



# The PARAKLETE

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## WHO IS CAUSING THE CONFUSION

I used to know how to think or talk, but according to the media, government, and most people who possess influence, I don't any more. I used to think that "gay" was being cheerful, but now I find it means what we used to call perversion. I was taught to use the word "sin" to define acts against God's will, but now I am discouraged to use the word because it is "hate speech."

People who went on repeated drunks were called "drunkards," but now I'm told that is a disease called alcoholism. I used to think a disease was something that invaded a person's body, but now I'm told you can "catch" it by opening a bottle and putting it to your lips...too often.

I'm so confused; it's hard to know what to say or how to think. I used to think that anger was an emotion that we must keep under control, but I now learn that it can overwhelm us as we drive and comes in the form of "road rage."

When I was young, parents disciplined children with a paddle, a switch, or their hands. But now they call that "child abuse." Today they say if children are allowed to do as they please, they will turn out good. They say spanking creates a violent nature yet statistics show the opposite behavior...but these facts don't matter, I guess.

Apparently Solomon didn't know what he was talking about when he said, "*He who spares the rod hates his son,*" Prov. 13:24. I thought he got his information from God. Oh, well...we have psychiatrists to help us understand life in these later times.

When I was very young, say two or three years old, I knew that mothers, grandmothers, sisters and aunts were women and those who weren't were men. However, people in high places are saying we are not even supposed to use words like "he," "she," "him," and "her," because it might be offensive to someone who is not sure of what I knew at age 2. When I was a boy (oops, sorry about noun) I mean

lad, oops, sorry again, just a bad habit, I mean a young "it," I used to cut grass for spending money, but now we know better and grass is smoked and I am now wrong when using the word "pot" for things mother kept in the kitchen.



Back to that "hate speech" thing, how can those in authority deduce that we are being hateful when we are trying to pointing out that some things have very harmful results to them and even to their loved ones?

Another thing, this LGBTQIA thing stands for behaviors that are purely immoral and offensive to our Creator. Yet, we are encouraged to embrace each and look upon them as normal. Sometimes I wonder, "What has this world come to, who is responsible for this horrid and twisted thinking?"

Not only has the world become openly opposed to God but the church has helped by omitted preaching on accountability, punishment and hell. I hope you are not offended by that last word.

At an age when I thought maybe I'd understand more, I find that much of what I was taught in grade school and high school was wrong. In some of my secular college classes I began to see "solid truths" challenged and students being encouraged to worship at the shrine of education. But that was not as openly encouraged then as it is now.

However, went the thought that godliness was losing, I recalled, "*What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? Not at all! Let God be true and every man a liar.*" Romans 3:3. Right is still right!

The phrase, "*every man a liar*" made me ask, "Who is the author of these lies?" In John 8:44 Jesus speaking to the unbelieving Pharisees said, "*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and that father of lies.*"

## WHO IS CAUSING THE CONFUSION?

I want to encourage you that Christians still win, and I have read that in back of The Book. I want to also remind you that the world's "common sense" is not godly sense. That comes from the Bible and we must reject the lies of Satan and his disciples.

When we are told there are "transgender people" that too is a lie. People are not transformed from men to women they are only made to appear to have transformed. They are men with lipstick and a dress, or women with short hair and men's clothing.

Homosexuality is still a sin and an "*offense to God.*" 1 Cor. 6:9, drunkenness is still condemned, Eph. 5:18, and uncontrolled anger comes from fools, Prov. 29:11.

Spanking is still effective and Solomon was right when he said of children, "*Lack of discipline kills,*" and they are "*led astray by their own great folly,*" and may lead to poverty, Prov. 5:13, 13:18.

The voice of God tells us sex (of any kind) outside of marriage is sin and we should "flee" from it, 1 Cor. 6:18, and there should be no "*hint of sexual immorality,*" Eph. 5:3. The LGBTQIA movement is from the mind of Satan and is intended to pervert male/female relationships in every possible way and to confuse the world.

