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President and Publisher: Dr. T. D. Worthington
 Editor: Tiffany W. Johnson
 Advertising Director: Ashley W. Lovett
 Contributors: Tiffany Johnson,
 Glenn Mills, and Sherry Worthington
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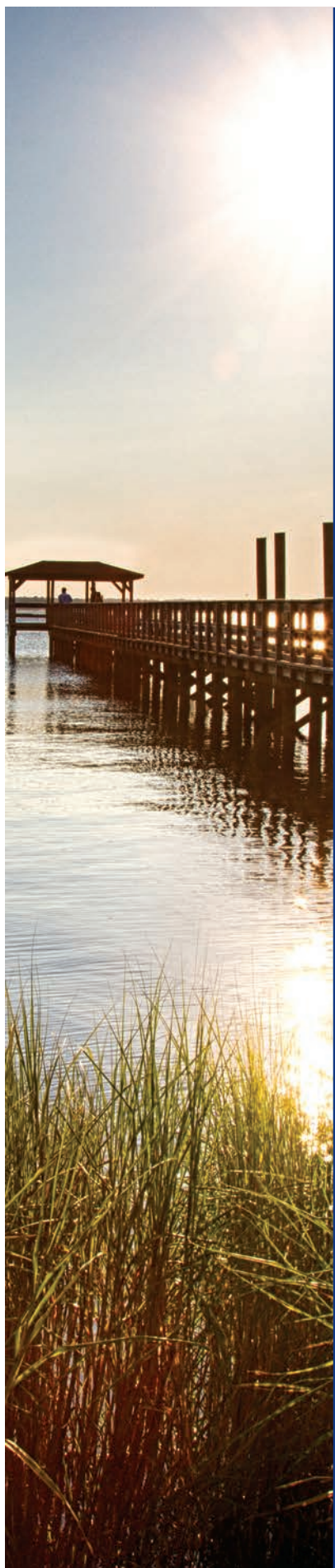
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Heaven

Dr. T. D. Worthington

Sherry and I were talking about heaven yesterday. The concept is far above our finite minds, but even as a Bible-Believing Christian, some things are hard to understand. As we try to imagine a perfect place of joy and contentment, it is only natural to start with the things that make us happy on earth.

I remember hearing an old preacher that led a man to the Lord. Well, the man loved his chewing tobacco, so he asked the preacher if he thought the Lord might allow him to chew his tobacco in heaven since he loved it so much. The preacher thought for a moment and said: “Well if you love it

that much the Lord may allow you to chew tobacco in heaven, but He might require you to go to hell to spit.”

Indeed, we enjoy a lot of things on earth. Trouble is, I am not sure a lot of those things are going to be in heaven. For example:

I Love Cold Rainy Days.

I’ll take a cold day over a hot day anytime. For the sake of the grandchildren, I alter my feelings when they are with us, but when Sherry and I go to the beach, I’ll take a cold rainy day in February over a sunny day in July anytime. Trouble

is, I don’t think there are going to be any cold rainy days in heaven. I read about the robes of white, but there is nothing about overcoats and gloves.

I Enjoy Admiring The Works of Man.

Great works of architecture, a well-made sports car, a fine tuned machine, a classic piece of furniture, a beautiful work of art; I find admiration for the person who made it. Although we might give honor to great saints for their faith, it is hard for me to picture going by your mansion and saying, “I really like what you’ve done to the place. It was a real dump before you moved in.” Now, this is just

conjecture, and I may be wrong, but I don't think we will be admiring the ingenuity of the guy like Harley Earl for his great car designs.

I Enjoy the Aroma of the Earth.

The aroma of burning leaves in the fall always takes me back home. I enjoy the sweet fragrance of bacon cooking on a winter's morn and freshly mowed grass in the spring. Will we cut grass in heaven? Probably not! Will bacon be on the menu at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb? That's not likely either. Will I miss these things?

I Enjoy Marriage and Being Close.

Being close to someone you love may be the most pleasurable activity on earth. Will we always be in a crowd in heaven? Crowds have their place, but sometimes I like being alone, and other times I like just being with Sherry. Can the spirit world really compare with the joy God gives us here on earth when we are intimate or close with someone we love? Can our fellowship in Heaven really be better than a close and loving marriage relationship here on earth?

