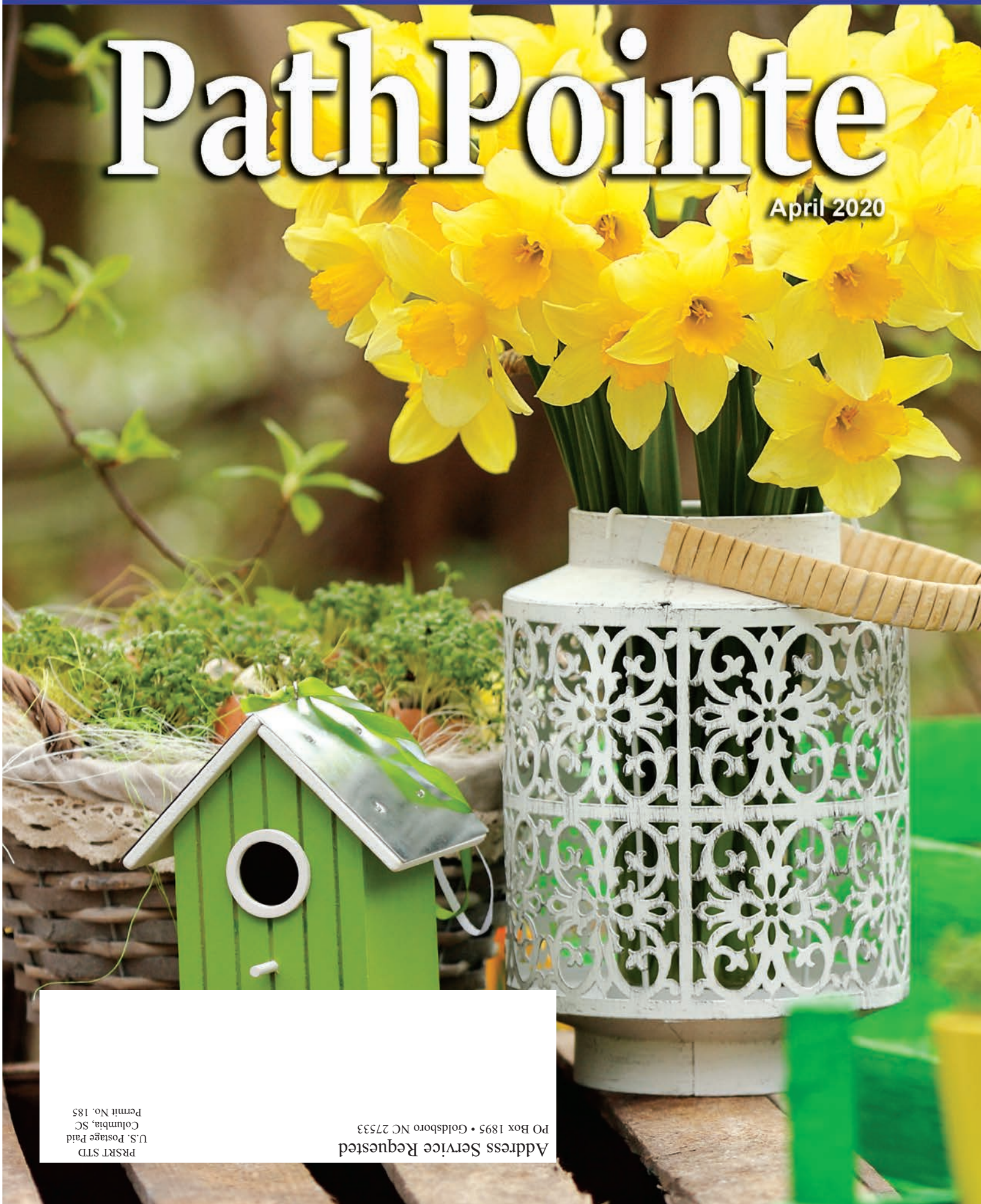


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Resurrection Power

Dr. T. D. Worthington

“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.”

Philippians 3:10

Over the years I have spoken frequently of living a crucified life. This means living a life of sacrifice and service. It is a life of seeking first the Kingdom of God and placing His wishes ahead of my own. Living such a life demands Christ to be placed upon the throne of my life. The terminology for such a life was given to us by Paul.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20

When I first began in the ministry, many Christians embraced such a doctrine. Believers were willing to separate themselves from the world while sacrificing greatly for the cause of Christ. I witnessed many young men surrender to preach the Gospel. I saw others sacrifice a secular career to become missionaries, Christian school teachers, youth leaders, and a host of other humble ministry positions. Churches shunned the world’s entertainment, style of dress and standards of morality.