Public organizations, colleges, NEA, many of them are government funded establishments, have been taken over by non-believers who support sexually immoral agendas.

Satan does not respect the name Christian and has even risen up those who call themselves by that name to embrace these perversions.

The Apostle Paul's words for the early church were, "*For I know that after my departure, dreadful wolves will enter among you, not sparing the flock. Even from among you men will rise up speaking perverse things, to draw the disciples away after them,*" Acts 20:29:30.

As Christians we have been given a fort to hold and that fort is truth. Why has Satan put so much effort into these perversions? Because he wants to disqualify as many people as he can from entering into the "joy of Lord." He even tried to cause our Lord to stray, Matthew 4.

The "good fight" Paul spoke of is to resist of the Devil's perversions and to "*take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of witnesses,*" 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:12.

The reason some like darkness rather than light is because their deeds are evil, John 3:19.

## BARNABAS PREACHERS' SCHEDULES

**Denny Coburn - Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929**

Has no schedule for January and February 2024

**Danny Evans, Associate. - Huntington, WV 304/633-5908.** Danny preaches often at congregations in his area when needed as a supply preacher. He is available when needed.

## WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

History records a story of a soldier who was reported to Alexander the Great as having shown cowardice on one particular occasion. When the soldier appeared before Alexander, he asked him his name. On hearing that it was Alexander, he was scolded for his dishonor that he had brought on that name, and ordered him to either change his name or act differently. It would be better for the cause of Christ to have better behaved Christians or that those not reflecting well on Him to cease to give the name "Christian" as who they were.

## MINI THOUGHTS

**You never get busy signals when you want to talk to God, and in this modern time it's good to know there are no dropped calls.**

**Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile.**

**Courage isn't being so big that you're not afraid...it's trying when you are afraid.**

**It seems like just yesterday that New Year's Day was here; but here we are again beginning another new year.**

## MEMORIAL GIFT

Sam and Kay Steiner gave a special donation to Barnabas Ministries in remembrance of Maurice Steiner, Sam's father. Maurice spent 101 years on earth and used his years to honor the Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks to Sam and Kay as well Maurice. He was a regular WWW attender.

## A WORD FROM BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

"I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth...that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall on the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can't rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel; our project will be confounded and we ourselves shall become a reproach and a byword down to future ages." Let's not forget the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14.

## DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY

### Something Light Hearted:

What should a farmer give his wife for New Years? Hogs and kisses.

"Knock, knock." "Who's there?" "Radio." "Radio who?" "Radio not, it's a New Year."

### NEW VS OLD

### OLD VS NEW

### YES, IT IS A NEW YEAR!!

**New as an adjective:** Recently made, or created.

**Old as an adjective:** Of an object, concept, relationship, etc., having existed for a relatively long period of time.

As a person who has gone through many years of life, I understand old a lot better than I once did. One of the definitions of the word old said this: "**Of a living being, having lived for most of the expected years**". We can look at a lot of statistics and talk a long time about life expectancy but that is far from what the purpose of this article is about.

We are in a new year (not sure when you will receive this) and we have just finished the old year. My question is this, at what time does the new year become an old year? I know that is a very loaded question but when does the new year turn into the old year? Is it January 2<sup>nd</sup> or maybe the first of February? We call January 1<sup>st</sup> a new year but if you stop and think the "new" year is set up exactly like the old year. The only thing that makes it new is how you approach it. Alex Morritt said this, "New year — a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately we write it. The choice is ours". Robin Sharma looked at it this way, "Don't live the same year 75 times and call it a life". We can't live the exact carbon copy of last year and expect our lives to be new or changed. Flipping the page on a calendar won't change a thing without a change of heart and spirit. **Romans 12:2** is very sincere in the instructions Paul gives to the Romans, "**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**" If our "New

Year" is to be truly new, we have to do some transforming and renewing.

