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# contents

PathPointe Magazine

Volume 23, Issue 8

August 2022

- Page 2            **My Paper Bible**  
*Dr. T. D. Worthington*
- Page 5            **Will I Remember Being Dumb?**  
*Dr. T. D. Worthington*
- Page 6            **Radio Bits**  
*Your Christian Superstations!*
- Page 8            **The Churches ‘Round Here**  
*Pastor Rusty Conyers*
- Page 10           **Relationships Take Time**  
*Mrs. Sherry Worthington*
- Page 12           **And Finally...**  
*My Favorite Hymn...*

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#### PathPointe Magazine

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I remember the excitement when I finally received it. Right after my salvation my wife ordered me a new Bible. My pastor was a member of a book club and obtained me an Old Scofield at a great price; my first new Bible after getting saved. Oh, the aroma of a new Bible. I read it from cover to cover; and kept reading. Before long I began to preach out of that Bible and soon the pages became tattered and torn. The cover became unattached at some point, so I glued it back on. It was filled with marks and underlines and notes on top of other notes. My how I miss that Bible. I lost it somewhere. I hope if someone found it, they likewise put it to good use. Over the years I have had other Bibles, including the giant print that I need now.

I know I am behind the times. With each passing month, the world is becoming more digital, and I suspected at times that sticking with a paper Bible might be backward. Actually, I've tried my hand at reading the Bible on a computer or

laptop. The digital media offered quick clicks to study notes and commentaries, as well as the ability to copy and paste for other uses.

I guess I am weird, but the devices seemed to wear on me over time. Whether it was eyes or my brain or just the feel of paper, I felt like I was missing something with pixels instead of print. My soul didn't seem quite as settled, quite as calm and at peace, when I looked at a screen. And I was far more easily distracted on those devices. Somehow or another, I kept making my way back to my old paper Bible. It's like the Bible itself is holy... not just the words. It's hard to look at a computer as being holy.

Strange as it might seem paper and ink seem to make a difference in your time alone with God. Now, if you're happy with your screen, and not falling into the pitfalls of digital distraction and shortened attention span, well and good. I am not making a new law. There is no Scripture that forbids it, and

I know it has a place. Some today talk of our "bi-literate" brains. I understand we have discovered that man develops two kinds of reading skills. One is more linear, slower, deeper, deliberate, logical, coherent, sustained, and usually on paper. The other: more nonlinear, fast, scattered, disjointed, and shallower, as we browse and scan, eyes jumping or darting around the page. We are told that is the nature of digital reading.

We need to understand the value of what we may be losing when we skim text so rapidly that we skip the precious additional seconds that deep reading may require. For it is within these moments that the Holy Spirit might reach us with our own important insights and breakthroughs.

Some time back, Karen Prior, professor of English at Southeastern Seminary, writing about how screens are changing the way we read Scripture, noted that "*reading on digital devices does not create*

*the same kind of brain circuits as deep reading” and warned of “the habit of superficial comprehension developed in digital reading.”*

