



Barnabas Ministries
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The Paraklete

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Pause With Dawes

By Denny Dawes
Director, Barnabas Ministries

Sing along if you remember it – *"Gone, Gone, Gone, Gone, Yes, my sins are gone. Now my soul is free and in my heart's a song. Buried in the deepest sea, yes, that's good enough for me. I shall live eternally, Praise God! My sins are gone. G – O – N – E – GONE!"* Perhaps like me, you can recall singing that chorus in the Sunday night youth group meeting. I especially liked the part at the end, when we spelled out the word "G-O-N-E"!

I know the Bible teaches us that God forgives our sins through the blood of Jesus when we repent and are baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38). He also gives us the gift of His Holy Spirit at that time.

The word translated 'forgive' in the New Testament, primarily means 'to send forth,' 'send away.' It signifies the remission of the punishment that is due for sinful conduct and the deliverance from the divinely appointed penalty.

A good question for us to ask here is 'What does God do with our sins when He forgives?' I have found some verses that give us good pictures of what God does with our sins. Isaiah 38:17 – *"Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back."*

God puts our sins behind His back. They are out of His sight. Therefore, He doesn't hold them against us. Isaiah 43:25 – *"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remember your sins no more."* God does not remember our sins. This doesn't mean that God has a bad memory, but rather that God chooses to not remember.

If God does not remember our sins, we should forget them too. Hebrews 10:17 gives us the same promise of God choos-

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ing to not remember our sins. Psalms 103:12 – *"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."* How far is the east from the west? It is an immeasurable distance. When you are traveling east when do you

begin traveling west? It is impossible to know. Our sins are out of reach. Romans 8:1 – *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* God has taken away the condemnation (the penalty) that was due us because of our sin. He declares that we are 'not guilty.' 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."*

God washes and cleanses us removing all the sin and filth. We give thanks to our Father for forgiveness. Sing that chorus again – *"Gone, Gone, Gone, Gone, Yes, my sins are gone. Now my soul is free and in my heart's a song. Buried in the deepest sea, Yes, that's good enough for me. I shall live eternally. Praise God, my sins are gone! G – O – N – E – GONE!"*



25
YEARS

February 8-11, 2027
Be sure to register early!

The gathering in February will be a special time as it will be the 25th Anniversary. As of this writing we now have 100 registrations. That is just a few ahead of this time last year.

Go ahead and get registered now while you are thinking about it.

We look forward to seeing you in Pigeon Forge.



**MUSIC ROAD
RESORT**
Pigeon Forge Tennessee



Dots & Dashes From Danny

By Danny Evans
Associate, Trustee With Barnabas Ministries

"The past is a place to learn from, not a place to live." The past is a good place and I have many memories of the past, but if I spend a lot of time there I don't get much accomplished. The past has many recollections when it comes to my church experience. I grew up in a small town in southeast Ohio. There were fourteen New Testament churches in the county. My mom and dad were active in church and I remember attending revival after revival in those churches. You remember revivals – those week-long meetings where a guest preacher was invited to come and share sermons and lessons that were used as "fire starters" for the local church. There were always decisions and the body of Christ grew as a result of those revival meetings. The question I have today is, "do we need revivals?"

I believe we need **REVIVAL** in the church, but weekend revival meetings that are conducted today probably won't have a long-lasting revival effect on a church body. Revival restores a deep hunger for God's presence, prayer, and holiness rather than relying on human-driven programs. Revival has a personal repentance involved. People will examine themselves and honestly admit they have weaknesses and will allow God to help them to be restored to a stronger relationship with the Father. Revival is a daily renewal of one's life to God. It makes Matthew 6:33 – "*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness...*" become a way of life and not an occasional passing thought.

How do we know we need revival? We know when worship is just an hour on Sunday and that may not be every Sunday. We know when our prayer life is getting weaker and weaker. We know when we have no desire to win the lost. We know when holiness is not a deep consideration in our life. We know we need personal revival when God's presence isn't all that important to us. Revival has to begin with each of us and we need to be serious about this matter. Revival will not come to the local body by developing new programs or seeking worldly ideas and trying to adapt them into our program.

Revival is allowing God to breathe new breath into us. We have God living in us through the Holy Spirit and He wants to lead us to a fresh fire, a new surrender, and a new life filled with spiritual desire.

I love the song we have sung for years entitled "*Revive Us Again*," but I wonder how tired God has become as He has tried to revive us over and over and it just doesn't seem to happen.

A revived church will want to share its faith with a community that needs it desperately. I pray for revival in the church today and I know that beyond a shadow of a doubt revival has to start with me.

Revival restores a deep hunger for God's presence, prayer, and holiness rather than relying on human-driven programs.



