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“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” Jude 3-4

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.” II Peter 2:1-3

Nobody likes prophets of God very much. But we could sure use one today. We need a man of God who can powerfully proclaim the Word and gain the ear of the people. Sadly, whenever the prophets are silent, the Church is made powerless and then irrelevant. The Church in a liberal world has preferred popularity to prophecy. In so doing, we have lost both.

The modern church has done a greater disservice to the Gospel than most secular institutions. The liberal church does far more damage to Christianity than your local fast food establishment. I have often said I have more respect for a secular college than for a liberal and compromising Christian college. The liquor store behaves true to its name. Many churches do not. In the modern church we have educated pastors who will seldom take a stand on any issue: spiritual, moral, or political. Yet, even when they do, they usually stand on the wrong side.

Some say there are no biblical absolutes today. Of course there *are* still biblical absolutes; trouble is they are only found in the Bible (*the real Bible*) and not in the church.

Can Christianity survive the modern church? I am not sure. I have always thought it would be the completed bride that might prompt our Lord’s return, was I wrong? Perhaps it will be when the church loses almost all of its truth—*when the salt loses its savor*—when the Lord sees no possible benefit in the church remaining here, maybe that will cause the trumpet to sound. To me, it seems like there are three types of churches in existence today.

The Church that holds fast to the truth and refuses to bend. Usually these are smaller churches pastored by older men who are quickly dying off. The weakness of these churches is that although the truth is still being taught, it is often ignored by the congregation. A church that preaches the Word often has as many failed marriages, rebellious children, prayerless people, and folks in financial bondage, as churches that don’t preach the truth. The future of these churches does not look very promising for the next generation.

Next, we have the Church in the middle trying to “ride the fence.”

These churches use accommodation or compromise in order to avoid public ridicule and rejection by society. They have a “*little strength*”, but prefer to use worldly programs to demonstrate their mission.

Finally, we have the lukewarm, “Laodicean” Church. This church has allowed compromise to run its full course, stripping it completely of the power of God and leaving Jesus standing on the outside.

It is not too late for the Body of Christ to make a full recovery. In fact, it is never too late as long as there are believers who are willing to hear and hearken to what the Spirit is saying to the Church. However, in order for the Church to receive the Divine power it needs for correction, change, and restoration, it must undergo a transformation from the highest to its lowest levels.

A good place to start might be for lazy Christians to dust off their Bible and use it to respectfully confront pastors and teachers and make them accountable. If the Church has no fixed, non-negotiable biblical truths to stand on, it will simply become a spiritually weak humanitarian organization with a “*Christian*” name on the door but without the real power of God. I’d rather spend my Sunday morning at home rather than at such a church.

Perhaps You Are A Part Of A Small Remnant. If you honestly love our Lord and His Word and if you sincerely seek the advancement of the Kingdom, then you are a member of a unique group. As we approach the end of the church age we live in an educated, highly sophisticated, and technological world. In this modern world, we are witnessing a return to the pagan premise that everyone’s belief system

can be right. More and more, society has no stomach for spiritual or moral absolutes. In fact, the public reaction to moral proclamations is often so adverse that many pastors are hesitant to take strong positions on issues of morality, even though these truths are clearly stated in the Word of God. Rather than answer difficult moral questions, they dodge the questions and skirt around the issues in an attempt to avoid conflict.

Early believers endured bullying, ridicule, imprisonment, and even death because they refused to conform to the pagan world that surrounded them. The



religious, social, cultural, and political forces of the city exerted tremendous pressure to coerce these Christians into modifying their message to encompass a more moderate, inclusive view that would make them compliant with the spirit of the age. Many believers collapsed under this pressure, but others steadfastly resisted this coercion to conform and held fast to their faith. In our time and the times to come, there is, *and there will continue to be*, a remnant of believers who will not bow to the pressures of society. Actually most already have collapsed under the

weight of these external forces, but a few will not yield. I pray you will determine personally to choose ridicule or suffering rather than to violate God’s truth.

God has always had His remnant who will not bow to the world’s pressures, and in these last times, He will have that remnant once again. I pray my family will be a part of that small but powerful band of believers. To all who determine to stand, I believe they will experience previously unknown levels of the power of God as a result of their commitment to stand on truth. In the future you will be a strong Christian, or it is unlikely you will be a Christian at all. The marginal won’t make it in a world that hates the true message of Christ.