The word renewing or renewal here is an action noun describing a continuing renewal. In **2 Corinthians 4:16** it says, '**Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.**' It takes determination and action daily. There is no magic fairy dust on January 1<sup>st</sup> that causes us to have a new life physically or spiritually. But we also have to realize that if we don't change some things in our life then nothing changes.

Where is God in all of this newness? Maybe we can gain great encouragement by listening to David as he confesses to God after he sinned with Bathsheba. **Psalm 51: 10** "**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.** How can God do that? By you surrendering your life to Him totally. You will not change your life by yourself. I may be totally wrong, but if you were going to change your life for God you would have already done it. Remember what David says, "renew a steadfast spirit". Steadfast means, "fixed in purpose, direction and resolution." Other definitions included "unwavering" and "fixed in place." Maybe this should be our prayer as we confess our sins to the Father; we should ask Him to give us a steadfast spirit.

Maybe this is a commercial or advertisement but I think you can gain a strengthening and encouragement by coming to **Winter Worship and Workshop in Pigeon Forge**. This is a gathering of the body of Christ to help us in our spiritual journey. It is a time of inner spiritual strengthening. Our program is designed to have preachers and singers come in to share God's Word with us. It is a time to see others who may need strengthening and fellowship. If you have never attended you should come and let the Spirit renew you spiritually.

May this new year be a great experience for you and may we work together to strengthen the Kingdom!!

**Danny Evans is an associate and trustee  
with Barnabas Ministries**

# I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

Sermon by Denny

TEXT: John 14:5-6

INTRO: There are many things about Christianity that offends some people, but the chief offense is it's Founder, Jesus Christ. He offended those of the first century by His claims, and He does the same today. That's why when religion is excluded from schools, colleges and public events. It's usually only Christianity that is excluded. Some try to lump all beliefs together in the hopes that it will reduce the statements Jesus made about Himself. Ever wonder why that is? There are at least five reasons and one invitation.

## I. EXCLUSIVENESS OF HIS STATEMENTS

### A. THE OFFENSE OF BEING ONE WAY

Jesus sates His supreme authority over all things.

1. "I am the bread of life," John 6:36
2. "I am the light of the world," John 8:12, 9:5
3. "I am the door," John 10:7, 9
4. "I am the Good Shepherd." John 10:11, 14
5. "I am the resurrection and the life, John 11:25

### B. THE DEFINATE ARTICLE

1. He said "the" as in only not "a"
2. Exclusiveness of others should not be offensive
3. He's the only One who can bring us:
  - a. Communion with God the Father.
  - b. The truth from the Father.
  - c. Salvation and a spiritual life
4. "The" is limiting and offends the arrogant.

## II. IT'S ALL JESUS

That is the point we can't miss. He meets us at all levels.

### A. FOUR QUESTIONS ASKED OF HIM

1. Where are you going, Peter in John 13:36.
2. How can we know, Thomas in John 14:5
3. Show us the Father, Philip in John 14:8
4. Why show us and not the world, Jude, John 14:22

### B. FOUR QUESTIONS ONE ANSWER

1. To Peter - Later you'll understand, follow Me.
2. To Thomas - I am the way.
3. To Philip - If you see me you've seen the Father.
4. To Jude - The Spirit will dwell in you later'

In all of these He is showing that all things are in Him.

## III. THE WAY OF RECONCILIATION

### A. RECONCILED BY HIS SUBSTITUING HIMSELF

1. Sin "as far as east is from the west," Psa. 103:12
2. They are "behind God's back," Isa. 38:7
3. They are "in the depths of the sea., Mic. 7:19
4. They are "forgiven," Col. 2:13
5. They are "forgotten," Heb.10:17

### B. HE HAS REMOVED THE POWER OF SIN

1. He didn't say, "reform," He paid the price
2. He satisfied the justice of God.
3. He dealt with us in mercy, not the Law.

