, *"By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned"* (Heb. 11:29). In a mighty contest faith is the power that brings victory.

The Egyptians met God at the Red Sea and were defeated. Israel met God at the same place and were victorious. The difference was faith.

The Bible pictures Abraham as a great man. But how can a man be great when he goes out not knowing where he is going? It was not what he knew that made Abraham great, but what he believed. It is said, *"by faith Abraham, when he was called to go out in a place which he should after received for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."*

Abraham had a fixed purpose to follow God by faith, and wherever the hand of God led him would be a satisfactory destiny. A great weakness of man is that he does not want to be where God wants him to be. He wants to know before he starts