Learning With Larry

By Larry Boggs
Trustee With Barnabas Ministries

Have you forsaken your first love? There are some questions in Scripture that cause us to stop and examine our hearts. Reading Revelation 2:1-7, I came across one of those questions. This isn't a question that Jesus asks, but rather He tells the church at Ephesus their problem: "*You have forsaken your first love.*" Jesus was speaking to the church at Ephesus – a church that had many things going for it. In v. 2-3, Jesus says: "*I know your deeds, your hard work, and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.*" By all outward appearances, Ephesus was a strong church. Yet, Jesus saw something that others might not have seen. In v. 4, Jesus says: "*Yet, I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.*"

That started me thinking of my walk with the Lord. It is possible to be busy doing things for God while our hearts are slowly drifting away from God. We can attend church, teach Sunday School, sing in the church, serve on committees, give our offerings, help others, read our Bible, and faithfully perform our Christian duties – and yet, lose the love and devotion that first drew us to Christ. I remember how exciting it was when I first came to the Lord. Then I asked myself, "Am I so busy serving Jesus and forgetting how much I love him?"

Jesus did not condemn their works. In fact, He commended them for their labor and perseverance. The problem was that their work had apparently become separated from the love that should have been at the center of what they were doing for Him. There is a difference between serving Christ because we love Him and simply serving because it has become a habit or an obligation.

Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.

Jesus gave the church at Ephesus and all of us a simple but important instruction on how to correct our lives if we think we've lost our first love. In v. 5, Jesus says: "*Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.*" Can you remember when you

first surrendered to Jesus? I was thinking about the song Alan Jackson sings: "*Remember when we vowed the vows, and walked the walk, gave our hearts, made the start. And it was hard, we lived and learned. Life through curves. There was joy. There was hurt. Remember when?*"

Think back to the beginning. Do you remember when you first realized what Christ had done for you? Do you remember the joy of knowing that your sins were forgiven? Do you remember the excitement

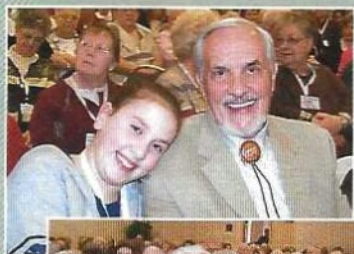
(Continued on page 3)

ment of opening God's Word and discovering its truth? Do you remember the desire to pray, to worship, to tell others about Jesus?

Sometimes our relationship with Christ does not disappear all at once. Instead, our passion slowly fades, and before we know it, we are still doing many of the same things – but our hearts are no longer in the same place. Jesus tells us to remember because remembering can help us recognize how far we have drifted. Jesus did not simply tell Ephesus to remember. He also told them to

repent. Repentance means turning around. It means recognizing that something is wrong and making the decision to return to where we should be. Every day fall in love with Jesus all over again. Do the things you did when you first came to Jesus.

I once heard about a man who lost his glasses. He searched the house frantically – under the couch, in the kitchen, even in the car. After an hour of frustration, his wife gently said, "Honey they're on your head." Sometimes what we desperately seek is far closer than we realize. If we find ourselves far from God, remember, He isn't the one who moved. Until next time, May God bless you all.



Winter Worship Workshop

Looking Back

25 YEARS

There have been some great gatherings of Winter Worship Workshop through the past years. At Pigeon Forge in February we plan to share some of the past memories. Here are a few pictures from past gatherings that may be an enjoyment for you and an encouragement to attend the meeting in February.

*We are grateful to
Waleska Wray for the photos.*





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A Ministry of Encouragement

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Word of God

A Ministry Equipping for
Service, Counseling and
Support, and Faith Building.

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move *The Paraklete* to an
e-mailable publication.
Would you please send
your e-mail address to
Denny Dawes at:
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Barnabas Ministries



Doctrinal Statement

BIBLE:

the only inspired record of God's revelation to us

SIN:

the only thing standing between God and man

JESUS CHRIST:

The only perfect One who paid for sin

THE GOSPEL:

The only record of Jesus' life

SALVATION:

the only hope for sinful man

FAITH:

is only "saving faith: if it includes repentance,
confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God
and being baptized as did every convert after
the resurrection of Jesus.

Help Us Continue Serving Those Who Serve

Barnabas Ministries has always been about encouraging and helping people who are serving Christ and His Church. Sometimes that means providing a resource. Sometimes it's a conference, helping with travel, or simply coming alongside someone who needs encouragement.

The PARAKLETE, along with our social media, are ways we stay connected with you and share what God is doing through Barnabas. This ministry is only possible because churches and individuals choose to come alongside us.

If Barnabas has been an encouragement to you, would you consider helping us be an encouragement to someone else? Every gift, large or small, helps us keep doing what Barnabas has always been about – serving those who serve!



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All gifts are used
to further the
work of the
kingdom and to
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