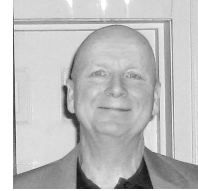


Lo The d Ou Righteousness

What Do You Say?

Elder Charles Moore



invalid at Bethesda (John 5:1-15) points to Jesus as the Father's Coworker. Fourth, Jesus feeding the five

Every time and place has its great spiritual struggles. One of ours today is against the growth of Islam. The Muslim mind thinks that nothing could be more foolish than to believe that God's perfect Son was brutally murdered for the redemption of mankind. Their whole philosophy says, "Our God is too great to die." But long before Mohammad, Greek religion said the same, calling the cross foolishness. And modern liberals agree, their antipathy to the cross is astounding. From the World Counsel of Churches: "One of the most pernicious aspects of Christian teaching has been this imposed theology of sacrifice and suffering." And at the ReImagining Conference, Delores Williams dismissed Christ's atonement altogether: "I don't think we need a theory of atonement at all. I don't think we need folks hanging on crosses and blood dripping and weird stuff... We just need to listen to the god within."

I quote these to remind us of how it offends people that our only hope of life is God's death. People get angry when Jesus insists that the only

thing they bring to salvation is their sin and that they have to depend on His grace. Pastor Glenn Durham writes, "Others may follow a god too great to die. Christians follow a God so great that He died."

We must understand who Jesus is and what he did. **"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in his name."** (John 20.30-31) Jesus' signs insist that He is the living Savior and that this living Savior offers us life.

What are some of the signs? First, Jesus changing water to wine (John 2:1-11) Points to Jesus as the source of all the blessings of God's future (see Isaiah 25:6-8; Jeremiah 31:11-12; Amos 9:13-14) Second, Jesus healing the official's son (John 4:43-54) points to Jesus as the Giver of life. Third, Jesus healing the

thousand (John 6:1-15, 25-69) points to Jesus as the life-giving Bread from heaven. Fifth, Jesus walking on water (John 6:16-21) points to Jesus as the divine I AM. Sixth, Jesus healing the man born blind (John 9:1-41) points to Jesus as the Giver of spiritual sight. Seventh, Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-44). points to Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life. From Holman's Book of Biblical Charts, Maps and Reconstructions

Even Jesus' enemies acknowledge his signs: **John 11:47 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. Our problem never is a lack of proof. No extra evidence would convict these folk, they already agreed with the evidence. They saw the signs. The problem is the hardness of their hearts. Faith in Jesus as the Christ would mean losing position, power and prestige: John 11.48: "If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the**

(Continued on page 2)

FALL RETREAT
AND

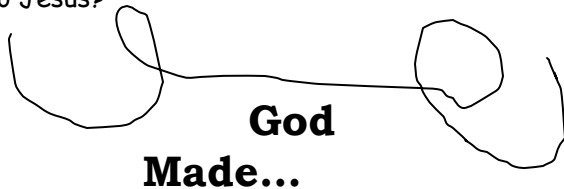
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Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." Though it appears in different forms, the same reasoning keeps people from following Jesus today.

If I talk about Jesus at school, my friends will laugh. If I preach Jesus at work, I might lose my job. If I love Jesus too much, God might take my children to the mission field. If I obey Jesus, I might have to give more money to the church.

What do you fear losing if you follow Jesus too closely? The person of Jesus presses us for a decision. What will you decide? What will you say to Jesus?



God made some children really tall.

God made some children really small.

But no matter what we look like...

I know God loves us all.

God made some children with big blue eyes.

Just like the color of the sky.

But some kids' eyes are green or brown.

With which they sometimes cry.

Some children dance, some children sing.

Some kids are good at juggling.

God gives each child a special gift.

So they can do great things.

I praise my God, for He made me.

The Bible says He did it wonderfully.

You see, I'm different from everyone else.

It shows the world that God loves me.

Cyberspace News Geneva Begeman



Greetings from the outlying folks and all those I have contact with at present. I still hear from so many of you and I do appreciate each note, etc. At youth camp this year I received a beautiful quilt from Sonya Pease as the quilt makers she belongs to give quilts to those who are on chemotherapy for cancer. I can't thank you enough, Sonya. It will keep me warm and help the pain go away!

The new quarters for camp won a lot of folks over, but of course some missed the old place and air conditioning. We were very blessed with beautiful comments about it being the best camp ever. We are still counting our many blessings after 60 plus years of feeding the kids God's Word. We cannot thank Tim and Diane Begeman enough for heading up this big undertaking. Each person's efforts were greatly appreciated.

I got a call from Dorothy Layton's family about birthday celebrations and other happenings. Luke Dorsey is going to Afghanistan for another stay for the government. Please remember him in prayer. Dorothy visits the doctor regularly as many of us seniors do. We need to keep praying for each other.

I hope to be back on my feet soon. Love you all!

