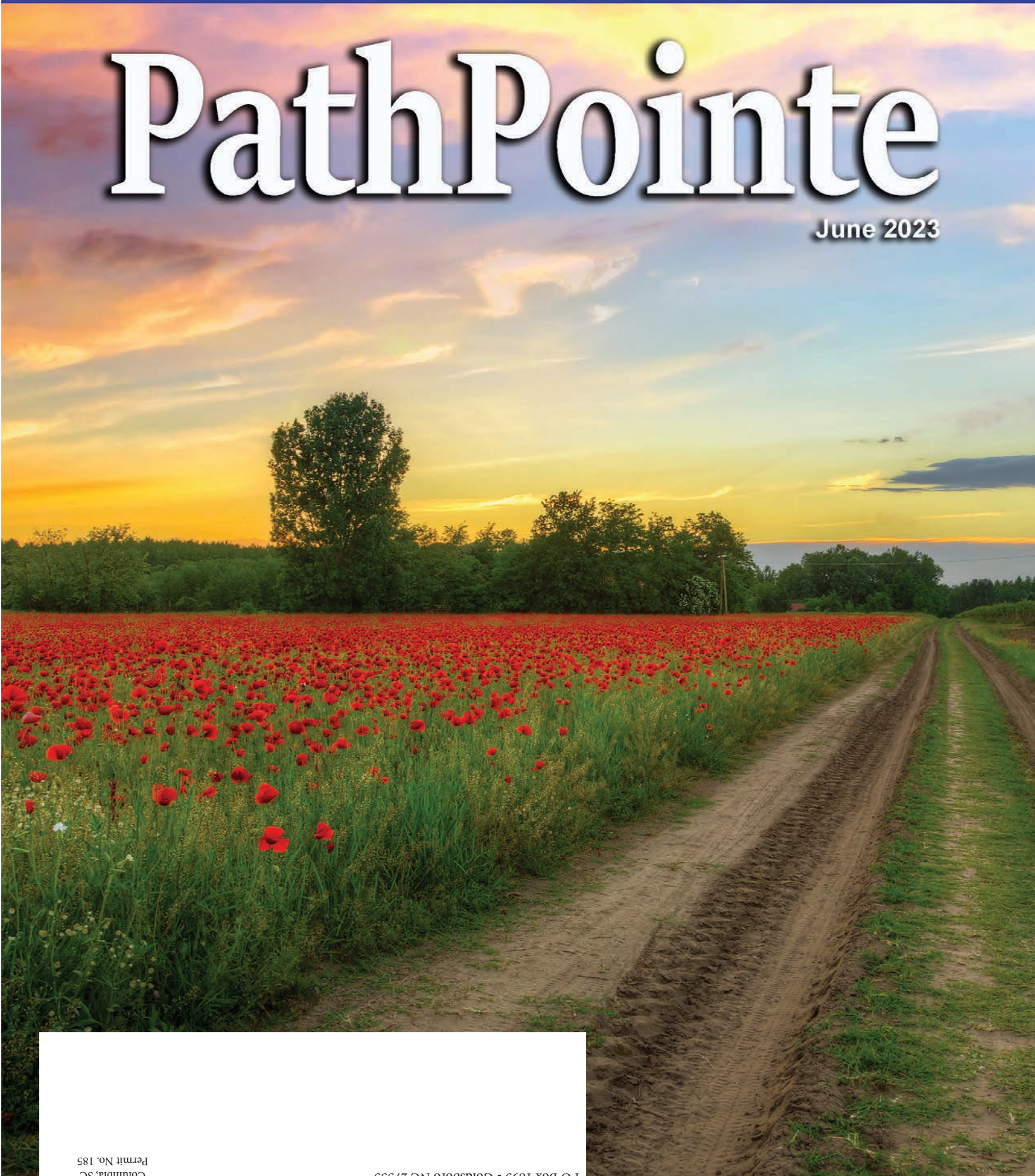


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contents

PathPointe Magazine

Volume 24, Issue 6

June 2023

- Page 2 Love For The Father
Dr. T. D. Worthington
- Page 6 Radio Bits
Your Christian Superstations!
- Page 8 Reaching The Children
Mrs. Sherry Worthington
- Page 10 Lessons From Dad
Dr. Glenn Mills
- Page 12 And Finally...
Father's Day...

