

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — NOVEMBER 2014



We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ plus nothing. His precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. The salvation of the ill-deserving sinner is based on the finished work of Jesus Christ, who became the sinner's substitute before God and died a provisionary sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Change is something that we all need in our lives to help us grow and develop. We resist change because we do not like things to change so we want our life to be quite but some of the best times we can be used to develop is when there is not much going on in our life.

Sometimes we are waiting on things to get bad enough that we will make some spiritual strides to change or maybe we are waiting for things to get a lot better so we can just praise God for what He is doing and others will join the fight. But really God can change us right where we find ourselves today. What I mean by this is we don't have to wait for our situation to change for God to improve us but we can improve today with His help.

Our biggest problem is when things are not going wrong in our life or when things are especially great these are the times when we run the risk of becoming self-confident. What we need to see is the need for improvement. If I decide I am weak in any

area of my life and I evaluate that area honestly that will not change my weakness. There is a vast difference in knowing I need to change and actually making a decision to change.

After I make that decision that I want to change I must make a plan to change. If I want to be better spiritually there are two major things that I must improve on, first my prayer life. The more power I think I need the more I need to call upon the Lord. Second I need to improve on my personal study time. If I need to know how to change I need to know what the Bible says about me and about my God.

The last part of this formula is to implement the plan to change. I can know I need to change, I can know what I need to change and I can make a decision to change but I must put the plan to change into motion. The bottom line is I must get started with my plan and I must be diligent in my commitment to change.

Pastor Marty

R. Keith Parks offers this excellent definition or description of missions (*World in View*, [Birmingham: New Hope, 1987], p. 16): "Missions is God's redemption proclaimed through persons to all people. The source is God. Its embodiment is Jesus Christ. Its story is the Bible. Its purpose is

salvation. Its scope is humanity. Its declaration is the believer's mandate. Its fulfillment is the church's task. Its application is the world's hope. Its culmination is God's glory."

Herschel H. Hobbs, *My Favorite Illustrations* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1990), 184.

TRUST AND OBEY

And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 1 Samuel 15:22

This favorite gospel hymn has long been cited as a choice example of a balanced biblical view of a believer's faith in Christ and the resultant good works that should then be evident. We begin with implicit trust in His, finished redemptive work and then spend our lives seeking to obey Him and to fulfil His revealed will in our daily living. Evangelist D. L. Moody once gave this formula for successful Christian living:

The blood alone makes us safe—

The Word alone makes us sure—

But obedience alone makes us happy.

The inspiration for this hymn came, in 1886, during an occasion when Daniel B. Towner was leading music for Mr. Moody in Brockton, Massachusetts. Towner, the composer, has left the following account:

Mr. Moody was conducting a series of meetings in Brockton, Massachusetts, and I had the pleasure of singing for him there. One night a young man rose in a testimony meeting and said, "I am not quite sure—but I am going to trust, and I am going to obey." I just jotted that sentence down, and sent it with the little story to the Rev. J. H. Sammis, a Presbyterian minister. He wrote the hymn, and the tune was born.

Upon receiving Mr. Towner's request, Mr. Sammis first composed the familiar lines of the refrain:

Trust and obey—for there's no other way

To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

These lines became the capsule thought for the verses, which he then developed in the present five stanzas, detailing more fully the various areas of life that a believer must commit to the Lord, in order to be truly happy. The text with this tune first appeared in the collection, *Hymns Old and New*, published by the Revell Company, in 1887. It has been a favorite with God's people to the present time and has been translated into many foreign languages.

The author, John H. Sammis, was born on July 6, 1846, in Brooklyn, New York. At the age of twenty-three, he moved to Logansport, Indiana, where he became a successful business man and an active Christian layman. Later, he gave up his business in-

terests to serve as a Y.M.C.A. secretary. Soon he felt called of God to enter the full-time Christian ministry. He attended McCormick and Lane Theological Seminaries, graduating from the latter, in 1881. Following his ordination to the Presbyterian denomination, Sammis pastored churches in Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Indiana. In 1901, John Sammis moved to California to become a faculty member of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Here he died on June 12, 1919, having completed a lifetime of fruitful Christian service.