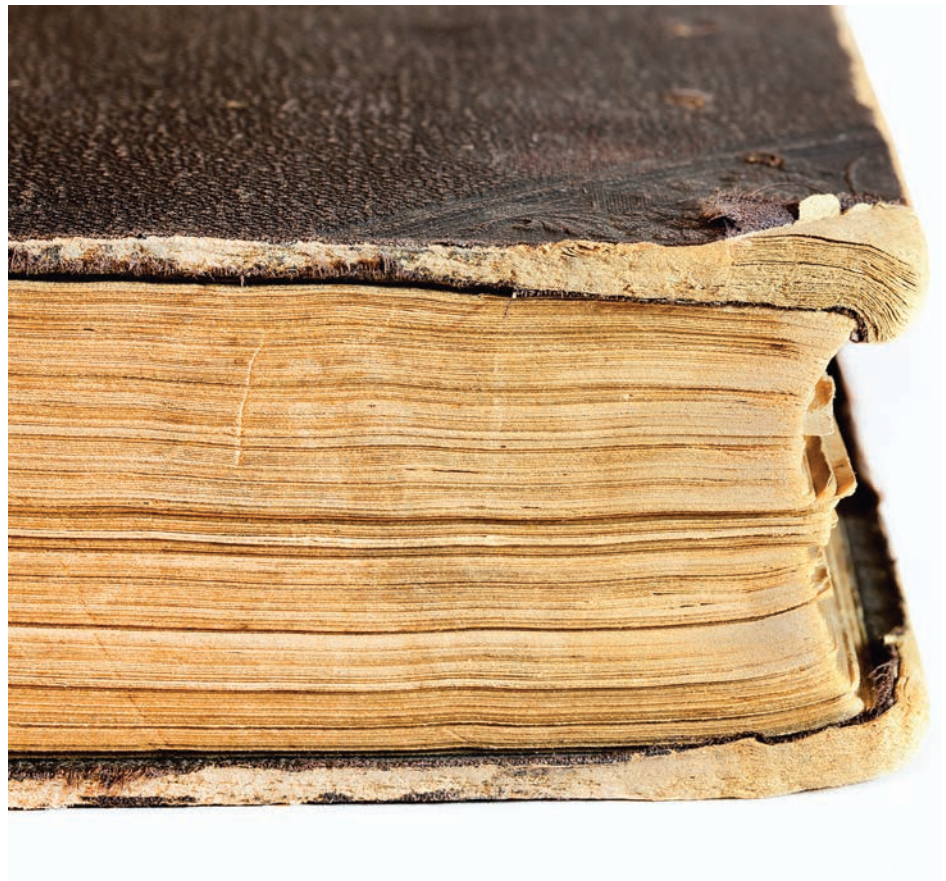
The Bible is the kind of book, of all books, designed to be read slowly, deeply, thoughtfully, and repeatedly. Years ago, when books were rare and costly, texts tended to be much more dense with meaning, they required the kind of attentive reading that is uncommon in our age. Back in those days paper was too expensive to fill with fluff. The Bible is a book like that, ancient and slowly written over the centuries, not rushed off to press. It was carefully copied and designed for slow, thoughtful, careful reading; and multiple readings. Maybe it’s because I am ancient and slow also, but paper and ink helps me.

I am not making a case for no digital Bibles. The ship has sailed on digital. We can’t avoid it. We will read digital. And it is a tremendous gift. It is not all bad, but if we lose the ability to read deeply, that would be a great loss. And nowhere would that loss be felt more than in the pages of Scripture. I am talking about reading deep and slow while totally saturating your mind and heart in God’s words, rather than skimming. Then, as you slow down you can let the text truly speak to you and convict you, rather than browsing paragraphs for data to fit preconceived notions.

So, a paper Bible helps you to...

***Slow down and meditate on God’s specific message for you.***

***Take notes and easily record them for future reference.***



***Visualize the location of text on a specific page.***

***Preserve a written heritage of your Christian growth. Printed Bibles often become a legacy handed down from generation to generation.***

***Provide a public testimony of your faith. Your children will see you reading your Bible and know you are not just scanning the internet. Others will see you going to church or at church with your Bible at your side.***

***Personalize the Scriptures by writing down your own notes and thoughts.***

***Learn the order of the books. A printed Bible may not help you find the books faster, but it will help you remember where they are.***

The Psalms frequently celebrate the kind of life formed and filled by meditating on God’s words day and night (***Psalms 1:2; 63:6; 119:97***). Such meditation happens by slowing down, fixing our eyes on God and His wondrous works, and pondering Him in our hearts.

So should you ditch the digital Bible altogether? Of course not. I use digital sometimes. The fact that a Bible is so easily accessible is a miracle. I would rather you use a digital than none at all. I am only suggesting that we understand the limitations the digital format may have.



***Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty five years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.***



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## Will I Remember Being Dumb?

*“That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes. For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.” Isaiah 65:16-17*

Do you think this verse means that when we go to Heaven, there will be absolutely no memory of the former Heavens and Earth? If so, do you think this could also mean that all remembrances of this life will go away?

When I was a kid, I did a lot of stupid things. It’s almost amazing I lived through childhood. Sometimes I was just plain dumb. So, I wonder when I get to heaven if I will look back and say *“I sure was a dumb Christian?”* That might happen to all of us. *“Why didn’t I pray more instead of griping? Why was I not more faithful in reading God’s word? Why was I not more faithful to church. I sure was a dumb Christian.”*

Isaiah 65 says that we will not remember the former things, but in my opinion this verse does not mean there are no memories at all in heaven and in the age to come. The fact that the former things will not come to mind does not mean that our memories will be wiped clean. The prophecy could be suggesting the wondrous quality of our new environment. The new earth will be so spectacular, so mind-blowing, that everyone will quite forget the drudgery and sin of the current earth.