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PathPointe Magazine
PO Box 1895
Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895

PathPointe Magazine

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POSTMASTER: Please send address corrections to: Pathway Ministries Group, PO Box 1895, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895.

PathPointe Magazine is written for the Faith Partners, Business Underwriters, and friends of Pathway Ministries Group.

Subscriptions: PathPointe is provided free of charge to interested parties within the USA, as our Lord provides. All other subscriptions are \$30.00 per year.

Address Changes: Please either send us a photocopy of your mailing label with your partner number or use the provided insert to carefully print your name, new address, and partner number and send it to: Pathway Ministries Group, Subscription Services, PO Box 1895, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895. Please allow 6-8 weeks for address change information to be activated.

Back Issues: A limited quantity of back issues are available. If needed by churches, businesses, or other groups, bulk quantity information will be available upon request.

Reprints: Call 252-747-8887 for reprint information and reproduction rights for select articles.

Letters And Press Releases: There are four ways to send us material. 1. Fax to 866-537-8189. 2. By courier to 1302 South George Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530. 3. Through the mail. 4. Through our web site at GoMixRadio.org. These are in order of preference. Unsolicited manuscripts cannot be returned.

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Love For **The Father**

Dr. T. D. Worthington

*"I have glorified thee on the earth:
I have finished the work which
thou gavest me to do."*

John 17:4

As a boy, I always had tremendous respect and love for my father. In my eyes, there was no greater man on earth. There were so many times that my respect for him, and my fear of disappointing him, kept me out of trouble. I regret to say it did not always keep me on the right path, but it did on many occasions. My advice to fathers and sons today would be for sons to honor and give heed to the counsel of their fathers, and for fathers to be worthy of that high regard.

As men, we all tend to look at things from our own vantage point. As we become aware of a situation, our first thought is often "How will this affect me?" Therefore, we tend to look at the cross as chiefly something Christ

did for us. Rightly, we shall rejoice and sing of this marvelous truth forever. The Bible teaches us that our Lord died on the cross for our sin. Yet, is this the chief reason He went to the cross? Actually, there is a parallel reality that can easily be overlooked. Jesus didn't simply die because He loved me. He died because He loved and was obedient to His Heavenly Father.

Ephesians 5:2 is striking in the way that it combines His love for us and obedience to His Father: *"Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour."*

This is even more evident as you look at the Gospel narratives. Near the start of Jesus' public ministry, He says these words: *"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."* (**John 4:34**). As Jesus ministry continued,

it becomes evident that the work of the Father is wrapped up with his death on the cross.

John's Gospel makes it clear that the chief reason that Jesus completes this work is because it will bring glory to the Father: *"for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name"* (**John 12:27-28**); *"Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee."* (**John 17:1**). And, of course, the agony of Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane brings out the same concern for His Father: *"Not my will but thine be done"* (**Luke 22:42**).

I always find it moving to see those times in the Gospels when Jesus resolutely sets out to Jerusalem knowing what awaited Him. And it is easy to focus on the fact that He is motivated to do that by love for me. But a true reflection of the New Testament will *also* have in

mind that He was motivated by a desire to obey, please, and glorify the Father that He loves. And this is wonderfully good news for several reasons:

First, the Bible says: ***“Thou shalt have no gods before me.”*** (Exodus 20:3). If we regard Jesus’ death on the cross as solely or primarily motivated by love for us, there is a danger that He may be violating this commandment. Jesus Himself said we are to ***“love the Lord thy God with all thy heart.”*** Could Jesus be guilty of violating that commandment? Absolutely not! We see in the life of our Lord that nothing was a greater concern for Him than accomplishing the will of His Father. Jesus wanted to glorify the Father, and He did so by finishing the work He was given.