Some People Really Like Sports.

Although I am not a big sports fan, many people are. As a matter of fact, most people today spend a lot of their time being entertained by others. It might be movies, video games, or reading a good book. But will this be available in heaven? And if so, who is going to be creating it? Remember, watching a movie or a football game may be entertainment for the spectators, but it's hard work for the participants. Furthermore, although all heavenly movies may be "G" rated, many sporting events have

an element of violence in them. Will you be able to crush your opponent in a manly game of football, or will you just be turning the other cheek once in heaven? Are all of you sports fans going to be reduced to playing ping pong, shuffleboard, and maybe a hearty game of bingo? And even then, someone will have to face the disappointment of losing. Is that possible is heaven? Will you even wish for your opponent to lose?

Some People Really Love Their Pets.

We know there are horses in heaven, but are there dogs, cats, and pythons? Can you take your doggie for a walk along the street of gold? Are there fire hydrants on every corner? The Scriptures seem to indicate that animals don't have an eternal spirit, and they don't have the capacity to accept Jesus as their Saviour. They may not be tainted with original sin like man, but they are under the curse. Sorry, there may not be any pets to cuddle. It is also unlikely there will be

duck hunting, deer hunting, or fishing either. Jeepers, it seems like heaven might be missing some real essentials!

With all the normal stuff we enjoy in life not available in heaven, what is left that you would want to do? Talking to your ancient relatives might be fun for a while, but we are talking about eternity. That's E-Ter-Ni-Ty! I am glad Uncle LeRoy was saved, but spending forever with him?

Now, the Bible doesn't go into many specifics about heaven. Why? The Scriptures say our minds are not capable of comprehending the glory of heaven.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."

I Corinthians 2:9

Imagine for a minute that all you have ever had to eat is crackers and water. In your world that is all you know, so





everything is judged by that standard. You know crackers and water are better than dirt and pond scum, but you know of nothing better. Then, one day someone gives you a cookie and milk. Wow, this must be heaven. No, it's not, but it is the closest thing to it that you can imagine. Now, although you know of something better than crackers and water, still *(and this is my point)* you remain without the knowledge that Krispy Kreme doughnuts exists somewhere in the universe. Heaven is that way. There is something out there that will make you wonder why you ever thought dirt and pond scum, crackers and water, and even milk and cookies, were the best the universe had to offer.

Now, while it's true we don't know the details about heaven, the Bible does give us a general idea and what we discover is absolutely mind-blowing! When we enter heaven we will be changed physically and spiritually. John tells us we will be like Jesus. More important than anything else is the fact that we will be with our Lord forever. From His throne flows the River of Life. It will be perfect, clear

as crystal. We will finally see Him face to face. We shall worship Him and be His people and He will be our God.

The presence of Christ will dominate heaven the same way the sun dominates the hot summer sky. We will be able to talk to Him, ask Him questions, and listen to Him speak. Imagine hearing His voice – the Bible says it will be. . .

“like the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder.”
Revelation 14:2

Imagine the stories He'll tell, the lessons He'll teach, and the love He'll share. And just think about this:

***“When we've been there ten thousand years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
 We've no less days to sing God's praise,
 Than when we've first begun.”***

Heaven is God's home, but as one of His children, it is also my home. God is perfect and so heaven is perfect. Nothing imperfect can ever enter heaven ***(Revelation 22:14-15)***. The

Word of God makes it clear. . .

“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”
Romans 3:23

But God has provided a way to bridge the gap between us and Him, and that bridge is Jesus Christ our Lord. He died on the cross for our sins. He took our punishment so we wouldn't have to. Now He offers His forgiveness to mankind. All we have to do is acknowledge we are sinners, and that Jesus, the Son of God, died in our place, rose for our justification, and then accept Him as our Saviour.

While it is true we cannot comprehend the glory of heaven, we can be assured of our acceptance into that glorious city, but only through the finished work of Jesus Christ.