Have you ever bought tickets to a ball game but your tickets were way up in the bleachers behind a column? Yet, before the game day arrived, a friend gave you some tickets that were for seats in a perfect location? Did you regret the upgrade? Did you spend your time wondering, what you were missing by not being 100 feet up in the bleachers? The upgrade from Earth to heaven will be so much better, I just don’t think we are going to miss sitting in the nose-bleed cheaper seats.

In the story of Lazarus, the rich man obviously remembers his relatives. He also remembers his own life of self-serving and sinful comfort. The memories of the rich man become part of his misery. The story does not mention whether or not Lazarus has memories, but Abraham has definite knowledge of goings-on on earth. It’s not until we reach the eternal state that the righteous will leave all sorrow behind.

Another reason I think I might remember is because I will still be me, and I will remember who I am. I may have a new name, but

it will still be me and I will know it. Death is a relocation of the same person from one place to another. The place changes, but the person remains the same. The same person who becomes absent from his or her body becomes present with the Lord (*II Corinthians 5:8*). We won’t cease to be ourselves.

The resurrected Jesus did not become someone else; He remained who He was before His resurrection. And His old body was the same body glorified and made new. Our bodies will be the old ones made new, just as the new earth will be the old earth made new. In heaven, who else would you be but yourself? Think about it, if Bob, a man on earth, is no longer Bob when he gets to heaven, then, in fact, Bob did not go to heaven. If, we weren’t ourselves in the afterlife, then we couldn’t be held accountable for what we did in this life. Judgment day would be meaningless. Scripture is clear that our own personal history and identity will endure from one earth to the next.

So, if today I remember being a dumb kid, in heaven I just may remember being a dumb Christian, if doing so maximizes my enjoyment of being with God and enhances my worship. So, just as I feel a bit foolish over the dumb stuff I did as a kid, maybe it time to exercise caution not to do a bunch of dumb stuff as a Christian. Although my sin has been forgiven and God will one day wipe away all tears, it might still be good for me to minimize my future memories of doing dumb stuff.

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## *A Different World*

Watching the news can be a bit distressing, can't it? Economic downfalls, inflation, mass shootings, and children being neglected or mistreated are just a few of the depressing things we hear on a daily basis. The world is ever-changing, and for Christians, a lot of the change is unwelcomed. What used to be called sin is now smiled upon, and even celebrated. What used to be considered good and holy is now considered bigotry and discrimination. Things seem so backwards.

As summertime will soon be over,



many are looking forward to the change in seasons. The hot days will soon be over and the cool, fall afternoons will be in full swing. We hear of climate change in the news, but the real climate change we see is the moral climate of our world. It sickens us to know that our young children and grandchildren and other generations to come will grow up in a world far different from the one we knew as children.

Though things can look bleak amid all the changes, one Thing, one Person, never changes - our eternal God. The Bible teaches us He is always the same; yesterday, today, and forever.

By God's grace, it is also our purpose for **GoMix Christian Radio** to never change. Although the music may change from time to time, and some of our programmers may

alter their programs, the basic message will always be the same. Our unchanging mission is to glorify Christ while lifting up His life-giving message to a world heading for judgment.

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## *Misplaced Identity*

Many of the problems that plague us as Christians begin with a misplaced identity. We forget who we are as chosen, purchased, and commissioned children of God, and think of ourselves primarily through the lens of something else. We place our identity on our success at work, the fruitfulness of our ministry, our feelings of fulfillment, or our ability to achieve our goals and dreams. We may even see ourselves defined by our greatest temptation, struggle, or through our deepest suffering.

When the apostle Peter wrote his first of two letters, he was writing to followers of Christ under siege with affliction, persecution, and temptation. Their suffering seemed to indicate that they were forgotten and unloved. Their opponents shouted that they had abandoned their Jewish faith, their families, and their communities, and that they'd fallen for a horrible fraud. All the while Satan whispered that nothing had changed, and they were still the crummy misfits they had always been.

As the believers were assaulted with these messages, Peter counters those lies with promises from heaven: ***“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:” (I Peter 2:9).***

Wow, what an encouraging message. I am sure there are powerless losers in the world, but as a child of God, it is not you! Perhaps there are people without purpose or calling, but it's not you. There are people who may not be any greater than their last failure, but it's not you. That is one of the purposes of ***GoMix Christian Radio***. It is our desire to help God's children live in the power of the Spirit, manifesting the identity of who they really are in Christ.