Those living a crucified life also realized that true worship always involved sacrifice. Abraham defined worship back in the book of Genesis.

“And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and

worship, and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.”

Genesis 22:5-6

In Abraham’s mind he was not climbing the mountain to sing a few choruses, but rather he was to sacrifice his son. We were taught how to worship in prayer by sacrificing our daily bread in fasting. Jesus taught us the principle of sacrifice in giving through the story of the widow’s mite. Over and over we understood that we were not placed upon this earth to do our will, but to accomplish His will. Obviously, the concept of a crucified life is foreign to most Christians today. It is like we have skipped





over the cross and established our dwelling place at the open tomb.

Indeed, there has been a change. The meaning of the death and resurrection of Christ has been altered over time. In the beginning, the disciples *understood that Jesus' death and resurrection demonstrated that they need not fear this world as they went about their ministry.*

The words, ***“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21)***, appeared to be the mentality of all of the Apostles. They sacrificed in order to participate in the resurrection. However, in this present day, Jesus' death and resurrection ***has become a message of being free from pain or suffering.*** Although it is certainly true that Jesus Himself paid the full price of redemption, yet He has left us here on earth to carry out His work and to share His message. The modern idea says that *“since Jesus served the Father, I don't have to; since Jesus lived a good life, I don't have to; and since Jesus suffered and sacrificed, I don't have to.”* The modern belief is that we should be free of suffering, hardship, and torment—***because Jesus took care of all that for me.*** Many books at the Bible bookstore attest to this modern interpretation. Many modern sermons dwell on the subject of living without pain or hardship on the earth. In many churches if you are having a tough time, many will believe something must be wrong with you spiritually; indeed, something must be wrong with your faith.

So the modern teaching is that we've all received a universal protection policy from hardship. But that is not true, suffering and tragedy happens to Christians and non-Christians alike. It is clear that the early Christians never

looked at Christianity as a way out of suffering.

Faith In Christ Includes Sharing In Every Aspect Of His Life.

First, knowing Jesus clearly involves the power of the resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus conquered death and provided the way for us to be born into God's family. ***(Philippians 3:10)***

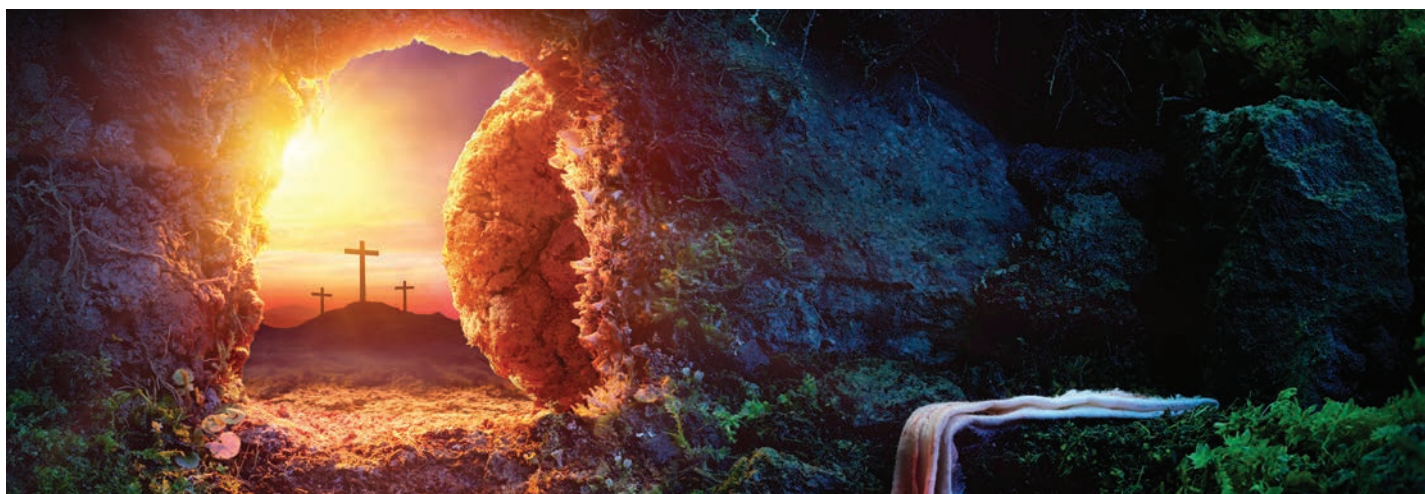
Second, Paul also notes in the same verse the importance of sharing in ***“His sufferings.”*** Many believers miss this trait, believing the Christian faith provides freedom from hardship. This is a popular teaching in the modern church. However, the Scriptures make it plain that the early church knew that living for Christ included sharing in both the joys and struggles, and sometimes these struggles would involve intense suffering. Paul personally endured hardship despite his faithful life. The early church understood and accepted this reality.