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



And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

There is truly one word which stands out in this Scripture. The word is “all”. That one word lets us know what we can expect with half-hearted service, worship, giving, and obedience. When most are not truly expecting a move of God in their lives, they need only to look at this one Scripture. God can be seen in many things, and that is only due to His character and attributes. Sure we can see God in His creation and hear Him in some music, but we only find Him when we truly and sincerely search for Him.

Note also God did not say to search with our eyes, ears, or mind as much as we should our heart. Why the heart? Relationships are rooted in the heart. While God can be seen in many things, He can only be experienced in a loving relationship. If the heart is not involved, what you have is just a religion. God sees what we do for Him, but He would much rather we do things with Him. Even the worship God desires is from the heart, not just the head.

So how do you know if you are searching for God with all your heart? It will be evident by the things the heart gives. When we truly love, we give certain elements of ourselves. Let’s look at some of the most important ones: time, money, and attention.

Because of how fast time slips by, it is extremely valuable. When we were teens we were in such a hurry to grow up, and now that we are grown, we are telling teens to slow down. Why? Because we all know how fast time will pass. When you dearly love something, you will gladly spend time cultivating it. When you love a person, you desire to nurture and spend time with them. You want to know them and everything about them. God wants us to desire Him that way. He wants to know we are willing to give up valuable time to spend with Him. God doesn’t want us to spend time with Him because we have to, but that we desire to. He doesn’t want just the time we have left over once we have done everything else we have to do. He loves and asks for our first fruits. This is why we worship corporately on Sunday, the first day of the week. How much time are you daily and weekly spending with God?

Another heart element deals with our finances. When we love someone or something, we don’t mind spending our money there. Billions are spent yearly on material things people love and think will make them happy. But unselfish love desires to give to others rather than to oneself. When we love God, we wholeheartedly support His work through our tithes, offerings, and gifts to help others in need. After all, the Bible does teach we are most like God when we give. As one preacher said, “Show me your checkbook and I will show you what and who you love.”

Another element of the heart is what it gives attention to. If someone or something has your heart, it has your attention. God will not be part of a divided interest. He has given us first place in His heart and expects the same from us, a true heart. For some, God is not the center focus, but simply an add-on to the many things that has their attention. There is a world of distractions that can pull at our attention. People, careers, money, sports, shopping, hobbies, food, and the list continues. While life is full of things that can draw our attention, nothing should be more important than God. Without a doubt, we have His attention, but does He have our undivided attention?

May we daily examine our hearts to see if we are truly searching for God. Evaluate your time, finances, and attention and see if you have given God not only a place to visit, but a place to stay.



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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May, 2017
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Purposeful Selection

There's a great principle all of us need to realize when we pick up the Bible and study it, and that is, the Bible is built upon a *purposeful selection*. This can be illustrated from last two chapters of John.

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that not even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.

John 21:25

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written,

that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name.

John 20:30-31

John says Jesus did so much and His life was so full of meaning that if a man were to write down everything Jesus did, the world itself could not contain the books that could be written. Consequently, what you have in the Bible is a *purposeful selection* of isolated events as directed by the Holy Spirit for John to write.

The Holy Spirit guided John to write specific things for a specific purpose. He selected this incident, and that story, and this parable, and this miracle, out of a vast volume of things which John witnessed.

Our lives are the same way. Most of us cannot possibly accomplish all the things we would like to accomplish. Neither can we

always give to every worthy cause brought before us. Therefore, just like John, we must be guided by the Holy Spirit to make a *purposeful selection*. The choices are not always easy.