The composer, Daniel Brink Towner, was one who exerted a strong influence upon evangelical church music, both with his own compositions as well as in the training of other church music leaders. In 1890, Dwight L. Moody founded the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, for the express purpose of training evangelists and song leaders to carry on the work he had begun. Three years later, Towner was personally chosen by Mr. Moody to become the first head of the Music Department at the school, a position he had until his death, in 1919. Daniel B. Towner is credited with more than 2,000 published songs, including such gospel favorites as "At Calvary," "Grace Greater Than Our Sin," "Saved by the Blood," "Nor Silver Nor Gold," "My Anchor Holds," "Anywhere With Jesus," and "Only a Sinner." In addition to his own gospel compositions, Mr. Towner was also associated with the publication of fourteen collections and hymnals as well as various textbooks on music theory and practice. As a teacher, he trained such notable musicians as Charles M. Alexander, Harry Dixon Loes, Homer Hammontree, H. E. Tovey, George S. Schuler, and many others. Daniel B. Towner's death occurred on October 3, 1919, no doubt as he would have desired it, while leading the music in an evangelistic meeting in Longwood, Missouri.¹

But we never can prove

the delights of His love

Until all on the altar we lay

For the favor He shows

and the joy He bestows

Are for them who will trust and obey

¹ Kenneth W. Osbeck, *101 More Hymn Stories* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1985), 291–292.

ANTI-MISSIONS IS ANTI-BIBLE

The teacher of a men's class in a Baptist church in a North Alabama city was invited to teach the men's class in a nearby country church. He knew the regular teacher of this class was strongly anti-missionary. It happened that the lesson for that Sunday was on foreign missions. The visiting teacher did not want to offend the regular teacher or get into an argument with him during the lesson.

To avoid both the guest began in Genesis and went through the Bible making a list of missionary

verses. Before teaching, he asked the regular teacher to read the verses without comment.

After reading several of the verses, he stopped. Then he spoke to the class. "I just declar' before goodness, the fudder you go the worsen it gits!"

This will be the experience of anyone who tries to make a case against missions from the Bible

Herschel H. Hobbs, *My Favorite Illustrations* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1990), 185.

D L MOODY ANECDOTES

The hardest thing, I will admit, ever a man had to do is to become a Christian, and yet it is the easiest. This seems to many to be a paradox, but I will repeat it, it is the most difficult thing to become a Christian, and yet it is the easiest. I have a little nephew in this city. When he was about three or four years of age, he threw that Bible on the floor. I think a good deal of that Bible, and I don't like to see this. His mother said to him, "Go pick up uncle's Bible from the floor." "I won't," he replied. "Go and pick up that Bible directly." "I won't." "What did you say?" asked his mother. She thought he didn't understand. But he understood well enough, and had made up his mind that he wouldn't. She told the boy she would have to punish him if he didn't, and then he said he couldn't, and by and by he said he didn't want to. And that is the way with people in coming to Christ. At first they say they won't, then they can't, and then they don't want to. The mother insisted upon the boy picking up the Bible, and he got down and put his arms around it and pretended he couldn't lift it. He was a great, healthy boy, and he could have picked it up easily enough. I

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was very anxious to see the fight carried on because she was a young mother, and if she didn't break that boy's will he was going to break her heart by and by. So she told him again if he didn't pick it up she would punish him, and the child just picked it up. It was very easy to do it when he made up his mind. So it is perfectly easy for men to accept the gospel. The trouble is they don't want to give up their will. If you want to be saved you must just accept that gospel—

that Christ is your Saviour, that he is your Redeemer, and that he has rescued you from the curse of the law. Just say "Lord Jesus Christ, I trust you from this hour to save me," and the moment you take that

stand he will put his loving arms around you and wrap about you the robe of righteousness.

D. L. Moody, *Anecdotes and Illustrations of D. L. Moody Related by Him in His Revival Work*, ed. J. B. McClure (Chicago: Rhodes & McClure, 1878), 92–93



ANNIVERSARIES

David & Anne Coble 29 November



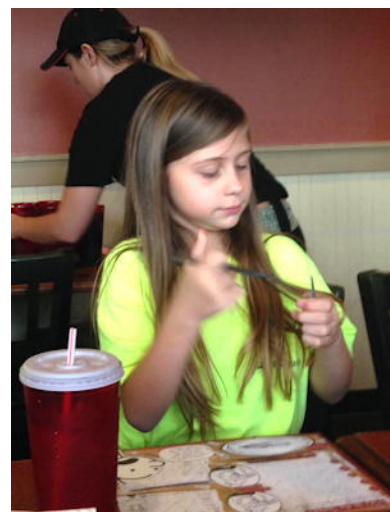
BIRTHDAYS

Ethan Bell	05 November
Chey Bell	07 November
Hunter Owens	08 November
Will Owens	27 November
Selah Azurdia	30 November

COVERED DISH—OCTOBER 12, 2014



BOWLING NIGHT OCTOBER 11, 2011



TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 31, 2014