# The Churches 'Round Here

*Pastor Rusty Conyers*



While out making some visits one afternoon, I heard a phrase from two different men. They were not together and did not know what the other had said. It was on separate visits a few miles and minutes apart from the other. There was no connection at all. Both men complained to me about how they felt going to church had become a waste of time. They claimed that church people cared more about what other church people were doing than they cared about what God was doing. They both said they believed in God, but were just so frustrated with churches that they had decided to stop going.

I told the second man, *“Wow, would you believe someone else just told me practically the same thing you just said?”*

He replied, *“Really? About the churches ‘round here? Well, he’s right!”*

I invited both men to my church and assured them that we preached the Bible and worked

very hard to stay focused on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Personally, I find it to be a sad commentary of the modern local church. These men also made the common statement, *“I don’t have to go to a church to believe in God or to be a Christian.”* That may be true. However, I kindly reminded both of these men that Jesus instituted the local church, has a great purpose for it, and that He wants us to be involved in what He’s doing through His church.

Now, please understand and do not take offense. I have no doubt that this statement about *the churches ‘round here* is made by people in every city and state across America.

Plus, we have the recent COVID-19 situation that has caused many to reconsider their church attendance. Hopefully, we can all get back to the point of feeling safe about our church gatherings again.

What can we do about it? If you are one who has given up on church out of frustration or bad experiences, let me encourage you to go back! God would be so pleased to see you there. Attend a Bible-believing, Bible-preaching church. Let's not give up on all churches just because one or two churches might have lost their God-given, biblical focus.

The local church is God's appointed gathering place. It's a place where we can fellowship with other like-minded believers. It's a place where we find a gracious support system during the trials of life that we all face. Personally, I am so grateful for the love and unity God has given to us at our church. We never want to take that for granted. The Bible says in **Psalm 122:1**, *"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD."* That's the attitude I would love to see among all Christians everywhere.

The local church should be the place where God's Word is proclaimed boldly and without apology. We not only have a scriptural mandate to gather regularly, but also to preach the Word. It's a major part of the great commission (**Matthew 28:18-20**). Jesus said, *"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..."* (v.20a) That is done through Sunday School, small groups, and various preaching services held by any Bible-teaching, local church.

The local church is also a place where we can give back to God of our time, talents, and treasure. We can sing, serve, teach, and be personally involved in God's work. After all, ministry



happens when church members are involved in the ministries of their local church.

So much more could be said, but just let me encourage you to see the church as it is – God's idea and institution for His people in this age. Remember the admonition found in **Hebrews 10:24-25**, *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."* God is telling us to go to church more in these last days, not less.

May we all personally do our part to help the churches 'round here be at their very best to the glory of God. AMEN!



*Pastor Rusty Conyers has been in full-time ministry since 1998 and Pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Snow Hill, NC, since 2010. More information is available at [www.libertybaptistsnowhill.com](http://www.libertybaptistsnowhill.com).*