But here's what happened, as Christianity became more worldly and flesh centered, Christians didn't

believe they needed to sacrifice in order to participate in the power of a resurrection life. We skipped over the cross and headed straight for the open tomb. It became a message of having resurrection power without the anguish and suffering of the cross. This thinking leads us to believe that following Jesus should lead to less suffering. But the truth is, living a self-sacrificial life is to choose a life that is sometimes uncomfortable. The good news of the resurrection is not that we get to avoid suffering, but that there is a resurrection power that comes out of suffering.

The resurrection is an invitation not to escape all the pain, but to see beyond the pain, sorrow, and suffering. It's a call for us ***“to get out of ourselves”*** and our small, self-created world of painless entitlement. The Redeemer suffered in place of man and for man. But, each of us is called to share in that suffering which not only allows us to increase our faith, but also to more closely identify with Christ. In bringing about redemption through suffering, ***Christ has also raised human suffering to the level of the***





redemption. Thus, each man, in his suffering, can also fellowship in the redemptive suffering of Christ. We must learn to personalize our suffering. Although we never seek to suffer, yet we also realize that godly suffering conforms us more to the image of Christ. We cannot experience the power of His resurrection without spending some time as partners in His suffering. And how can we be partners in His suffering, if we are not even willing to face suffering with a joyful heart?

I know some people say, “***But He went through all of that so we don’t have to!***” I’ve come to believe that the power of His resurrection is directly linked to the horror of His death; in much the same way as the experiences of sadness, illness, and failure enhance and intensify the experiences of joy, good health, and success.

So, to those open to a word of advice, do not attempt to bypass the cross to get to the tomb. Our Lord explained it this way:

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

Matthew 16:24

I truly believe that the power of the resurrection will be more meaningful, more powerful, and more transformative for us, if we’ve spent some time sharing in His suffering first. The Resurrection is the most powerful, earth-shattering, explosive event to ever happen in human history. It has fundamentally changed the world. The belief that the eternal God became a man, allowed Himself to experience everything that is human, to die a horrific death in the midst of terrible mockery, and then rose from the dead and offered His disciples a share in His glory is a creed that has turned the most wicked into saints. This is the event that inspires, molds, and shapes the life of every Christian believer. It is the summons to goodness and the promise of eternal glory.

Rather than wearing a frown due to our suffering, or sporting a fake smile, we need to face our sufferings in this world and find resurrection power through the cross we bear. For the joy set before us, let’s face reality and share in the suffering of our Lord so that we can join in His victory. Those who live in resurrection power know that the cross always accompanies the open tomb. A crucified life is necessary if you are to live a life of resurrection power. Sacrifice is necessary in order to experience true worship. This

power does not necessarily undo our past, fix our problems, or change the circumstances of our lives. Rather, it changes us, offers a way through our problems, and creates a glorious future in this world and in the world to come. Whatever suffering God allows in your life; whatever pain, whatever disappointment, whatever trial, however big or small, we should want to be able to testify with Paul, “***In my suffering I shall bring glory to my Lord.***” We want whatever cross we bear or hardship we suffer, however big or small, to make God look more trustworthy and gracious for anyone who might see how we suffer.

Someone needs to see you pick up your cross and suffer triumphantly in resurrection power. People need to see you clinging to His promises, treasuring His friendship, and praising His name when life is falling in on you. Some may not know how much they need to see you endure because their suffering hasn’t come yet. But it will. And when it comes, they will remember the saints who they have seen suffer well.



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



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Certainty

In these current times, uncertainty abounds. As of the writing of this, the COVID-19 virus has everyone on edge. Schools and churches have been shut down, grocery store aisles have been emptied, stocks are down, and many are fearful of their health and the health of their families.