## IV. THE TRUTH REVEALED

### A. BY ILLUMINATION

1. He didn't say "I will tell you the truth."
2. He didn't say, "I will point to the truth."
3. He said, "I am the truth," "The Father and I are one," John 10:30.
4. He said, "If you've seen me you have seen the Father," verse 9

### B. BY A PERSON NOT JUST A MESSAGE

1. Not an impersonal "force" in the universe.
2. Not an abstract Law of matter and motion.
3. Not by some phenomena
4. By a Holy God who hates evil and loves mercy.
5. John 3:16 - He "so loved - he gave.

CONCLUSIONS: Jesus died making "The way." He told "The truth" as well as being the Truth. He arose from the dead to

become "The Life." Now what is offensive about all of that? To the humble, there is nothing offensive about it, but to the arrogant and proud, it is very offensive. We are told that God resists the proud but He gives grace to the humble. So if Jesus is offensive to some, then that is offensive to the Father because His gift of love and kindness is being rejected. Why would men reject this gift? The answer is in John 3:19, "This is the verdict: light has come in to the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."

## I DON'T BELIEVE I WOULD HAVE SAID THAT

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." Clarence Darrow, who was a lawyer in the Scoops Money Trial defending the teaching of evolution in schools.

"He has never been known to use a word the might send a reader to the dictionary." William Faulkner, a writer and a womanizer, who was speaking in reference to Ernest Hemingway.

"Poor Faulkner, does he really think big emotion comes from big words?" Ernest Hemingway speaking of William Faulkner.

**Sometimes we speak without thinking and then sometimes we spend too much time thinking wrong.**

## FOOTBALL CHRISTIANITY

**Quarterback sneak:** People who quietly exit as soon as communion service is over, about 1/4 of the way through the whole worship service.

**Draft choice:** Selecting a seat near the door.

**Draw play:** People who used the bulletins to draw pictures during the sermon.

**Benchwarmer:** Those who participate with merely attending but not participating.

**Fumble:** Dropping a hymnal or a Bible during the preacher's sermon.

**Backfield in motion:** Making way too many trips to the rear of the building, or out the back door during the sermon.

**Sudden death:** When the preacher goes 10 minutes past noon.

**Blitz:** The stampede for the doors at the end of the service.

## A POEM WITH SERIOUS THOUGHT

I hear soldiers talking as they came down the hill  
The somber hill of Calvary, bleak and black and still  
One said, "The night is late thieves take long to die."  
The other said, "I'm afraid and yet I know not why."  
I heard two women weeping as down they came.  
One was like a broken rose, and one like a flame.  
One spoke, "Men will rue the deed they have done."  
The other said sadly through her tears  
"My son, My son, My son!"

I heard two angels singing, the dawn was bright  
They were in shining robes, their crown of light  
One sang, "Death has slain and with golden voice  
'Love has conquered all, make Christ your choice.'"

# BARN-a-book (a Barnabas Ministries study series)

## A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

### Study Number One Hundred Thirty Two – Some Principles of Encouragement

In the past editions of BARN-A-BOOK I have shared my thoughts on some passages of Scriptures that deal with the subject of encouragement. In this paper I would like to just share some random thoughts about encouragement as well as discouragement that can't be cured by medication, alcohol or any human activity. It may be true that those things may cover the symptom of discouragement, or give one a temporary boldness, but they are not cures.

Discouragement is an attack of Satan who uses discouragement to draw individuals away from God. I believe the Lord has provided ways to fight back against the Devil and perhaps in the process you will become able to share the gift of encouragement with people around you that you meet every day. This is not a systematic study on the subject but the principles will assist you and prepare you to help others.