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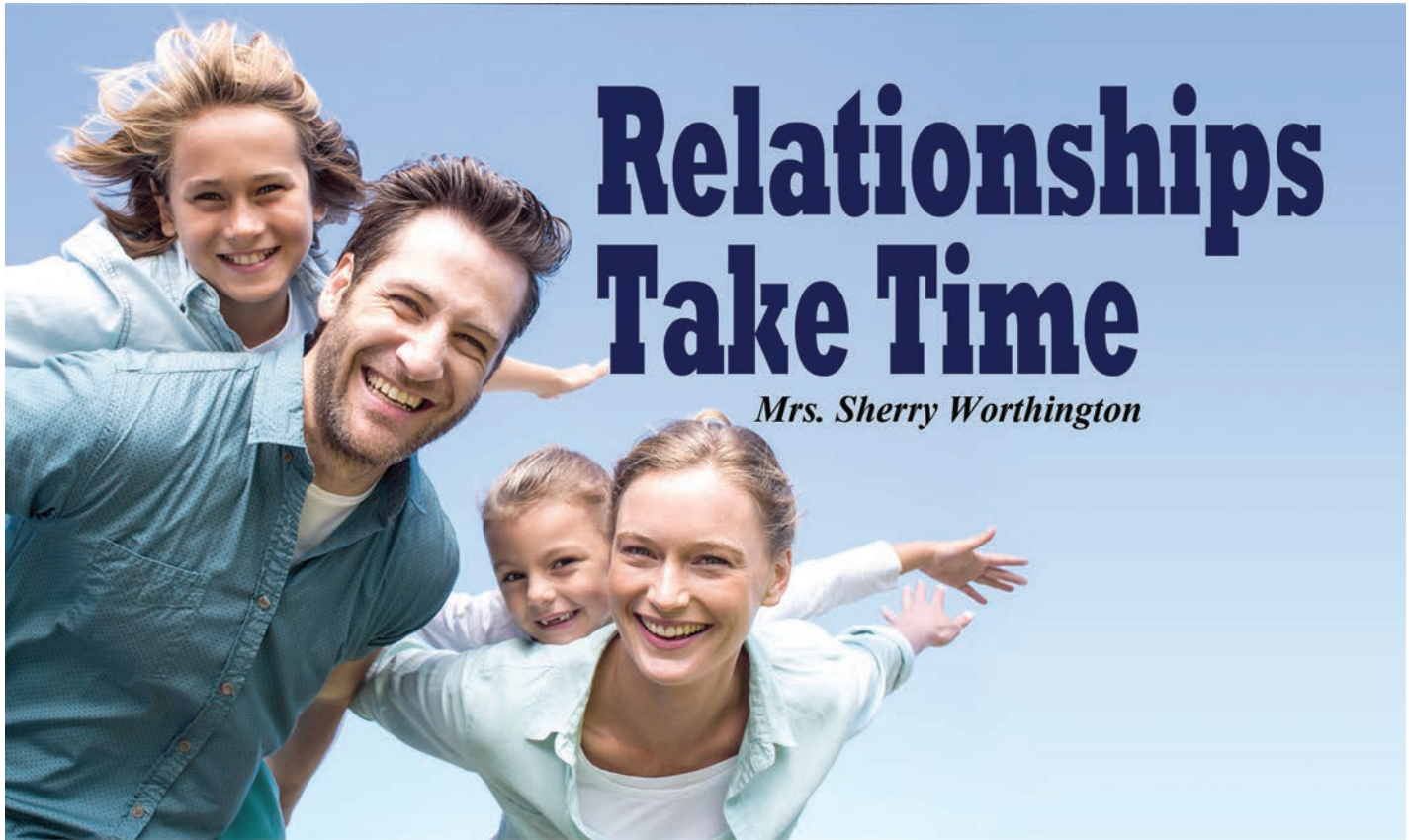
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# Relationships Take Time

*Mrs. Sherry Worthington*

My summer schedule has been nice. I have worked at the academy most of the summer with reduced hours, and I have been able to work on some home projects. It is time to pick up the pace at the academy since the first day of school is around the corner. We still have many things to do before we greet our children for the new school year.

I will enjoy seeing our families again, but as it is in your homes if you have school-aged children, life becomes a little more hectic. The days are full and the nights are busy with homework and our daily responsibilities and activities. It is easy to get lost in the busyness of our days.

If your day is like mine, it is busy from the time I roll out of bed until I place my head on my pillow. The unfortunate thing about being busy is we sometimes forget the

important things in life. It takes time to build relationships, and when we get so busy doing things, many relationships suffer.

One of my favorite things about my summer schedule is that I have more time with my husband. I can be home earlier, and my schedule is more flexible. We can work on summer projects together and spend more time just enjoying each other's company. I cherish every minute we have together. Although we never know when our last moment on this earth will be, now that we are older, we realize there are less days ahead of us than behind us. We have to make a constant effort not to let the busyness of life take over our relationship. Our love can only grow deeper if we share life instead of just coexisting.

Many families are very busy of no fault of their own. It often takes two incomes to run a household

in this day and time. It takes one income to pay the taxes and the child care, and the other income to pay the bills. I realize that some families work extra hours for unnecessary luxuries, but in either case, the family suffers. Both parents get off late and pick their children up from daycare, or some children are at home without supervision. As soon as they arrive home it is a rush for dinner, baths, and homework. Parents are tired and not always pleasant. Parents rush their children to hurry up and finish so Mom and Dad can go to bed or do their own things. Parents are on their phones or computers handling work issues or on social media. Relationships get pushed to the side.