Uncertainty is not a new thing. Quite often throughout life we face troubles and heartaches. Ever since the fall of mankind there has always been some type of war, strife, sickness, famine, or financial depression. Our parents faced it,

our grandparents faced it, our great-grandparents faced it, and so on...

Regardless of the uncertainty around us, our God is certain! He is the steady, solid rock we can always turn to.

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and are safe.”

Proverbs 18:10

Our goal at GoMix Christian Radio is to continually be a light in the darkness to point you to Christ, encourage you in your Christian walk, and challenge you to grow in your faith. There are times we face uncertainty just as everyone else. We are not immune to the struggles of this world. Nonetheless, we have a job to do and we trust that the One Who hung the stars and calls them by name (*Psalm 147:4*) will continue to be our strong tower,

provider, and certainty in the midst of uncertainty.

The **44th GoMix Christian Radio Share-A-Thon** begins on **Monday, April 6th**. As we do all we can humanly do to meet our **\$250,000.00** goal, we are ultimately counting on the Lord to provide through the support of our family of believers. We pray that you'll seize this opportunity to grow your faith and trust the Lord with us to provide for your needs as you consider a gift to support Christian Radio. Thank you for all you do.



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GoMix is Honored With A New Production Room!

As some of you know, we have two production rooms here at **GoMix** where pastors can come and record their programs. Several years ago, we suffered a catastrophic equipment failure in one of our rooms making it difficult to use. Unfortunately, a lack of funding hindered us from restoring the room back to full-service. However, we are pleased to announce that the room has been completely refurbished with new equipment. This was accomplished by a generous grant from some dear friends of the ministry.

The family of **Mr. Curtis Keaton Kelley, Sr.**, offered to provide memorial funding to update the equipment and put the room back in service. At the age of 81, Mr. Kelley was called home by his Lord on August

8, 2019. Mr. Kelley was born on March 31, 1938 in Keaton Beach, Florida, and lived a majority of his life in Valdosta, Georgia, where he reared his children and worked with the US Postal Service. Several years ago, due to declining health, he and his beloved wife Fann, relocated to Snow Hill, North Carolina.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelley have been **Faith Partners** of **GoMix Christian Radio** since 1998. As we join the family in celebrating Mr. Kelley's rich life, we would also like to thank the family for their generosity over the years and for this memorial grant which will be a blessing for years to come.

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My granddaughter, Lily, came to church Wednesday night all smiles. She was so excited because she had dressed herself. Her eyes sparkled with pride. Mom grinned sheepishly, “*Can you tell she dressed herself?*” I am not sure what gave it away. Was it the striped shirt and the plaid bottoms, or was it the mismatched colors? It wasn’t that bad, but it was obvious that she had dressed herself.

Her mother explained that Lily had run into the room excited that she had dressed herself. She didn’t have the heart to tell her she had to change. As children, we learn many things. With our parents’ guidance we learn to walk,

potty train, dress ourselves, and eat with a fork. The list is endless.

It is OK to make messes when you are learning, but there comes a time when those messes are not acceptable. Children should not expect their parents to always clean up after them. They should at some point clean up after themselves.

Unfortunately, some children never clean up after themselves. I know an adult who is probably in his 60’s whose mom is still cleaning up his messes. If he is short on money, she bails him out. She is close to 90 and still cooks for him and washes his laundry, too.

He doesn’t do anything to help with the upkeep around the house. He has never grown up.

What happened here? I know the man is to blame for his actions, but in some ways, the mother is to blame as well. It is apparent she never taught him to fly out of the nest. I think many times we, as parents, try to protect to a fault. We don’t want our children to be hurt or have to do without anything, and in the process, we help them out of the cocoon.

From our studies in biology, we learned that the butterfly will never fly if we help it out of the cocoon. It



needs to struggle out of the cocoon to exercise its wings. The difficulty of escaping the cocoon helps the butterfly to soar.

When we pamper our children and give in to their whining and demands, we are causing them harm. I saw a woman in a store tell a child that he could not have a candy bar. He began to cry and demand. She told him again that he could not have it, and he got louder. I was dumbfounded when she bought him the candy bar. What did she just teach him? If I cry long enough, I will get my way. She just hurt him in ways she may not understand. We must teach our children that we mean what we say. Life is not going to bow to their image.