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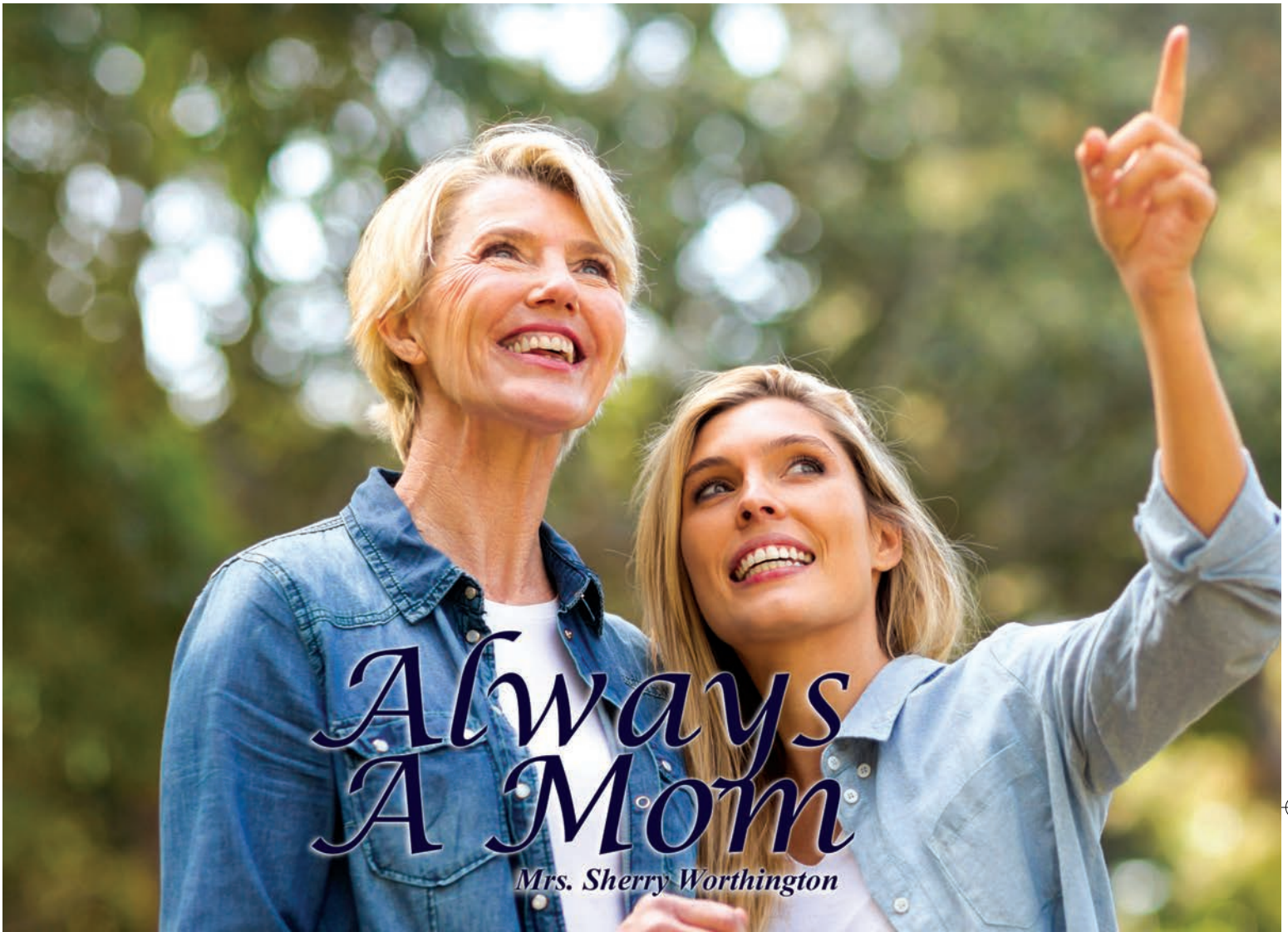
The Bible is full of many examples of great men and women of God. We have examples of men like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Men that were willing to stand up for the Lord regardless of the consequences they might face. We think of David's unshakeable faith when he courageously stood up to Goliath, while others much stronger than he were too afraid. We think of Esther confronting King Ahasuerus on behalf of her Jewish countrymen which Haman was plotting to destroy. Had it not been for her bravery, many Jews would have perished. Then there's Moses. While hesitant and doubtful at first, he soon led God's people out of Egyptian captivity.

What great heroes of the faith! Examples for us all to follow. However, maybe sometimes you feel as though you're not quite measuring up. You haven't led thousands to Christ like Billy Graham. You weren't called to give up everything and live on the mission field. You don't speak with great authority or teach a Sunday school class. Maybe your voice isn't even good enough to sing in the choir or your health good enough to help out with the teen car wash this weekend. How can you be a hero? What could you possibly do?