Jesus is not just another option in a sea of choices. The world may have hundreds of religious doctrines, but the Church does not. The early church was viewed as a bunch of narrow-minded simpletons. So shall the future be for all who stand on truth.

The lack of power and influence of the modern church is our own fault. Christians have been too willing to accept, and even to flatter with our support, an essentially godless world. Rather than fighting the attacks of growing secularism in the church, pastors after graduating from a liberal theological institution have been too polite, or maybe just too fearful and foolish, to tell people that their modern Bibles aren’t real, and their music violates Scripture, and their dress, behavior, associations, and activities invite moral compromise.

Our business is to promote the nature of God, not the nature of man. This world needs Christ, and they must be

taught to know Him and to obey Him. However, that cannot happen except by the Holy Spirit using those who themselves know Him and obey Him. The function of the Church is to resist all lesser, carnal interpretations of life; resist them in love but with firmness and consistency so we can convince men to follow us as we follow Christ.

The foundations of this lost world are pride, ambition, a desire to dominate, and a lust for this world's goods. Christ plainly insisted that in these are seeds of death, not life; and the Church needs to reject these things while teaching the way of Christ by word and example.

The Church, in these later years, has forgotten how to renounce and denounce sin and error. Instead it has sought to soothe a sick mankind with pious injections of acceptance. The few true prophets that are left are upsetting people. They interfere with drawing in the big crowds, the financing of ministry budgets, and with the smooth running of ecclesiastical enterprises. They make difficult the erection of mega-churches, and mar the nice amenities of life. Reactions to truth have not changed much since the days of Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others who in the first days of Christianity went about turning the world upside down.

If the Body of Christ is to influence the world of tomorrow, it would seem that the Church must so reform itself that it can make a new and unapologetic proclamation of the Word of God. Yes, I believe God has a remnant. I hope you are a part of that remnant. However, if you are going to maintain your effectiveness for the Kingdom, you must maintain uncompromising convictions of truth. Might I suggest the following as a starting point?



Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry over forty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries.

Convictions for the Remnant.

The Bible is the inspired and preserved Word of God and the final authority for my life. I will not be drawn away by commercial paraphrases and politically correct translations. I will stand for truth and teach my children to stand for truth even if it brings persecution.

My goal and purpose in life is to seek the benefit of the Kingdom of God with my whole heart. The Kingdom must always come first. Then, I will allow God to prioritize the remaining areas of my life according to His will.

My body is the living temple of God and it must not be defiled by the lusts of the flesh.

If not by office, then at least by action, according to my spiritual gifts, I will assume a leadership role in my church. In this role I shall attempt to insure my church always teaches the foundational truths of Scripture without compromise.

My children belong to God. They are a sacred trust, and it is my responsibility to give them a Christ honoring education which will assure they are taught Scriptural principles, godly character, and to maintain their own convictions. They need my direction and discipline far more than I need their agreement or favor.

My character should be one that can encourage and lift up even strong Christians and one that must never weaken the Scriptural convictions of the weaker. I will govern my life by principles, not by emotion or wavering schools of thought.

My marriage, to the best of my ability, shall be a lifelong commitment, first to God and then to my marriage partner.

My money and all assets placed under my stewardship, is a trust from God and must be earned, disbursed, and managed according to Scriptural principles.

In giving counsel, I will try to validate my words to insure they are in harmony with Scripture. I understand that great damage has been done by well-meaning Christians giving foolish advice.

I affirm my understanding that I am a soldier born in the heat of conflict. The enemy wants to destroy me as he has done so many others. I am a part of a remnant army. Although few in number, I am determined to be fervent in faith.

My affections will be set on things above, not on things on the earth.

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The capability, affordability, and availability of modern technology is simply amazing. Within a matter of seconds, a person can do things like “wire” money across the country or have a face-to-face video conversation with someone else on the other side of the world. Outlets such as YouTube and Twitter have given people a chance to reach others they normally wouldn’t be able to without technology. Even many churches are using this to their advantage. Many pastors are now streaming their sermons on Facebook and YouTube for their congregation. What a wonderful

thing for those that have access to watch online!

