

Christian



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Contact the Editor at
jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net
or P. O. Box 33134,
Amarillo, TX 79120



From the PASTOR'S DESK

“The steps of faith fall on the seeming
void,
But find the rock beneath.”

— Whittier.

Howdy All,

A curious thing happens as I grow older; it seems that I am growing more ignorant. Why? Because when I graduated from college, I knew everything, but alas, now I find myself all too often admitting that “I don’t know.” In our pragmatism, we feel we must have all the answers, all the truth, all knowledge and understanding, but it is true wisdom to find and admit that we do not have all the answers we so earnestly seek and that’s OKAY!

The scriptures advise us that there are indeed mysteries... mysteries of God that we ponder. The Apostle Paul recognized this when he wrote to the Christians in ancient Corinth.

1 Cor 13:9 *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.* KJV.

According to Webster’s dictionary a mystery is: 1) *a religious truth known by revelation alone* 2) *something not understood or beyond understanding.*

Mysteries refuse to be defined, confined, explained or dismissed. |Interior Pg►

Special points of interest:

- *Mysteries finally Revealed*
- *Guest Column: Colson*
- *Charting your Course*
- *Our sermons broadcast on KGRO Radio 9:05 AM Sunday. www.pan-tex.net*

Our Home Page:
www.christianchurchofgod.org

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THERE'S A LIGHTHOUSE ON A HILLSIDE

that overlooks life's sea;
 When I'm tossed He sends out a
 light,
 light that I might see.
 And the light that shines in dark-
 ness now
 Will safely lead me on;
 If it wasn't for the lighthouse
 This ship would sail no more.
 Oh I thank God for the lighthouse;
 I owe my life to Him.
 King Jesus is the lighthouse
 Upon the rocks of sin.
 He has shone a light around me
 That I could clearly see;
 If it wasn't for the lighthouse
 Then where would this ship be?
 Everybody that lives around us
 says "Tear the lighthouse down
 You know the big ships
 they don't sail by this way no more
 so what's the use of it standing 'round?"
 Ahh, but then my mind goes way on back
 to that stormy night, when just in time . . . oh thank God I saw the light.
 T'was the light from that old lighthouse that still stands up there on a hill.
 Oh I thank God for the lighthouse;
 I owe my life to Him.
 King Jesus is the lighthouse
 Upon the rocks of sin;
 He has shone a light around me
 That I could clearly see.
 If it wasn't for the lighthouse



Then where would this ship be?

~ Ronnie Hinson 1971



{Do a web search, The Lighthouse, and listen to several musical renditions of this song.}

PRAYER REQUESTS: “. . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up: . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed.” — James 5:15-16.



Angela Bailes: Severe heart problems & is pregnant. Doctors want to take the baby early.
Laurie Borggreve: Daughter of Sharon & Terry Anderson delivered a baby girl 3 months premature. The baby will be in ICU for 3 months – please pray that she develops healthy.
Amber & Dylan Clark: Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.
Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.
Leah Cryer: Underwent surgery for removal of malignant colon tumor.
DeAnne DeLuna: Larry Lyles’ stepdaughter, breast cancer.
Velvet Green: Gary’s wife, schizophrenia.
Randy Gnessett: Friend of Candace Seller, pulmonary hypertension, improved but still awaiting a lung transplant.
Sheri Bartlett: Julia McKinney’s daughter, having serious health problems.
Dollie Meil: Cerebral palsy.
Tovayah Nelms: Pray for mothers carrying babies with anencephaly.
Patton Pugh: Grandson of Bonnie Cryer, lungs & bones not fully developed; suspect hormone problem.
Glenda Rankin: Niece of Rudolph, Hodgkin’s Lymphoma.
Ted Rankin: Had surgery for herniated disks, slow recovery.
Kathryn Scott: Friend of the Baileys; severe MS, losing use of arms and swallowing ability.
Audrey Strahl: Jeff’s mother, congestive heart failure.
Beverly Wertz: Juvenile arthritis (and hip replacement) in remission for years, now reoccurring in knees, hips, wrist and shoulders. Sometimes happens after giving birth.
Bob Wertz: Achalasia, a disorder of the esophagus.
De’Anne DeLuna: Larry Lyles’ oldest stepdaughter. Diagnosed with very aggressive breast cancer involving the lymph nodes.