- Your past and present do not have to and need not continue into your future. A man was asked, "Have you lived here all your life?" To which he replied, "Not yet." Whatever reality that is happening in your life today does not have to be the reality tomorrow. If you are burdened by a load of guilt, hurt, or anger, you can receive forgiveness. Don't wallow in the mud puddle of confusion. God is full of compassion, wisdom and guidance. Spend time and conversation with Christian friends.
- God's love is unconditional and absolute. While it is true that salvation and blessings come from surrender to the will of God and obedience to the Gospel, God loves sinners without condition and His love is complete. If there is one place on earth we should all feel at rest and peace it is home. It is there we know we are accepted and loved and there should be no dread in returning there if we have wandered away. Though some homes do not provide this peace and protection, God always does. He loves you because He created you and because He chooses to love you, now and every moment of your life. *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us,"* Romans 8:35, 37.
- No matter what sin you have committed, you can be cleansed by God. No matter how much guilt and shame you feel, you can be forgiven and have a newness of spirit. God's Word is absolute just as His love is absolute. The assurance of God's ever-present and free offer of forgiveness is one of the most encouraging truths that a person can ever receive or share with others. His forgiveness is offered to all, but it must be actively received. That's what the Bible is all about. God's offer of forgiveness is based upon the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

The supreme and definitive sacrifice for sin was made when God offered His own Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross. Jesus died on the cross, shedding His blood as a sin-free "lamb" without blemish taking on Himself the sins of the world. His sacrificial death eliminated the need for any further sacrifice. *"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life,"* John 3:14-15.

- God takes away the old and gives the new. When we receive God's forgiveness, we are given a completely new nature. Our old spiritual nature with all its desires for self and sin is cleansed from us. Our hearts are made new, and our new spiritual nature has a desire for God. This is referred to by our Savior as being "born again." What Christians need to know is that when we sin after our salvation, there is a provision. That is found in 1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* We can be renewed again.

After we have experienced the truth, that our past and present need not dominate our future by understanding God's unconditional love and forgiveness, we are able to help others. When we have enjoyed the blessings of the unconditional love of God and His renewing power, we certainly should be prepared to share those things with others, as encouragers.

I want to remind you of something I have said and have written many times: Not everyone has the "gift" of encouragement mentioned in Romans 12:8, but everyone should be encouraging as best they can as commanded in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." Here are some principles for those encouraging others.

- Above all, encouragement is grounded in unconditional love, just as God in Christ has done for us. A person needs to feel truly loved for whom he/she is in God's eyes. Such love must be received regardless of the person's actions, traits, or accomplishments. It must not be love that is granted for manipulative purposes. It must be love that is both perceived and actively received without any strings attached.
- Before you can share encouragement with others, you must come to a firm resolve within yourself regarding what you believe about four things:
  - ✓ God's nature
  - ✓ Jesus Christ and His work on the cross
  - ✓ The relationship that God desires for His children
  - ✓ The work of the Holy Spirit in the world today

Encouragement flows from what you believe. It is always an expression of your faith in God. Conversely, discouraging words are always an expression of a lack of faith in God. Guard your words. But above all, build up your faith. The heart that is strong in faith is a heart that will naturally overflow in encouragement to others.

- As Christians, we are called by God to encourage others. We read in Scripture that we are to have **"love for your brothers"** with a **"sincere love,"** 1 Peter 1:22. We are also told to **"Show proper respect to everyone: love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king,"** 1 Peter 2:17. We are to build up one another in faith, Jude 20. We are to remind one another of the goodness and love of God, 1 John 1:1-4.

What an encouraging world we would live in if all Christians followed Christ's example and preached the Good News to the poor and tried to heal the broken hearted with kindness. Jesus plainly said that He came not to condemn the world, but that **"the world through Him might be saved,"** John 3:17.