Second, Jesus’ love for His Father and for us are not at odds. Most of the songs we sing tell of His love for us, His love for the Father is not a major theme of the songwriters and poets. Maybe we have an idea that if Jesus went to the cross chiefly out of obedience to the Father, that perhaps that lessens His love for us. In other words, *“It was just a job.”*

And yet, the wonderful thing about the cross is that Jesus’ love for His Father and His love for us match up perfectly. How does the cross show Jesus’ love for us? It tells us that He is willing to face agonizing death in order to win eternal life for us. And what is eternal life? It is knowing (and glorifying God) according to **John 17:3**. This is our highest good. This is the relationship for which we were made and that will give us eternal satisfaction. In other words, Jesus’ death achieves

both the greatest good for us and the greatest glory for God all at the same time.

Isn't it surprising to read in Isaiah's prophecy that the Father took pleasure in the death of the Son? When Jesus Christ was brutally murdered at Calvary, God did not weep. His heart was not broken. No sigh of inconsolable misery fell from His lips. The day of Jesus' death was no day of sadness for the Father; instead, it was a day of greatest pleasure. In our humanity this seems unnatural. When Jacob was told of the apparent death of his son Joseph, he ***“mourned for his son many days,”*** ***“he refused to be comforted,”*** and he purposed to carry his grief ***“down into the grave”*** (Genesis 37:34-35). Likewise, when Job learned of the loss of his children, he ***“rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell upon the ground”*** (Job 1:20).

Again, when Absalom was killed in battle, David wept. Although Absalom had rebelled against

David, driving him from his throne and waging war against him, David wailed at the sad news, ***“O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!”*** (II Samuel 18:33). The death of a son brings pain to the father. The actions of these men are not surprising, but unlike them, God took pleasure in the death of Christ. The Bible says that He was pleased (the Father) to bruise Him (the Son), and He (the Father) put Him (the Son) to grief (Isaiah 53). And so, when the Son willingly took the suffering of our sin on Himself, every step He took on the way to Calvary echoed through the universe with this message: ***nothing is more important than doing the will of My Father!***

And so, when the Father forsook the Son and handed Him over to the curse of the cross and lifted not a finger to spare Him pain, He had not ceased to love the Son. In that very moment when the Son was taking upon Himself everything





that God hates in us, and God was forsaking Him to death, even then the Father knew that the measure of His Son's suffering was the depth of his Son's love for His Father, and in that love the Father took deepest pleasure.

Jesus said in *John 10:15, 17*, ***"I lay down my life for the sheep. Therefore, doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again."*** And he prayed in *John 17:4*, ***"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."*** In other words, when Jesus died, He glorified the Father's name as He saved us from our sin. How then shall the Father not delight in the bruising of His Son?

When you see Jesus Christ handed over to the soldiers to be crucified, you see the One who has been chosen of God to stand in our place. When you see Him stretched upon the cross, nailed and lifted up, He does so for the elect of God throughout all ages. He represents them. And when He suffers there upon the cross and He cries out, ***"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"*** He actually, at that very moment, literally and fully,

bore the sin of all the elect of God. On the cross, the exact punishment that our sin deserved was poured out. All the woe, all the grief, all the eternal agony that our sin deserved was inflicted upon Him. And now, there is not so much as a speck, an ounce, an iota, a hair, an atom, a molecule of that sin's punishment left for those for whom Jesus suffered; all the elect of God. God will never hide His face from us. But He did so from His Son.

If Christ is punished in my stead, then I shall not be punished. Furthermore, the Father was delighted, to show His grace, His justice, and His wisdom in giving His Son as the substitute.

Jesus said in *John 10:17*, ***"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again."*** He was pleased because Christ on the cross sought the glory of God. Every step to the cross Jesus echoed the words: ***"My Father is of infinite worth. His will, His pleasure, His holiness, and His justice are the reality of life."*** And every hammer blow driving the nails into His hands and feet on the cross echoed through the universe: ***"My Father is of infinite value.***

What He has purposed, is all that matters." What alone matters is His righteousness and holiness, His justice, and His love. The Father delighted in His Son. His Son delighted in Him. And the Son, and the Father delighted in us out of mere grace.

