

Lo The d Ou Righteousness

Laying down our Life

Elder Charles Moore



his brother is a kind of murder!
If I am going to help my brother, I must meet three conditions. First, I

CAMP 2012
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In the coming months I'm going to be talking about the "one another's" in the Bible. These are the commands of Scripture on how we are supposed to love one another. We might ask, who are the "one another's"? It is not just the believers in our local churches but believers of all kinds, everywhere. At our October 2012 retreat we will, as a body of believers, commit ourselves to the admonitions of Scripture to love one another in tangible ways. The first tangible way that we will look at is found in 1 John 3:16 which says, "We know love by this that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

The love of God speaks of compassion. Jesus set the standard for compassionate response to human need. In every measure, the sacrifice of Christ was for us alone. Jesus gained nothing by laying down his life for us. Wiersbe states, "Christian love involves sacrifice and service. Christ did not simply talk about His love; He died to prove it. Jesus was not killed as a martyr; He willingly laid down His life. "Self-preservation" is

the first law of physical life, but "self-sacrifice" is the first law of spiritual life."

But God does not ask us to lay down our lives in the same way Jesus did, but He simply asks us to help a brother in need. John wisely turns from "the brethren" in 1 John 3:16 to the singular, "his brother," in 1 John 3:17, where John says, "But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?" It is easy for us to talk about "loving the brethren" and to neglect helping a single other believer. Christian love is personal and active.

A man does not have to murder in order to sin; hatred is murder in his heart. But a man need not even hate his brother to be guilty of sin. All he has to do is ignore him, or be indifferent toward his needs. A believer who has material goods and can relieve his brother's needs ought to do it. To "close the door of his heart" on

must have the means necessary to meet his need. Second, I must know that the need exists. Third, I must be loving enough to want to share.

A believer who is too poor to help, or who is ignorant of his brother's need, is not condemned. But a believer who hardens his heart against his needy brother is condemned. A banker had just turned a man down for a loan, and then made an unusual offer. He said to the man, "I have one good eye and one glass eye. If you can tell me which is which, I'll approve your loan." The man looked for a moment, then said, "Your left eye is your good eye." The banker was surprised. "That's right," he said. "How could you tell?" The man said, "I detected a hint of compassion in the other eye."

Some possess the love of God although they possess virtually nothing else. Spurgeon said, "I once heard a touching story about a poor woman with two children who had no bed for them to sleep in and scarcely any clothes to cover them. In the depth of

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winter they were nearly frozen, and the mother took the door of a cellar off the hinges, and set it up before the corner where they crouched to sleep, that some of the draft and cold might be kept from them. One of the children whispered to her, when she complained, "Mother, what do those dear little children do who have no cellar door to put up in front of them?" Even there, you see, the little heart found cause for thankfulness."

1 John 3: 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. To love "in word" means simply to talk about a need, but to love "in deed" means to do something about meeting it. You may think, because you have discussed a need, or even prayed about it, that you have done your duty, but love involves more than words—it calls for sacrificial deeds.

To love "in tongue" is the opposite of to love "in truth." It means to love insincerely. To love "in truth" means to love a person genuinely, from the heart and not just from the tongue. People are attracted by genuine love, but repelled by the artificial variety. One reason why sinners were attracted to Jesus (Luke 15:1-2) was because they were sure He loved them sincerely. "But does it not cost a great deal for the believer to exercise this kind of love?" Yes, it does. It cost Jesus Christ His life. But the wonderful benefits that come to you as by-products of this love more than compensate for any sacrifice you make. To be sure, you do not love others because you want to get something in return. However, the Bible principle, "Give and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38), applies to love as well as to money.

If we lay our lives down for others just like Jesus laid His life down for us, wait and see the benefits that we receive: (1) knowledge and assurance. 1 John 3:19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him.

MANDATORY CAMP PRE-SERVICE MEETING

If you are thinking of coming to camp as staff you **must** attend this meeting.

Saturday May 12, 12:30

1922 LaSalle Road Monroe, MI

We will have a picnic during the meeting.

Questions call Diane at

734-417-2392

Cyberspace News

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In Michigan March is usually a very wintry month but this year we had a wonderful surprise with sunshine and warm weather! We enjoyed having the beautiful warm days and felt we almost had Florida in Michigan!

Ethel Johnson turned 90 on March 4 and the family had a wonderful birthday party for her at our church. Her children and grandchildren made it very special by arriving from so many locations across the US! She looks wonderful and it is hard to keep up with all her activities. Congratulations on this milestone, Ethel!

David and Ruth Charles had an eventful month as they moved all the furniture out of their beautiful Florida house to finish out an era. Larry Charles, Rob Vaughn, Kathy Smeltzer and David made that trip to Rotonda West and packed the remainder of their things and came home with a sigh of relief. The Charles family does a great job of dividing up chores and getting things done! I was sad to think I will not see that welcoming home again. Home is where the family lives though so that is now Howell MI and we are so glad that David and Ruth are very comfortable there. Ruth is not so well these days as congestive heart failure has been added to her problems.