- As encouragers of others we must not forget what the Bible teaches very clearly and that is that good and bad times happen to believers and unbelievers alike. No person is immune to life's circumstances, both positive and negative, Matthew 5:45. We live in a fallen world in which both evil and good exist. At no time are we told that God spares Christians from all temptations, trials, or problems. We can be assured, however, that God is with us and remains with us when troubles come. Encouragers remind themselves of this truth when dealing with others.
- What can be learned from a present difficulty or trial? That is a question we need to ask ourselves when trouble comes to ourselves as well as when trying to help another Christian in trying times. God wants us to be whole in body, soul, and spirit. His purposes for us are always for our ultimate good. When we experience a time of difficulty our first question should not be "Why me?" but rather "God, what good are you desiring to work in me through this?" or "God what good can I see that I can share?"
  - ✓ He always wants to purify our lives
  - ✓ He always wants to mature us in Christ
  - ✓ He loves those he chastens

The answer, many times, can be found in examining these three things. Pray about it, find an example of it in the Bible, and counsel with other Christians.

As Christians we are commanded to encourage one another. First be encouraged by the love of God, and second grow in your encouragement by encouraging others.

## LEARNING with Larry

Due to the holidays, scheduling and difficulty getting this issues "Learning with Larry," will not be published and so as Larry says, "until next time." Look for his article in the March – April issue.

### THAT'S CRAZY!

I have heard some crazy stories in my life and this one belongs right up there with the craziest. Here it is: A long, long time ago, say some billions of years ago, there was a big bang...I don't recall what it was that went "bang" or where it came from, but something went bang. Then sometime after that another period of time, say another billion or so, out water...I don't know where the water came from in this story, but out of the water some one-celled blob slithered upon dry land. Then there was another period of time, maybe another billion or two, I don't know for sure, it started to walk upright and what do you know, it created a computer and the other uprights started sending texting and face-booking each other and having coffee.

Now isn't that hard to believe, but there are those who actually think it takes less to faith to believe this story, than that we uprights, came from an intelligent Designer.

Sounds crazy to me, Denny

### ANYWAY

Some people are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered – **Love them anyway.**

If you do good sometimes people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives – **Love them anyway.**

If you are successful, you win false friend and true enemies – **Love them anyway.**

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow – **Do good anyway.**

Honesty and frankness will make you vulnerable – **Be honest anyway.**

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight – **Build anyway.**

People really need help but may attack you if you try to help – **Help them anyway.**

Give the world the best you have and you'll get harmed for it – **Give the world your best anyway.**

### MINE PUNS, BUT NOT REAL FUNNY

What's the definition of a will? It's a dead giveaway.

Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like bananas.

A chicken crossing the road was poultry in motion.

### NOT GROWING OLD

They say that I'm growing old, I've heard them tell it times untold, in a language plain and cold. This frail old shell in which is growing old, I know full well, but I am not the shell.

What if my hair has turned gray, or even white? Gray hairs are honorable the Scriptures say, what if my eyesight is growing dim? I can still see to follow Him, who sacrificed His life for me upon the cross of Calvary. What should I care if time's old plow has left it furrows on my brow? Another house not made with hands awaits me in glory land. What thought I falter in my walk, what though my tongue makes crazy talk? I still can tread the narrow way, and still watch, praise and pray.

My hearing may not be as keen as in the past and had been, but still I can hear my Savior's whisper softly through His word, saying, "This is the way." This life's short span shall parish and return to dust, as everything in nature must. The inward man the Scriptures say is growing stronger every day.

Then how can I be growing old, when safe within my Savior's fold? Ere long my soul shall fly away and leave this tenement of clay. This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise to seize the "everlasting prize." I'll meet you on the streets of gold and prove that I'm not growing old.

### THE SHOW WINDOW

A merchant in a small town visited New York. He was impressed with the magnificent show windows. He returned home to make his show window so attractive that His business might increase. And people began to frequent his store, but his business did not increase. Why not? Though he had the best looking window in town, he failed to spend as much time on his merchandise as he did his window.

The show window of the Christian is equally as important. It must be attractive, but it must represent the truth, and show that which can be produced in the storehouse of God.

One of the hardest things for the Christian to do is to be truthful and honest in his "showmanship." We must let our tongue represent that which is in our heart and our hearts must be controlled by what we know the Scriptures say.

The argument of James tells us to state to the world that we are wise, because we possess His wisdom, namely Jesus Christ and His Spirit, James 1:2-8.