Job's Creed

The patriarch Job survived boils, bankruptcy and bereavement and came out with his faith intact. Let's look at the creed he lived by: (1) "I know." When you can say, "I know," you're an exclamation point in a world of question marks. Job didn't say, "I have been told." What he knew about God, he knew through experience and personal revelation. Is such a life possible? Yes, "You have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things" (1Jn 2:20 NKJV). You can "know" things about God in your heart that you can't fully understand or explain. Why? Because they're spiritually discerned. (2) "That my Redeemer lives." Though Christ was not yet born, Job caught a glimpse of our pre-existent Redeemer whom Scripture describes as "the Ancient of Days" (Da 7:22 NKJV); the One Micah referred to "whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting" (Mi 5:2 NKJV). He existed before He was born, and He outlived His pallbearers. Paul says, "He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2Co 8:9 NKJV). (3) "And that he shall stand at last on the earth." Job saw what Zechariah the prophet saw: "In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives" (Zec 14:4 NKJV). The truth is, the first time Jesus came, He came to save. The next time He comes, He comes to reign. His first coming was to be our Redeemer; His second coming is to usher in His rule as King of Kings. "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Tit 2:13 NKJV).



Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

July was a very busy month for our little church. Not only do we all have to keep up with the weekly church obligations such as praying, proclaiming, proselytizing, pasturing, professing, pontificating, parochializing and preaching we had to assiduously prepare for our annual youth camp.

The month began with my wife Diane constantly on the phone drumming up potential staff and carefully checking references and backgrounds, assuring camper's parents that their children will be safe and secure for the week, among a hundred other things. After all the anxiety and over thinking about our new camp setting, camp started on the seventh. We ended up starting camp with 65 children with ages ranging from seven to seventeen. Each day of Camp started out with a devotion time more than capably presented by Lloyd Smith. He focused on creation and how God is the best explanation for the start of everything we see around us. This time and all spiritual meetings was garnished with devotional songs accompanied by the camp band that consisted of Kay Nevil, and Carter Jackson on piano, Tera Woolley on drums, Lloyd Smith on tambourine, Sonya Pease and Daniel Sottile on violin, all cadenced by the vocalizations of Kathy Smeltzer, Sally Smith and Jim Nevil. These songs embedded the gospel message and a spiritual melody in the hearts and heads of each camper.

This was followed by a hardy breakfast prepared by Jeff Begeman, Dave and Terrie Fedor, Mary Begeman, Gemma Begeman, Sally Smeltzer, Lynn Vaughn, Tisha Begeman and Kristen Vaughn. After breakfast was done our cleanup crew took over with the help of a computer pick of random campers. The cleanup crew consisted of Cole Cousino, Alex Eckles, Brian Begeman, Dylan Bemus and Michael Eckles.

Our Bible, nature and craft classes were next. The Bible classes were taught by Rob Vaughn, Joe Smeltzer, Kathy Smeltzer, and Kay Nevil. The nature classes were taught by Jenna Boyd, Abby Silvestri Begeman and Sara Suarez. Crafts were headed up by Rachel Sottile and helped by her son Daniel, also helped by her sister Laurie Eckles, Diane Begeman taught basket weaving to those children brave enough to test their cognitive skills and digital dexterity. Meanwhile, the children of the staff that are under camper age were taken care of by Sally Smith, Teresa Jackson, Cheryl Lentner and Jamie Johnson. We continued the day with sports conducted with a lot of inventive games that ranged from gaga ball to birthday dodge ball by my daughter-in-law Abby Silvestri Begeman and Brian Begeman. Swimming was headed by Brian Begeman and helped by numerous other staff members.

Vespers was headed up by myself and Elder Moore, I focused on reasons to know that Christianity is true by reason and evidence, and Elder Moore focused presenting a clear invitation of the gospel. The final thing was campfire which was orchestrated by Mike Begeman. He, along with the campers kept all of us highly entertained with hand tooled jokes, skits and songs. My Mom, Geneva Begeman had to continue to recover from her bout with cancer instead of helping at camp this year. This was the first year that I know of since she herself was a camper that she was unable to lend a hand. She could not stay away though, her and Dad, Dale Begeman, hung out in the mess hall and yelled out advice whenever it was appropriate.

The day after our camp ended we had a wrap up and thanksgiving meeting to celebrate a successful camp. Immediately following that we had our bimonthly visit to the Magnum Nursing Home joined by the Church of God Seventh Day. We also had the help of the Echoes of Happiness who blessed the residents with their music.

If you can't return a favor,
Pass it on.
-Louise Brown-

CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Practice What You Preach

1554

_____ Date

After receiving a lecture from my boss about paying attention to details, I decided to see if he practiced what he preached. When I prepared the payroll checks for the next pay period, I added two extra zeros to mine. Then I brought the batch in for his signature. I stood at his desk as time and again he wrote his name with a flourish -
"Tom A. Grandel."

_____ Dollars

When he finished, he gave me the checks to distribute. Soon afterward, I opened mine. On the signature line, in my boss's elegant handwriting, was
"Try And Getit."

Memo _____