Rejoice with those
 who rejoice; mourn

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

Merle Vines	02/08
Candace Sellers	02/13
Katie McClenagan	02/27

Anniversaries:

Henry & Virginia Sellers	02/14
Pete & Anita Sosa	02/17

God brings no man

into the conflicts of life to desert him. Every man has a Friend in Heaven whose resources are unlimited; and on Him he may call at any hour and find sympathy and assistance.

—Morris (*Leaves of Gold*)

Christian Church of God

PRAISE THE
LORD. PRAISE
GOD IN HIS SANC-
TUARY;



PRAISE HIM IN HIS
MIGHTY HEAVENS.
PSALM 150:1

"The church is not a gallery for the exhibition of eminent Christians, but a school for the education of imperfect ones." —Henry Ward Beecher
"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
—Jesus, Matthew 18:20
"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
—Hebrews 10:25

Christian
Church of

CHART YOUR
COURSE



BY FAITH

Faith or Foolishness?

A FRIEND OF MINE ONCE stated: "There's a fine line between faith and foolishness." That self-made proverb struck home with me. Since then I have pondered how close we come to "tempting God" by trying to force faith for God's deliverance.

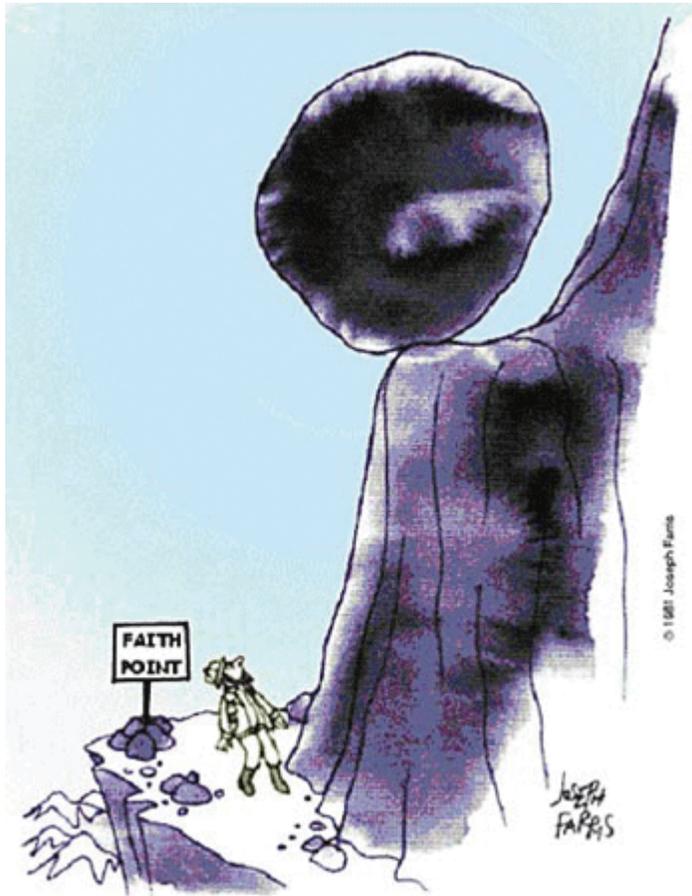
In His face-off with Satan, Jesus gave a stern rebuttal to one of the temptations put before Him (that of throwing Himself off of the top of the Temple with the "assurance" that His Father would not allow Him to be killed): "It is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test' (Luke 4:12, NIV)."