We were saddened this month to hear of the passing of Jim Ohle on March 22. He was a memorable camper from some of the first years of youth camp. He had been ill for some time and his wife Vicky wrote me that he had such fond memories of youth camp and it deeply affected his life. He was a young 68 and leaves to mourn his wife Vicky, a daughter Beth, a son Jim, two sisters Erma Heim and Theresa Williams, two grandchildren and a great grandchild. We send out our sincere condolences to you all. He leaves us with many wonderful memories of that sweet, rough, tough young man that he was, in the late fifties. I have put some pictures of our camp in the 1958-1962 era at Sleeper State Park near Caseville, MI with Jim Ohle in a couple of them. He and Dale had a fun 'rasslin' match on the beach each year he was at camp. Sweet times....

Leah Sottile (Rachel and Sam Sottile's daughter) had the brain surgery they had been waiting for. She came through fine but had to spend time in the children's ICU. We hope she is all well again now. Others that I asked you to pray for, are ongoing in their needs—Karen Momberger, DuWaine Chapman and Ruth Charles. It takes time to heal after surgery. We are linked by a mighty God and His care for each of us.

Lloyd & Sally Smith traveled to California for a visit with daughter Emily and family. They traveled to see Roy and Bennie Gee for one day and had a great time together. They walked around town where they live and you will see a picture of happy faces there!

The Brugmans from Hillsdale MI are doing well at this time. Zach is playing basketball and loving it. Mom RoxAnn keeps busy taxiing all the kids to their activities. David is on the road with the truck driving much of the time but they have learned how to manage and love the times he can be home.

May all the April showers bring beautiful flowers to your life.



Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

I just got done reading about the "Reason Rally" that happened on March 24th at the mall in Washington DC. I find it ironic that this atheist group is so proud to use the word reason in all their promotional releases. I'm personally all for people getting together and reasoning together, but reading highlights of the speeches that were made at the rally none were promoting reason as their response to theistic thought or Christian ethics. In fact, Richard Dawkins, their star speaker, was encouraging people at the rally to use ridicule and show contempt toward religions and religious people. Now that does not sound like the voice of reason to me. I cannot think of any Christian groups no matter how on the fringe would encourage their adherents to ridicule and show contempt for those that disagree. Richard Dawkins also says "the only way you know truth is through science and evidence." Now, that is a way to know truth, but that is not the only way, for instance: How does Richard Dawkins know what he is thinking at any given time? He can't know it through science or evidence. That doesn't make everything that he says false, but it does show he doesn't think through things very carefully.

As the weather is going through its change of life it seems to be going through violent perturbations with a record number of tornados across the country. By the temperatures I think that we skipped spring and went right into summer. An honest weatherman should say, "Today's forecast is bright and sunny with an 80% chance that I'm wrong."

This month started off with celebrating my Dad's 82nd birthday. I think he and my Mom jubilate every day for the whole birthday week. They go restaurant hopping with a copious amount of diverse relatives. As a matter of fact, my siblings and their wives all gathered at a local Mexican restaurant to commemorate this special event. I'm so thankful that Dad is doing so well at 82.

This was the month that we synchronized with the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day to have a pastor exchange. We decided on the topic entitled "A Long Lesson on A Brief Book". It started off with the Church of God Seventh Day congregation joining us at our church with Pastor John Schott teaching and speaking on the book of Jude. He kicked it off with an enlightening study on how the short books of the New Testament tally up in words, verses and chapters. He also touched on the theme of Jude and the Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphal books and how Jude relates to them. Just when we thought Pastor Schott was at his peak he raised the bar with an impassioned sermon on the book of Jude entitled "A Timeless Exhortation"

After our potluck lunch at church we went over to Magnum Nursing Home and had a short but powerful service for the residents there. Elder Moore gave the message and Judy Begeman got to join in on our short worship service.

The week of the 17th Paul Vanderhorst and I switched places. Paul taught and spoke at our church and I did the same at the Church of God Seventh Day. I attempted to teach and speak on the book of Titus while Paul had a lesson on the book of Amos for Sabbath school and his sermon which was named "Self-Righteous, Egotistical People in Occidental Times". I hear his sermon was about the way we can fall into complacency where our life is and we end up accepting the status quo. Instead we should strive for better and accept nothing less than the best.

The week of the 31st we as a church went to the Church of God Seventh Day and had our final pastor exchange with Elder Moore teaching and preaching on the book of Habakkuk. I think he had a leg up on all of us other exchange participants because he had a detailed class on Habakkuk in college so he dusted off some of his notes and shared some in depth instruction. He literally out taught all of us with his right arm tied down. Two weeks before this, Elder Moore had surgery on his right shoulder to remove a bone spur and to clean up some damaged tissue. When he first had it done his pain was quite considerable. I could tell because he would wince every time he blinked. Thankfully with Aurine's obsequiousness his pain has subsided since then. I have a scientific hypothesis that Elder Moore wore out his shoulder from his sermon gesticulations and dramatic arm contortions. This is just a theory.

One of the greatest pleasures in life is doing what people
say you cannot do.

Walter Bagehot

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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Doorbell

Pastor Jim was driving along one day and saw a little boy trying to reach a doorbell. He stopped the car and got out to help the boy. He pressed the doorbell for him and said, "Now what do we do?"

"Now," the boy said, "we run!"

FRIENDS FROM NEAR AND FAR



Elder Begeman, Elder Moore, Pastor VanderHorst, Pastor Schott



A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

Sleeper State Park, Caseville Michigan



Sally Smith, Ethel Johnson, Jane Brown, Kerry Johnson



Bennie & Roy Gee, Sally & Lloyd Smith