The Lord tells us in **Acts 1:8** that we are to witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. Our churches are our Jerusalem. We’ve got that covered. Many churches support missionaries in other countries, the uttermost parts of the earth. Great! We’ve got that covered, too. What about our Judea and Samaria? Are they covered? Is the church in New Bern witnessing to people in Greenville? Is the church in Norlina witnessing to people in Elizabeth City? Pastors, did you know **GoMix** can help your congregation reach Judea and Samaria through radio as well as internet streaming? We’ve got open program times available right now where you can reach over 50,000 listeners! Consider calling today for more information. 252-747-8887

Transitions are not always easy, especially when saying goodbye to a special friend. Joe Patton, who has served as our Chief Engineer for many years, officially retired on July 1st. Joe not only kept our stations on the air, he was also directly responsible for constructing the last four stations we placed in service. It is hard to imagine anyone accomplishing so much, in so little time, and with such a limited budget. Joe was obviously sent from God.

Although we wish him an enjoyable and healthy retirement at his new home in Virginia, he will be greatly missed here at **GoMix**. In Joe’s absence, Doug Johnson will be assuming duties as our Senior Technician. As we were blessed to have Joe as a part of the team in the past, we praise the Lord that Doug will be able to assume many of Joe’s responsibilities for the future.

Thanks, Joe. May our Lord’s richest blessings be upon you and yours.



For Additional Information:

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Artist Spotlight - The Crawford Family

The Crawford Family is a trio comprised of Mom (*Nancy*), and her two daughters, Emily and Kristi.

Emily, the oldest daughter, began singing in church at the age of three. At a young age, she began to sing at weddings, funerals, and other events. As she grew a little older, she began to branch out and travel with another singing group across the Eastern United States before starting a family.

Kristi, the younger of the two daughters, began singing when she was about ten years old and has added her special harmony to *The Crawford Family* trio and occasionally sings lead.

Nancy, the mom of *The Crawford Family*, normally sings the low parts, but isn't afraid to step out and sing lead when needed. Music has always been a special part of Nancy's life. In earlier years, she sang with her brother, Jack, in churches for special events and even live on the radio! When added up, *The Crawford Family* has been singing together for nearly 30 years.

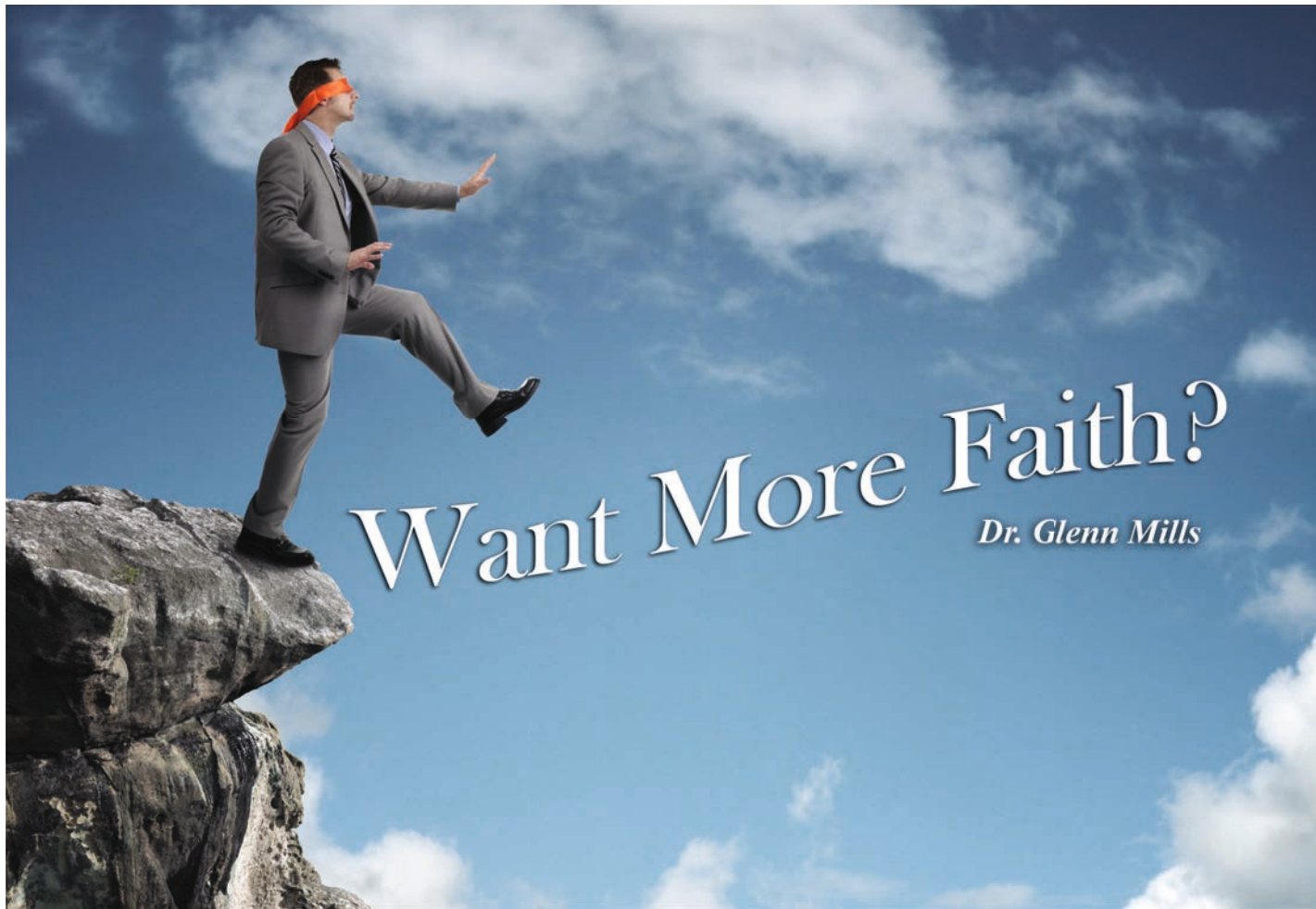
Their album, *Promised Land* released in 2010, had several songs published nationwide. *The Crawford Family* was happy the song "His