When I was growing up, Mom worked, but she got off the same time we got out of school. She picked us up from school, we came home, had a snack, did our chores

homework, then we played outside while she fixed dinner. Dad arrived home and usually played with us outside or did outside chores. We all sat around the dinner table and talked about our day. After dinner, we got baths and usually watched a show together. This was our habit until I became a teenager and got a job of my own. But if I was off, I was expected to have dinner with the family. We learned a lot about each other during those times. How much do you know about your kids and grandkids? Do you talk to them about their day and the struggles they may be having? It is sad that many kids today have their faces in a tablet and have very little time to converse with their families. They text more than they talk and want to solve all problems with a text message. What happens when our children need us? Are they going to feel comfortable talking about the serious problems when we weren't there to talk about the little things?

What about our grandparents and the elderly in our homes and churches? Many of them just want to be cared for and shown love. What would you want if you were older and stuck at home? It can get very lonely looking at four walls. I know a very dear lady that loves the Lord and is so gracious. She told me one day, *"Normally, I do okay because I have my Jesus, but the four walls are closing in on me today. Sometimes you just want some skin."* What was she saying? I want to be cared for and loved. Please, someone take time for me. She understood that everyone was "busy" but that did not change the desire of her heart. She needed a hug.



We let so many things interfere with our relationships. I believe that our electronics are one of the main causes of difficulty in relationships. We don't know how to communicate face to face. It is easier if we just send a text message. We will usually say harsher things when we know we can text--things we would never say if we were face to face. We also spend time doing our own things. We don't do things together. We need to share. Why do we sit on the couch side by side on our cell phones? There are so many other electronics that get in the way of relationships such as television, game systems, as well as other hobbies, whatever they may be.

I know the biggest culprit that hurts our relationships is just selfishness. We want to spend our time the way we want to spend it. I guess that is the bottom line. If we examine ourselves, we will realize that we don't want to put forth the effort to make a relationship work.

The saddest case of all is when anything hinders our relationship with God. **Matthew 6:33** says, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added*

*unto you."* We don't want to invest the time to draw closer to God. All we have to do to make things work in our other relationships is to put God first. Does that mean that everything will be perfect? No, it just means that if we are serving God and putting Him first, we will be at peace that we have done our part to follow His will and serve Him. We cannot control other people, but we can control our actions.

What are we putting first today? Are we putting money or our own pleasures first in our lives? Are we putting our phones and our game systems above our families? Are we pushing God to the side and saying, *"Maybe later, God. I am too busy right now."* Stop, and examine your life today! Is God first, or is He on the sidelines? We need to let God plan our day, and He will help us with all of our relationships. He is the only one that can fix them. Let Him today!



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

# And Finally...



## My Favorite Hymn...

*“Be Thou My Vision” is a beautiful traditional Christian hymn that many older Christians would be very familiar with. It is one of my favorite Christian hymns, and I just love singing it in my morning worship to God. I first learned this hymn in the church where I came to know and accept Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. Later when I was studying in the Bible college, we sang it often in chapel. Every time I hear it, it brings back such wonderful memories.*

**F. T.**

*One of my all-time favorite Christian hymns is “His Eye is on the Sparrow.” This song has been bringing comfort, assurance, and peace to my life for many years. It’s a wonderful message of God’s providence and promises. It always reminds me that I have no reason to worry for my life as “His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.”*

**T. D.**

*By far, my all-time favorite hymn is “Great is Thy Faithfulness”. It was published as a hymn in 1923, but it has lyrics straight from the Bible, which are timeless. A great passage of Scripture to memorize is one that you will meditate upon in those hard times. It is a passage written by Jeremiah, the weeping prophet; “This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:21-23)*

**P. W.**

*“It is Well” has to be my favorite hymn. I remember at one point, early in my Christian walk, being devastated by some terrible news. I wanted to be by myself, so I took a walk. I wept and cried out to the Lord over the situation and begged Him to show Himself strong. As I felt His presence, I began to sing this song in my heart. Each line is a testimony to the comfort that the Lord gives. No matter how hard this life on earth gets, we will soon know eternal bliss in the presence of our King. “And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight. The clouds be rolled back as a scroll. The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend. Even so, it is well with my soul.”*

**J. H.**

## “Anonymous Blessings”

We’d like your help for an upcoming edition of “And Finally...”

Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about a time you were blessed anonymously.

The deadline for submission is August 31, 2022.

You can send an email to:  
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Attn: PathPointe Magazine

Or write to: Pathway Ministries

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