As we read of many great heroes of the Faith in God's Word, we don't have to look far behind the star of the story to see others who played just as big of a role.

Without the wisdom and guidance of cousin Mordecai, Esther may have never been in the position to save her people. In the battle against the Amalekites, Moses had Aaron and Hur there to hold up his arms so that the Israelites could win. We don't even know the name of another hero. She was a Jewish servant girl, a maid for the wife of Naaman, the captain of the Syrian army. If you remember, Naaman had leprosy and called on the prophet of God, Elisha, to heal him. How did he hear of Elisha? You guessed it! The unnamed Jewish servant.

These are just a few examples of heroes behind the heroes, and the Bible has many more. They give hope to all of us. Not everyone is called to be at the forefront or in the spotlight, but that doesn't mean your task is of any less importance. You can be there to lead and guide younger Christians in the faith. You can write letters and notes of encouragement to others who are on the frontlines. Most importantly, you can offer up prayers on the behalf of others to the God and Creator of the universe. If you are still living on this earth, God can use you. He is not done with you yet. You have a purpose... a great purpose! You can be a hero, too. Ask God to use you and give you opportunities to be a hero for Him.



Always A Mom

Mrs. Sherry Worthington

I have had this annoying cough for about a month now. I get it every spring, so I know it is allergy-related. I have taken all kinds of medicines over the years, but I have learned I am blessed if I can sleep at night. I have had many suggestions of how to stop my cough. The most come from my precious mother.

She has told me about different medicines to try and has searched the internet. Mom forwards me things from Facebook that will cure or help my cough. My mom and dad have recently moved near us, and Mom has taken up where she left off. Not that she has ever stopped being my mother, but she is nearby so she is more aware of the things

going on in my life. My mom has sent over home-cooked goodies, she has offered to help in so many ways, she has given me all kinds of home remedies to fix what ails me, and she worries about me not getting enough rest. The great love she has for me is obvious. She is in her seventies, and I am in my fifties, but that does not seem to matter. I guess you never stop being a mom.

I assumed once the children were grown and started families of their own we would not worry about them as much. My husband and I have not found that to be the case. It still hurts when they hurt, we are concerned when they are sick, we still worry when they worry, and we

love them even more than we ever thought we could. When they were home, we had firsthand knowledge of the struggles and victories in their lives. Now, we watch from afar. Not that we are perfect, but we have been around awhile, and we like to think we can keep them on the right track. They do a good job all by themselves, but mothers tend to want to fix things, and I am no different. That never changes either.

As the children have gotten older, they have given me an additional blessing. I get to be Mom to their spouses, too. Oh, I don't take the place of their mothers, but hopefully I can be Mom #2. I have double the children to care for and to love.



And if that wasn't enough, I have ten grandchildren to cherish as well. So, I guess I feel like the mother of my tribe. My heart keeps growing, and it never stops loving.

In some ways, a woman also becomes a mother to her own mother as she ages. I probably annoy my parents as I tend to mother them now. They are very capable, but I worry about them, too. My mother-in-law is in the nursing home, and she is dependent on others mothering her. In fact, I guess there are several people whom I feel I need to look out for who are much older than I. Does it ever stop?

Sometimes my adult children have to remind me they are grown. I do my

best to respect their wishes and not "butt in." Sometimes when I do offer unsolicited advice, I will get the look that says, "Mom, I am over thirty years old now. I can handle this." Of course, sometimes I get the honor of being asked for advice. When your children ask for your input, you know they feel you have wisdom to share.

As I get older, I have had more and more opportunities to admire my children and their wisdom. They are each very wise in their own way. All of my children are hard workers and that makes me very proud. I am praying I never become dependent on my children, but if I live a long life that is very possible. One day they will be taking care of me. One

day they will be giving me advice and telling me things I don't want to hear. I guess they already do that sometimes. Maybe I am older than I think.