Precious Blood" charted at #6 on the *Power Source Music Magazine* chart as well as #46 on the *Singing News* chart. "My Favorite Book" from the album *Promised Land* was written by Linwood, Nancy's husband, and is presently being played on *GoMix Christian Radio*.

The Crawford Family says, "We have been blessed that *GoMix* has played our music, as well as many other local groups in their listening area. The family at *GoMix Radio* are some of the best folks you will meet."

The Crawford Family, including their spouses and grandchildren, are all active members of Trinity FWB Church in LaGrange, NC. Nancy plays the piano and sings in the choir. Kristi teaches Sunday School and sings in the choir. Emily is choir director and teaches a class of children on Wednesday night.

The Crawford Family sings as often as possible outside the church without taking time from church. If you would like more information about their ministry, they can be reached at 252-522-5163 or 252-560-4504.



“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1

The Bible tells us in **Hebrews 11:6a**, ***“But without faith it is impossible to please him (God).”*** The whole structure of our Christian life is built upon the foundation of faith. We accept Christ as our Saviour by faith. The just live by faith. We believe we are going to be with Jesus in Heaven one day by faith. We give of our income by faith. So then, faith is very important for the believer, and the more we have the more we please God. Allow me to share some ways we can increase our faith.

Fellowship with Jesus.

The Bible says in **Hebrews 12:2**, ***“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”*** Jesus is the book of faith. The more we commune with Him and know Him, the greater our faith will become. As a boy growing up,

I was often told, *“You are the company you keep,”* by those older and wiser than me. I soon learned that statement is very true. The more we walk with Jesus, the more we become like Him. Believe me when I say, *“He is the best company you could have.”* As we walk and talk with Him, He will confirm His words in us, thus building our faith.

Hearing the Word.

Romans 10:17 says, ***“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”***

There are many ways we can hear the Word of God. We can hear from teachers, preachers, evangelists, prophets, and other believers. The Word can be heard in songs and messages, on the radio, television, internet, on DVD, on your iPod, and many other devices. The greatest way we can hear it is by the teaching of the Holy Spirit. The fact is the more we read it, the greater our faith will grow. We should pray to be like the two men on the road

to Damascus who met Jesus along the way. When He departed from them they said, ***“Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”*** (Luke 24:32)

Studying the Word.

As we read, study, and meditate upon God’s Word, it will strengthen our faith by giving us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. These things strengthen both our hearts and minds, allowing faith to increase. The more we know about God, the more we trust Him to be who He is and do what He says.

Faithfully Pray.

The more we pray, the more opportunities we give God to show us He hears our prayers. As we take note of the many things God has done through our praying, it builds our faith to pray all the more. Praying effectively is

also considered practicing our faith. As we pray the principles of God’s Word and we see them happen, then spiritually our faith is going to grow. We should not limit our prayers, but as the Bible says, we should pray about everything and with thanksgiving that God will give us the best answer.

Greater faith is waiting for us. No matter where your faith level is today, it can grow to a new level if it is your desire. Apply the things mentioned above and watch what happens as your faith daily increases.