On the cross, the greatest forgiveness was given (*Extended to all sinners*), the greatest love was displayed (*The Son to the Father*), the greatest sacrifice was made (*The blood of Christ*), and the greatest worship was rendered (*Again, the Son to the Father*). We worship God when we sacrifice, thus the greatest act of worship would have to be linked to the greatest sacrifice.

So, may I ask, are you a father worthy of your son or daughter's honor? All of us fail from time to time, but is that your goal in life? Can you affirm that it is your intention to so live that you will display a thirst for God before your children?

But, here is the real question, have you been to Calvary? Have you ever considered the heart of the cross? Do you see that God was pleased to give His Son to die in your place? Do you see how glorious God is in His love and grace? Then bow and worship and go forth in every aspect of your life and praise Him!



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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A Message Of Hope

I recall the story of a king who was lying on his death bed. He called for three worthy men and said, "I must select a successor. Climb the holy mountain and bring me the most precious gift you can find." The first brought back a huge nugget of pure gold. The second brought back a priceless diamond. The third returned with no gift to offer at all. When asked for an explanation for returning empty-handed, he replied, "When I reached the mountaintop, I saw on the other side a beautiful land, where people

would live forever without pain or heartache." The king looked at the man and said, "You shall succeed me. You've brought back the most precious gift of all: the assurance of a better tomorrow."

The hope of a brighter day in a world of peace seems to be a universal dream. Every heart yearns for happiness. As Christians, we believe that God has placed this yearning in our hearts because He loves us and wants us to spend eternity with Him in glory. Out of God's love, He has also given us the message of Christ. This wonderful message tells us that God has redeemed us through the death and resurrection of His Son.

This is the message that **GoMix Christian Radio** has been called to share with a world yearning

for a better tomorrow. This is the message that our **Faith Partners** and **Business Underwriters** are helping us to proclaim 24 hours a day.

We thank you for your faithful support. It is your generosity that allows us to make the vision of a better tomorrow an earthly reality for those who desperately need to call upon His name.



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Thank
You!

What a great couple of nights of Gospel music and Christian fellowship we had on Friday and Saturday, April 21st and 22nd, in Grifton, North Carolina! A benefit Gospel sing was held for **GoMix Christian Radio** at Grifton Free Will Baptist Church. This special event was hosted by the Gospel group, Dawson Road. Several other groups also gave their time and talent to help raise a total of \$4,000 through love offerings to help carry on the work of **GoMix**.

GoMix Christian Radio would like to say a big thank you to Pastor Kevin Woolard of Grifton Free Will Baptist Church, Dawson Road, King's Grace, The Oak Grove Boys & Tammy, His Redeemed, Willing Heart, and all the volunteers and guests that came out in support of this special two-night event.

We are so blessed to have the best listeners in the world! God has used so many of you over the past twenty-five years to play a part in spreading the message of Jesus Christ. It is through our local churches, **Business Underwriters**, Gospel singing groups, **Faith Partners**, families, and individuals just like yourself that keep Christian radio alive. Thank you for having a heart for ministry!

As we continue the work we have been called to do, we ask that you keep us in your prayers. **GoMix Christian Radio** is currently working on a new station in Clinton, North Carolina, that will hopefully be

on the air later this year. We also have some other projects and possibilities coming up that could help us reach even more people for our Lord. Your prayers and financial support will be vital in helping us turn those possibilities into realities.

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Reaching The Children

Mrs. Sherry Worthington

As our students walked across the stage at graduation, I wondered if we had done as much as we could to prepare them for the road which lies ahead. There are so many decisions ahead for the graduate, and life is difficult, even with the best training. We all know it is a daunting task to raise children. Parents are responsible for the choices they make in raising their children, and some parents chose Pathway to be a part of their children's lives and assist with the task. This is a grave responsibility for our ministry.

The Lord tells us that we should take care of the children. It would be better for a millstone to be wrapped around our necks than to offend or hurt a child. *(Mark 9:42)*

In the ministry our Lord has allowed me to be a part of, I see hurting children all the time. Why are they hurting? They don't fit in the mold that society has designed for them. Some children look different. They are overweight

or have physical qualities that are deemed unacceptable. Their social skills seem awkward; therefore, they are not accepted. No matter how hard some children try, they are laughed at or put down. Perhaps academically they struggle because the work is overwhelming. Maybe something was missed along the way, or they have a processing difficulty. These students have been deemed "leftovers" by society. Cheer up! I am here to tell you; society is wrong!