As I age, I pray to do so gracefully. I hope I will be a mother who will have the right words to say, the comfort to share, the arms that hold, the admiration that is earned, but most of all the wisdom of the Lord to share. I would like my reputation to be of the Titus 2 woman in Scripture.

I want my children to be able to say of me that my behavior portrayed holiness, I was never a false accuser, and never given to wine. I taught good things and was a good example to the younger women. I was able to teach them to be good wives and mothers by my own example. *(Based on Titus 2:3-5)*

If I can be remembered in this manner, I would have been the godly example I strive to be. Unfortunately I fail, but by God's grace I will keep on trying.

"Now also when I am old and grey headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to everyone that is to come."

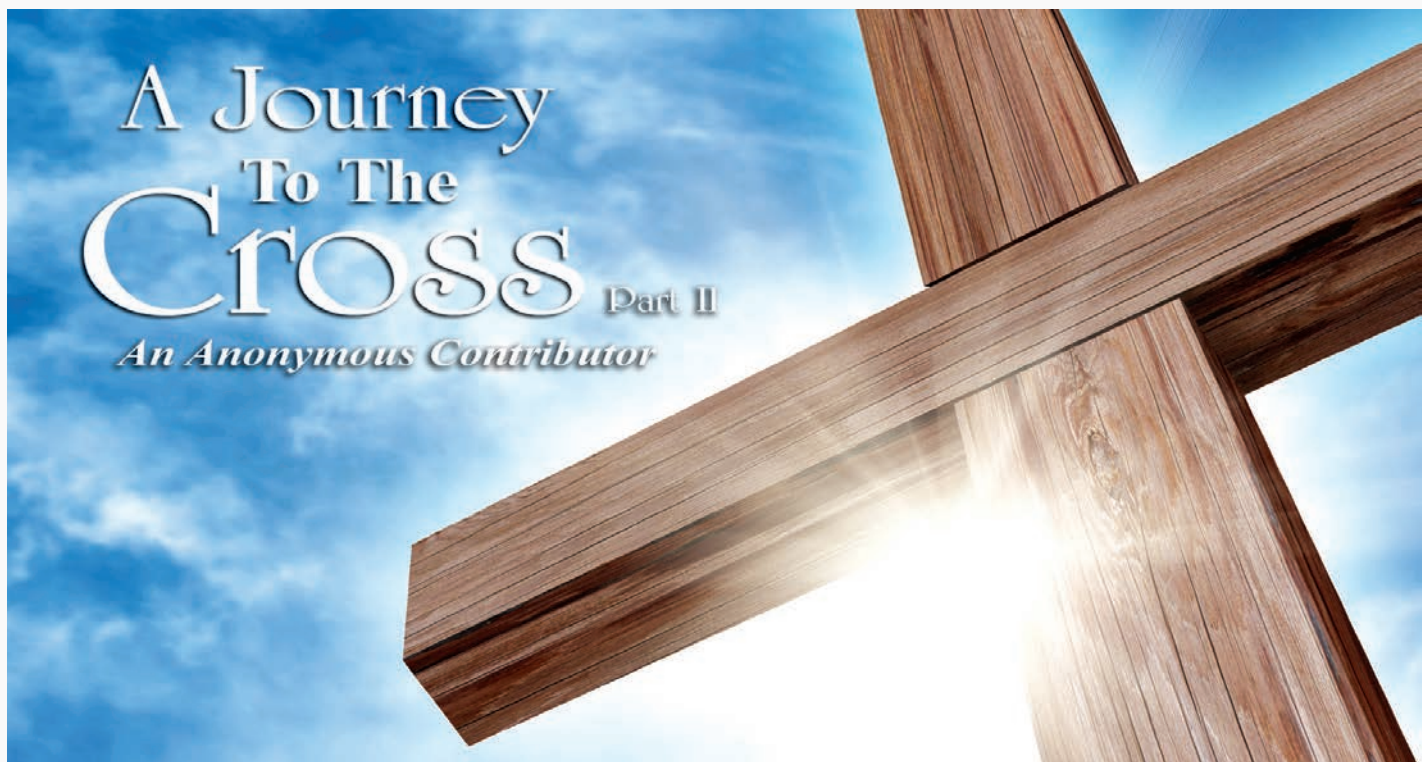
Psalms 71:18

May this be my epitaph!