Dr. Glenn Mills is a full-time Evangelist with the Open Arms Evangelistic Ministry. He can be heard each weekday on GoMix Christian Radio.



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I had an unusual conversation a few days ago. I was talking with one of our staff members, and she made a strange statement. As we often do, we were chatting about the upcoming school year. She looked at me just as serious and said, *“You have to be humble to work at Pathway.”* I was taken aback by her statement because I wasn’t sure what she meant. She saw the look on my face, and she followed up with, *“That is a good thing, Mrs. Worthington! Jesus was humble.”*

We began to discuss this point, and I continued to think about it long after our conversation was over. As I contemplated her statement, I came to the realization that humility is necessary to serve in any Christian ministry. In fact, one of the character traits of a Christian should be humility.

Our Saviour was humble. In **Philippians 2: 6-8**, Paul teaches that Jesus did not think He was too good to come to earth as an infant. He was Almighty God. Not only did He come as a baby, but He was born in a stable among the animals. Another example of Jesus’ humility was in **John 13:3-5**. He washed the disciples’ feet, and through His example He taught them how to serve Him as well as others.

When I think of cleaning someone’s feet, it is not a pleasant thought. And people in Bible times did not have access to daily showers. They walked everywhere they went. Honestly, I had never cleaned an adult’s feet until recently. But I have learned that I can do it. My mother-in-law is in the nursing home, and she is unable to wash her feet herself. They smelled

strong because her toes were dirty, and I cleaned them one by one. I loved her enough to do this for her.

A willingness to do any task is an important manifestation of humility. Jesus did not mind doing the lowest of tasks. The washing of feet was designated for servants. Many people in the church, home, and workplace have the idea that certain tasks are beneath them. Besides cleaning up after ourselves, we need to be willing to help others. If we see someone struggling, we need to lend a helping hand. If trash needs dumping, dump it. If paper is on the floor, pick it up. If dishes need washing, wash them. We must remember every job is important. In **I Corinthians 12**, Paul describes the Church as a body. Just as each part of our body is important, so is each

member of the church. If we doubt it, just stub one of our toes! We must keep our attitude in check when we are asked to do something out of our job description or our comfort zone. Isn't a Christian's job description, "Whatever you need, Lord!" ?

Another way Jesus manifested humility was by following rules. He followed all of the Scripture, and He followed man's laws unless they contradicted Scripture. In **Matthew 22:21**, the crowd asked Jesus if they were supposed to pay taxes. What did He say? Pay the tax!

I Peter 2:21-23 reminds us that Jesus never sinned nor was He ever unkind. Jesus was God so technically He had the authority to change the rules, but He didn't. What do you think would happen to our faith if we saw Jesus breaking a rule? Perhaps He told a lie? What would it do to our faith?

We are God's children. We would be mortified if we saw God break a rule. What happens when our children see us disobey a rule? When they are young, we may be able to pull the wool over their eyes, but when they grow up, it doesn't work anymore. Is that not the height of pride? It is ok for me, but not for you. Do what I say, not what I do.

When we do things we tell our children not to do, we are prideful. This should not be. How can we possibly think the rules don't apply to us? Some situations are too difficult for them to understand. I am *not* speaking of those. I am referring to things we consider immoral or sinful.

This also happens in the workplace, at church, on the highway, and countless other places. We expect others to obey

the rules we feel are important, but if we don't like the rules, then we don't care. Who do we think we are? Are we saying that we are above the rules? How can we expect our children and others to obey the rules if we don't?

What rules do we often disobey? The most obvious of these are the traffic laws. I constantly watch cars fly by me. How many times do we correct our children about their tone of voice? What about our attitude when we correct them?

James chapter 3 has a lot of good admonitions about the tongue. Christian parent, how do we speak in front of our children? How many people do we rake over the coals or criticize? How often do we speak to our children in a derogatory manner? Is this not a rule that we often break? Do we treat others the way we want to be treated? It is prideful to pick and choose which rules we will follow

and which ones we will ignore. Isn't it pride that convinces ourselves it is not that big of a deal?

When we don't follow through on our responsibilities, it is prideful. Sometimes we rationalize and say, well I did this job and I did this job. But I am not doing this one because I don't want to, I don't have time, etc.