I believe parents who continue to try to make life easy on their children do them a disservice. Young people need to learn what it takes to keep a home running smoothly. They need to learn what it is like to do chores, and as they get older, pay bills. Young people should get jobs and help pay some of their expenses. If not, what happens when they get out of the home. Are they going to expect Mom and Dad to help them continue their present lifestyle? I have seen this over and over again.

I know there will be times when all parents help their children. In these times it should not be expected but appreciated tremendously. I also know there will be times when the children help the parents. This is called a family. I am so grateful for my family. I don't know what I would do without them.

I am also grateful to be in God's family. I am a child of the King. But I have to ask myself, "Have I grown up in the faith?" I have been saved for over 45

years now. Am I still a babe needing a bib, or am I able to handle the strong meat of the word? **Hebrews 5:11-14** tells us that some of the Christians were not mature enough to handle the deeper Word. Some should have been teachers but were having to be taught the basics of God's Word again. Am I one of those people?

Do I exhibit the fruit of the Spirit, or do I show more of the character of the lost? In **Galatians 5:22-24**, Paul talks about the character the Holy Spirit produces in the Christian. This fruit is given to every Christian. It is not like the gifts of the Spirit which are divided to every Christian, "**severally as He will.**" We cannot say we do not have the fruit. We just choose not to exhibit it. Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, and temperance (*self-control*) are all ours if we choose to use them. It is like all other areas of life. It takes practice.

If I want to grow in my faith, I must study God's Word, pray, and let His

Spirit live in me so that I manifest His fruit. I don't want to continue to be a spoiled baby in Christ. I want to be the beautiful butterfly and spread my wings and soar for Him. I want Him to be proud of how I handle the struggles that come my way. With His guidance and the advice of His Word along with His still small voice, I can become the child He would have me to be. I can bring glory and honor to Him.

Isn't it time for us to stop making excuses for our behavior? Shouldn't we be eating the steak and potatoes of His Word? Why aren't we more loving to our neighbors? Why are we grumpy and short-tempered? Why are we so out of control in so many areas of our life? Isn't it time to grow up? It is a choice we make. Let's make it today!



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

Seeing The Cross

Rev. Jason Sherman

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2

What a spectacle the cross is! We see it throughout the world as a sign of God and of good, yet its purest message has become essentially ignored by our world. Today, the world very rarely associates the cross with the person of Jesus Christ. And if they do, it's never to the degree that God would have them consider it.

I believe God is glad that the cross can be seen in so many places today. I think it's yet another opportunity for His Holy Spirit to do a work in the hearts and minds of unbelievers. Truth be told, if you're not a believer in Jesus Christ today, God purposes for you to see the cross everywhere.

Why would God do this? Because He's trying to get your attention for starters. He would have you pay

the closest attention to your greatest need: where you are going to spend eternity!

Secondly, God is doing this because He is always trying to tell us just how much He loves us and wants to have a relationship with us. That's right: no one has ever done more for you than our Lord has – and He wants you to know it!

Do you ever see the cross in your day to day activities? I know I do and they remind us of special things our Lord would have us know about our relationship with Him...

Sometimes when I get behind a tow truck, I see a cross.

You and I both know the exact tow truck I'm talking about here. If you're ever behind it, it looks like a perfect cross folded up and lying down on top of the bed of the truck. I see that cross and it reminds me of something very concerning for those who have never

trusted Christ for forgiveness of sins. I see a life that is in need of some major assistance.

The Bible tells us, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our LORD.”*

(Romans 6:23) This means every one of us is a broken-down car on the side of life’s road. We would all love to go to Heaven, but none of us have the means to get there. Why? Because *“... all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*

(Romans 3:23) There is not one single person who has ever lived on this earth who could get to Heaven on their own. Everyone has needed God’s “roadside assistance.” Those who lived before Christ’s arrival

were saved by faith on credit – that is, on the promise of the arrival of the Saviour one day. They still had to trust our Heavenly Father to provide the payment for their sins. They just didn’t know in exactly what time that provision would be presented.

Those of us who are blessed to live after the arrival of Jesus Christ are saved by faith in the finished work He completed for us by offering His sinless blood on the cross. The blood that was shed for us there was a literal payment for our sins. That’s why it’s impossible to get to Heaven without trusting in Him. There’s no other payment God will accept.

Understand this: there’s no shame in calling out to the Saviour for help on this highway of life. There’s not a one of us who will ever get to Heaven without Him. Be saved today, and let the Heavenly Tow Truck come down and get you out of that sinful mess you’ve got yourself into.