Thank you, Lord, for my mother!



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



(A visitor had come to our church. She was in tears and desperate for the peace of God...)

I continued and told her how once Christ came, the people were already familiar with the lamb sacrifice. Jesus was introduced as the Lamb of God. That was the purpose Christ came – to be a sacrifice for us. That is why we no longer offer animal sacrifices, because Christ has come and been offered for us. I told her how He lived a pure and holy life, and that was the only reason His sacrifice was acceptable to the Father. Jesus being raised from the dead three days later was proof of God’s acceptance of Jesus’ offering of Himself. Her eyes were continuing to open, and she was starting to remember more as I talked. She said it was all starting to make more sense now.

I again told her a life with Christ would not be an easy one. It was His enemies who killed Him, though He allowed it because it was God’s plan.

I told her how choosing God meant she would have new enemies and probably lose friends she thought she had. However, choosing God and Christ would also place her in the family of God: He would become her Heavenly Father and protector, and once you enter God’s family, you are never kicked out. God adopts you and calls you His child and sees you the same as He sees His only Son, Jesus. Jesus’ past is exchanged for yours. He died on that cross for you, but also as you. Once you ask to get saved, Jesus will wash all your sins away with His powerful, cleansing blood. Your sins will be cast as far as the east is from the west in God’s eyes. Yes, getting saved will cost you, I told her. But you sure gain a whole lot more in return. You will never, never be alone again. At this her whole body relaxed and she was nearly in tears all over again.

Throughout our conversation I had continued to stress getting saved would not answer all her troubles

nor make her life easy. Christ never promised that. So at this point, I asked her if she did indeed want to ask Christ to be her Saviour – not because of ease, but because she saw she was a sinner and needed Him to cleanse her. She said yes, yes she did. We knelt and prayed, and I led her in a declaration of accepting God’s standards, of believing His Word, that she was indeed a sinner and she needed a Saviour, Jesus. She had sinned against God. She declared believing Christ died for her, and He rose again the third day. She thanked Him for making her His child and taking her into His kingdom. Hallelujah! My heart sang, but more importantly, hers did. She sobbed in my arms and held onto me tightly for a long time. Once she could talk she cried how clean and new she felt. I told her it was because she was new. God had made her into a new creature. I told her the angels were rejoicing in Heaven right now because “*one sinner came to repentance.*” I also told her how God’s Spirit was now

living inside her, and He would never leave her. She started telling me how she had to call her mom. I later learned of how she told the next stranger she saw. This made my spirit smile and soar.

We finished with some advice. I told her though her sins had been forgiven, that did not mean she was going to be perfect from now on. I told her her sins were all paid for: past, present, and future. We are sinners saved by grace, but we grow in that grace. Having our sins paid for does not mean we sin freely, rather it gives us assurance that our salvation is permanent. We do, however, come to God for restoration of fellowship after we sin. I told her of some good radio stations she could listen to for music and Scriptural preaching. I told her it was important she listen to sound teaching to help her be guided in her way. I recommended certain preachers who had proven to be steadfast to God and His Word. Lastly, I told her prayer and Bible reading were a way to show her love to God and a way He could teach her about His. Prayer is simply talking to God. We are to be respectful and grateful when we come to Him, but we also confide in and open up to Him. He already knows all about it and He wants you to talk to Him. It is not always about bending on your knees in reverence, though that is very important. I told her it is also “*Good morning, God. Thank You for today. What can I do for You?*” and “*Hello, Lord. It’s me again. I need some help with my car. Can You help me?*” Again, her eyes seemed to open up. I then explained the Bible was God’s Book to us. Part of showing Him our love is in how interested we are in



His Word and in how we obey it. I told her not to expect to understand everything she read. (*Do we really want a God whom we understood everything about?*) I told her to take what she did understand and obey it. Memorize it and place it in her heart. Write notes around the house, the car and work to help her memorize it and make it a part of her life. God would guide her through His Word and His Spirit. As she memorized God would bring those Scriptures to her mind when she faced situations and needed guidance.