What would you do if you asked your child to clean the windows, and you came home and your child said, "*I helped with the dishes, but I didn't clean the windows?*" Many of us would say, "*I am glad you helped with the dishes, but I told you to do the windows.*" The next day you come home and your child says, "*I mowed the grass for you, but I did not wash the windows.*" What would your reaction be? I know what mine would be. Someone would be in trouble. Isn't that what we do when we pick and choose what rules to obey and





which ones to ignore, which ones we feel are important, and which ones we feel we don't need to do? Isn't that the height of pride to feel we can pick and choose what our authority tells us to do? Why don't we like to be corrected? Hopefully, it is because we don't like to disappoint. But many times, it is our pride.

How dare anyone correct me? It is even worse when we ignore what Jesus tells us to do or ignore His correction. When we don't do what Jesus wants us to do, we miss His will for our lives. We are in rebellion.

In order to teach in any capacity, whether as a parent, employer, school teacher, or friend, we cannot come across as a "know it all." As we teach, we must show that we do not know all things about anything. We cannot expect others to always do things our way. The attitude of, "My way or the highway" is not representing the true Christian spirit! Our Lord *did*

know everything, but He was full of compassion. When Nicodemus came to Him by night, Jesus taught him. He did not rebuke him for coming in secret.

We also have to be willing to admit when we are wrong. Unfortunately, I have had to admit I am wrong to my children, my staff, and my students on more occasions than I would like to admit. When we are willing to admit we are wrong, this humble spirit shows the people we come in contact with that we are seeking to be like the Saviour. Our Lord never had to admit He was wrong because He was perfect. I don't have to tell you, we are a long way from perfect.

There are many areas we could discuss, but the most important area of humility is our servanthood to God. I submit that we can't be servants to God unless we are humble in all areas of life. If we are not humble as a servant, employee, parent, husband, wife, or in other

relationships, how can we be a humble servant to God?

In **Matthew 20:28**, the Scripture states Jesus came to minister. Sometimes we can be so full of ourselves. Our lives here are supposed to be about ministering to others, not ministering to ourselves. We are servants. Our attitudes should be, "*I am your servant. I am here to serve you.*"

Who are we here to serve? We are here to serve our Lord Jesus Christ by reaching out to a lost and dying world. Let's not forget our purpose! It is always to seek out, to witness, and to disciple! What are we going to do about it? Serve others with humility and figuratively wash their feet.



Mrs. Worthington has five children and eleven grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.

And Finally...



Meet My Pet...

No, I did not want him. I knew how much trouble he'd be. He was a big, brown, stray dog that was picked up by a friend when he was caught trying to get in my friend's chicken pen to get food. He was brought to me because my friend knew I try to help find homes for strays, but I knew this one would not be that lucky. I didn't want any part of it! The dog sat quietly in the truck as I told my friend I wasn't interested, not knowing what fate was ready to befall on him. They soon began to drive away. As I watched the truck pull out of the driveway, I suddenly couldn't bear the thought of the dog sitting at a shelter with no chance, unwanted, maybe even facing death. Now that unattractive, big, brown dog is with me in my truck wherever I go. Rumble, the dog who owns my heart.

G. A.

We adopted our third cat, Cammie, a little over a year ago. She was so funny celebrating her first Christmas with my husband and me. When I put up the Christmas tree, Cammie was in a state of shock. I don't think she had ever seen a Christmas tree before. She immediately claimed it as hers, and the other cats were not allowed to go near it without a fight. In fact, neither was I! Decorating it was quite the task! For some reason, she really enjoyed sitting underneath it and guarding it from the other two intruders (cats). There has not been a minute that we have not enjoyed having Cammie in our home, and I'm pretty sure she loves us, too. I am a bit interested to see if this upcoming Christmas will be similar to the last.

G. L.

Benny, a Treeing Walker Coonhound, has been with us for about three and a half months, and he has settled so well into our home. He is such a good natured and happy dog that is friendly to everyone he meets. He's so gentle with our nieces and nephews as well as friends, family, and neighborhood kids. He's always up for cuddles and playtime, and he loves mealtime. He knows where his "spot" is on the couch and could snuggle with you all day if you let him. He's sure got that hound-dog bark and isn't afraid to use his voice when he thinks it's playtime or he just wants your attention. Like most hounds, he can be very stubborn at times, but we love him just the same. Benny has been such a great addition to our family, and even after just a few months, we couldn't imagine our life without him. It just goes to show that rescue dogs are truly worth that second chance.

B. B.

"World Teacher's Day"

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of "And Finally..."

October 5th is World Teacher's Day! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about a teacher that has made an impact on your life. The deadline for submission is September 25th, 2018.

You can send an email to: Attn: PathPointe
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