I also see a cross when I look at power poles.

One of the questions I love to ask fellow pastors is, *“What’s your favorite word in the Bible?”* I’ve always found their answers to be rather interesting.



For instance, I have a dear pastor friend who has always said that his favorite word in the Bible is the word “all”.

He loves how it lumps everyone together. Just as “all” have sinned and come short of the glory of God (*mentioned above*), so too has Christ also died for “all”. Being a preacher, he also loves the fact that the Bible states “all” scripture is given by inspiration of God... **(2 Timothy 3:16)** I find great comfort in that Bible verse too.

My favorite word in the Bible is “power.” It’s always been a source of fascination to me. How was Christ able to command the wind and the waves on the Sea of Galilee to stop? Because He had the power to do it! And, do you know what they said when He told them to be still? They said, *“Yes Sir!”*

How was Jesus able to raise Lazarus to life FOUR days after he was already dead? Because only He had the “power” to do so. Friends, you and I would still be at that tomb today begging Lazarus to come out if it were up to us to bring him back!

Only Jesus has the power to save you. Only Jesus has the power to keep you. Only Jesus has the power

to promote you *(to Heaven)*. There is no other power we can depend on to give us hope beyond the grave than the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. He has already provided the proof-filled case study for your observation: His own victory over death!

“And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

Romans 1:4

God wants your attention today! He’s trying to get you to look up and see just how much He loves you. My prayer for you is the next time you see THE cross come across your life, you’ll smile and let the love of our Lord shine upon you in a special way.



Rev. Sherman serves as an Administrative Assistant at Christian Bible College. He and his wife Amber have four children and reside in Snow Hill, NC.

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In Memory; Rev. Charles Edward Hughes,
79, of Marion, NC

Pathway Ministries remembers the life and ministry of Rev. Charles Hughes, who went to be with his Lord on Sunday, March 1, 2020 at Mission Hospital McDowell.

Charles, working with Dr. T. D. Worthington, was instrumental in the founding of Freedom Christian School which later became *Pathway Christian Academy* in Goldsboro, North Carolina. As a graduate of Tennessee Temple University, he also served for many years as an associate pastor with Dr. Worthington. Most recently Charles served as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Old Fort, North Carolina.

He enjoyed golfing, fishing, and riding through the countryside. He especially loved his family and extended church family. All of us at Pathway join with his beloved wife of 55 years, Alice Hill Hughes; their three children and five grandchildren in celebrating the life of this dear servant of God.

And Finally...



My Miracle Baby...

I was so excited to have my first sonogram that would show if I was having a boy or a girl. Upon receiving my results, things changed. The doctor said, "Your son (I guess that was his way of saying it was a boy) has fluid on the brain and a hole in the heart." I was pressured by my medical providers over and over to have an abortion. Thankfully, I have a supportive, Christian family. As the weeks and months went by, I had more tests. I was able to see for myself the black hole in my little guy's heart and the big bubble of fluid on his brain. The doctors eventually said my baby would be born with down syndrome and require heart surgery. We prayed and then prayed some more. I soon gave birth to a ten pound baby boy. Tests were done while we were still in the hospital and no defects could be found! The doctor reviewed all of the previous tests and said he couldn't understand it. I could! The Lord had another plan for my baby and now I have a healthy fourteen year old son.

R. W.

My miracle baby, now twenty-three years old, came early without warning at 26-1/2 weeks. He weighed 2 lbs. 6 oz. Today, he's a student radiographer as well as a U.S. Marine. He is a very accomplished young man. God is so good!

L. J.

God is good. I have a down syndrome son that had a heart defect. We have gone through 2 heart surgeries. God didn't give him to us as a "punishment" as some see it, but as a blessing. He then gave us another blessing

with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. I'm not saying it is easy, but God always gives us the grace to handle all situations. I am doubly blessed with my two boys.

G. A.

After trying for years to conceive and struggling with infertility, my husband and I decided to adopt. Although it wasn't the way we originally planned to have a child, I'm so glad God's ways are better than ours! We couldn't be more blessed or imagine our life any other way. Our miracle child is truly a gift from God.

M. B.

"Sweet Treats"

National Doughnut Day is in June! We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of "And Finally..."

Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us your favorite bakery, sweet shop, or recipe for sweet treats.

The deadline for submission is
April 30, 2020.

You can send an email to:
share@gomixradio.org
Attn: PathPointe Magazine

Or write to: Pathway Ministries
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