Yet, we are instructed to have faith, and that "without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:6, NIV).

There is no doubt (pun intended!) that we need more faith, stronger faith, improved faith. Not a "forced" faith, not a conjured up faith—which isn't really faith. But a faith that flows from a heart and mind tuned to God through His inspired Word. A faith that can only come about by the study and assimilation of God's Word as the basis and stimulus of that faith. "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17, NIV). Satan used Scripture to tempt Jesus; by the same token Jesus used Scripture (albeit with honesty and understanding) to resist Satan.

Does the comic strip (below) illustrate the abysmal lack of Bible knowledge in many people? The Peanuts humor reminds me of the song "... don't know much about geometry. . ."

The truth is, that charting one's course by faith requires the Holy Scripture. "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the faith and correcting error, for resetting the direction of a man's life and training in good living" (1 Timothy 3:16, JBP). ~ JDM



Peanuts for Life Peanuts for Life



Mysteries are strange and curious.

From the PASTOR'S DESK

Life is a mystery, just witness the debate over creation or intelligent design vs. evolution; is life by accident and chance or design and purpose?

Death is a mystery; we ponder the questions of life after death, the how, the when, the why, even the where.

The incarnation: how could God put on flesh and dwell among men and how could He die? The resurrection of Jesus after three days in the tomb is a mystery; how did God do that?

And how mysterious is the grace of God, shed upon us each of us in our iniquity? While we experience and enjoy the mysterious gift of grace, we cannot clearly and fully explain it for it is indefinable.

Jesus Himself speaks of the mystery that is the Kingdom— when, how, what?

Paul speaks of the mystery of the Gospel, the mystery of the wisdom of God, the mystery of God's will, faith, godliness and even the mystery of Christ. While there is so much that we can see, know and say about Jesus Christ, there is so much more that we must admit is a mystery, impossible to quantify and define in mortal terms. Indeed, we see through a glass darkly trying to comprehend the things of God. In Revelation 10:7, John through his vision foretells the day when the mystery shall be finished, concluded... a mystery no more. Faith is the substance of that which we cannot define and the day is coming when the fruit of our faith shall be borne. For now, we accept that God knows what He's doing and we look forward to seeing with the eyes of God in the fulfillment of the mystery of the Kingdom!

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.* NKJV

Thy Kingdom Come,
Jeff Booth

A More Excellent Way

by Charles Colson with Anne Morse
Christianity Today online 01/23/2006 | Excerpts

I was recently reminded of the old adage that only your best friends tell you when your breath smells.

Shortly after President Bush announced Samuel Alito's nomination, a senior U.S. senator sympathetic to Christian causes called me. "I know this will sound strange," he began, "but could you get some of your conservative religious friends to downplay their support for Judge Alito?" . . . This kind of talk could kill Alito's chances, the senator warned. . . . which tells us that media-driven stereotypes about the Religious Right have stuck. . . . Whether the stereotypes are fair or not, though, it's time to take some of the criticism to heart. . . . To seek political victories in [a] heavy-handed way is not only a bad witness; it's also unwise. Ultimately, we need both political victories and cultural support.

To change the culture, therefore, we must learn how to engage the political process more win- somely. It will require a different mindset. We'll need to recognize that we're appealing to hearts and minds, not twisting arms. In fact as well as in appearance, [as] we are not seeking to im- pose, but rather to propose. We're not demand- ing something for ourselves; we are inviting a hungry and needy world to come to Christ and find goodness and fullness of life. . . .

This means, first, loving those we contend against in the political process. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Whom you would change, you must first love." Some Christian leaders do get this.

Second, we offer our strongest witness when we demonstrate that we do love others . . . When the world sees us working for human rights, we earn moral authority that blunts the "imposing your morality" attacks in the public square. . . . But we must remember as we do this that we are proposing a more excellent way to a needy society, and that we do so in love, no matter how much abuse is heaped upon us.

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