We left the room and found the only two people left in church. She immediately began to tell of what Christ had done for her. Though she struggled with anxiety due to her

original situation, she now knew she wasn’t alone.

I never saw this lady again. She had to flee abuse and seek refuge far away. I am so glad I took such great lengths to help her understanding of the cross. Had I taken the shorter route, she would likely have been back in despair within days. God’s guidance to me ended up being a pathway for this lady to start her journey on. I thank Him greatly for guiding me. To God be all glory and praise! May His Son be lifted up, and all men drawn unto Him!

Even as the Son of man came... to give his life a ransom for many.
Matthew 20:28

And Finally...



Pack-Rat...

I collect coffee table books. This is the only thing on my "collector's list" that I collect on purpose. In high school, my mom gave me a really cool coffee table book. Since then, every single Christmas and Birthday I have asked for at least one, if not five. My favorites are home decor, but I also love ones relating to fashion and style. They are all over our house, but I love them. I also collect coffee mugs. This was never on purpose, but anytime I see a cute or quirky mug, I buy it. My favorite places to get them are at thrift shops and yard sales. They always have the best deals!

N. A.

I am definitely considered a pack-rat. Anything that I can get my hands on, I collect. Every ticket from every event I've ever been to. A shell from every beach I visit. A bag of tea from every country I go to. A map from every city I go to. An article of clothing from every shop I go to. Every handout I've ever received. Any free stuff gets thrown in there, and eventually it becomes a collection. With time, my lair becomes a museum!

T. E.

I am a collector. I collect silver, crystal, and Depression glass. I have my first pair of earrings and necklace my dad gave me when I was 16. I am almost 70 now. I have books from my great-grandparents, old reel-to-reel movies, musical instruments, and even VCRs. I still have cards from friends, certificates of achievements, and school papers from both my children and all of my

grandchildren. I even have my first doll! My collection is a road map of my journey and precious memories.

A. D.

I collect angel figurines. My late husband started it all by getting me an angel. She was beautiful, and he used to say I was his angel. He would say I had the heart of an angel. Time passed and every birthday and Christmas I would get a new angel. Some are small, some light up, and some are in snow globes. He used to tell me I had too many, yet he was the only one who bought them for me. He is passed away now, but every time I see them, I think of him.

C. A.

"International Joke Day"

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

July 1st, 2017, is International Joke Day!

Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us a fun joke you know. The deadline for submission is May 15th, 2017.

You can send an email to: Attn: PathPointe
wago@gomixradio.org
Or write to: Pathway Ministries
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Monument Or Mission?

In today's economy, is it wise to raise money to build and operate Christian radio stations? Actually, encouraging listeners to contribute funding is inherently neither right nor wrong. In some cases, God is glorified through the financing, construction, and operation of a Christian radio station. In other cases, through massive indebtedness, incompetence, extravagance, pride, and facility misuse, God is dishonored. Obviously, prayer is always needed before you contribute.

I know during times of economic hardship people may criticize a ministry by saying, *"If that money was given to the poor, far greater things could be accomplished."* This is sometimes true and it will need prayerful consideration. On the other hand, by serving the Christian community and reaching out to the unsaved, a Scriptural ministry provides evangelism, encouragement, and edification. Ultimately, the poor and hurting may be ministered to in a far greater degree because of the investment that was made in the faithful ministry.

We must continually strive to be sure the burden of funding, building, and maintaining radio stations doesn't become our main mission. At **GoMix Christian Radio**, our mission has never been radio stations, *it is people*. Distractions from this mission cannot be accepted. We must consciously battle the rationalizations that so often turn churches and Christian organizations away from building Christ's kingdom to building their own.

Some things, like the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, can serve two distinct and worthwhile purposes. It assuredly served a very useful mission, yet it is also recognized as a grand historic monument. The dividing lines for ministries are not quite as clear. So for us, we shall strive to forgo the illusion of a monument. You see, just like your church building, Christian radio stations should be tools for ministry, not monuments to man.

A. W. H. H. H.

**Thank You
For Your
Faithful
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