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Jan. 11 – 12** – Leadership Seminar, Salt Fork State Park, Lore City, OH – Sponsored by Person to Person Ministries. Contact information: [p2pm\\_office@yahoo.com](mailto:p2pm_office@yahoo.com).

**Feb. 12-15** - Winter Worship and Workshop, Pigeon Forge, TN – Sponsored by Barnabas Ministries, Gallipolis, OH - Contact information: [dannyeevans@hotmail.com](mailto:dannyeevans@hotmail.com)

### A LIGHT IS INTENDED TO SHINE

A while back I was cleaning my desk drawer and found a flashlight that had not been used for, I guess, over a year. I tried the button to turn it on but there was no light. I unscrewed the bottom and shook the flashlight trying to get the batteries out...but they wouldn't budge. I gave the flashlight a hard stroke against my free palm and the batteries came flying out...all over the floor. The batteries were corroded and it was a mess. The batteries were new when I put them in the flashlight.

It is the same with us. Our faith is not meant to be stored away. We are expected to shine in everyday situations in the midst of difficulty and trying times. It is so easy to be satisfied putting no effort in "shinning like stars in a darkened world," Phil. 2:15. But we are to be light in the world.

**Don't allow laziness to corrode your faith.**

### JESUS A GOOD MORAL TEACHER?

Some people have been fooled by the fashionable claim that Jesus was simply a good moral teacher who came to provide an example of the right way to live. But of course, no mere teacher would claim that the destiny of the world lay in His hands or that people would spend eternity in heaven or hell depending on whether they believed in Him for salvation, John 6:26-40. This would not be an example of morality but of lunacy.

For Jesus to convince people that He was God, John 8:58 and the Savior of the world, Luke 19:10, when He really wasn't would be the ultimate immorality. So to say that Jesus was just a good moral teacher and nothing more makes no sense.

Jesus, the eternal God, was born into the world as a man not primarily to be a moral influence, but rather to die for the sins of humankind. He affirmed that He came into the world for the very purpose of dying, John 12:27, and He perceived His death as a sacrificial offering for the sins of humanity, Matt. 26:26-28. He took His sacrificial mission with utmost seriousness, for He knew that without Him,

humanity would certainly perish, Matt. 6:25; John 3:16 and spend eternity apart from God in a place of great suffering, Matt. 10:28; 11:23; 23:33; 25:41; Luke 16:22-28.

### -FREE-

#### Preacher Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar.

What Barnabas Ministries provides a host church for these seminars: We will bear the cost of speakers, hotels if needed.

We will have speakers address such subjects as counseling, discouragement in ministry, do and don'ts, is a preacher born or made, and other matters relating to ministers and their wives. There will be two sessions just for the wives.

We will provide a binder for the material given out and a few other gifts for preachers and their wives.

The seminar schedule will be two speakers, a break, two more speakers, lunch and a final speaker. If this does not "fit" your plans, we are flexible. We are simply interested in encouraging preachers.

The host will assure that a lunch and snacks for break time. **BARNABAS WILL REIMBURSE THE CHURCH FOR ANY EXPENDATURES.**

To schedule a meeting (after the holidays and winter) simply call 740-446-6929 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 740-446-7319 after 4:00 p.m.

### THE PARAKLETE

If you are receiving the Paraklete by mail and you have an email address, please send us an email to: [barnabasohio@att.net](mailto:barnabasohio@att.net) with the address you are now receiving the Paraklete. This will allow you to continue to receive it electronically but no longer by mail. We will at some time in the future send it only by email. At this time we are not sure when that will be.

### SOME QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Our ultimate aim in life is not to be healthy, wealthy, prosperous, or problem free. Our ultimate aim in life is to bring glory to God"

- Anne Graham Lotz

"Holiness is not God's asking us to be good; it is an invitation to be His"

- Lisa Bevere

*"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others."*

- Paul, Philippians 2:4