Did you know?

Albert Einstein's parents thought he was retarded. His teacher even asked him to drop out of school, telling him, "You will never amount to anything." Boy, was she wrong! His enrollment at Polytechnic Institute was delayed a year because he failed his entrance exams. After graduating, he had trouble holding down a job, even though he was formulating his first ideas about the theory of relativity.

Sir Winston Churchill seemed so dull as a youth that his father thought he might be incapable of earning a living. He was hyperactive as a child and entered Harrow School at rock bottom. He failed his entrance exams at Sandhurst Military Academy twice and finally passed on his third try. As history reveals, he ended up a very capable British statesman who successfully led England through World War II.

Sir Isaac Newton was an idler and mechanical dabbler. He was allowed to continue his education because he failed at running his family farm. Maybe sitting under one of those trees is where his scientific mind began to work. He became one of the greatest intellects of all time.

Thomas Edison's first teacher called him addled, and his father was convinced he was a dunce. His headmaster claimed he would never make a success of anything. Perhaps

they saw the light when he eventually patented over 1000 inventions.

Henry Ford made it through school with a minimal grasp of reading and writing. We drive around in vehicles that bear his name today.

All of these men, by society's standards, were failures and seemingly going nowhere. Why do we lock ourselves into a mold? Why do we believe that children who don't fall in line with the standards of society are failures? I wonder how many times as a teacher I have been guilty of this terrible lack of judgment?

No child is a failure. Every child is a success unless he refuses to try. Many children have been convinced by bad grades and constant ridicule that they are not worth anything.

It is our ministry at Pathway to make every child feel successful. If he is learning his multiplication tables at fourteen years of age or learning physics at sixteen, he is special. This did not originate with us. Our Lord tells us every child is special.

When you see the smiles on their faces after their first 100, you know the Lord is pleased. A parent was in my office and told me with a big smile that her daughter, who was in the fifth grade, had received her first "A". Another parent had tears of joy because her son had received an award in mathematics. Were these just prideful parents? No! They were proud of their children, but they were even more excited because their

children had been beaten down by society and now they had seen some success. By working with them individually we were able to start where their skills left off and bring them to a point of success.



Once children experience success, the transition begins to occur. Our mission is to minister to each individual. We are able to teach them they are special in God's eyes because He created them for a special purpose. They learn God believes in them even though they might not believe in themselves. We try to start with each student where they are emotionally, spiritually, and of course, academically. We have students who come to us struggling, and we have others who are advanced in their studies. All are a part of God's plan.

Our Lord starts with us in our spiritual walk where we are as well. If we have made mistakes, He starts after the mistake. He gives us a complete recovery, unlike the way most people treat us.

He does not put us in a mold and expect us to perform. In fact, look how differently He created each one of us. He patiently helps us grow and develop in our walk with Him. He doesn't expect us to run before we

learn to walk. I am so thankful He watches our faith grow and nurtures us along the way.

I pray that our graduates will remember that God has a plan for their lives. May we all remember to keep striving to look to God for our answers. May we always look

to the Lord as our example. He will never steer us wrong.

God, help us to reach each child for your glory.



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

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Lessons From Dad

Dr. Glenn Mills

“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.”

Psalms 103:13

Someone once said, *“The Christian race is not a sprint, It’s a marathon.”* Sadly, many born-again believers start out well but end poorly. February 11, 2017, will forever be in my mind and a part of my life. It was the day my father, Curtis Mills, age 81, went to be with Jesus. My brother, Lee, and I were asked to assist with my dad’s going-home service and celebration. While it was hard, it was also an honor because my dad not only taught me how to live, but he taught me how to die.

In preparing for Dad’s service, the Holy Spirit reminded me how Jesus summed up the Bible in one verse:

“And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.”

Luke 10:27

Upon meditating on this Scripture, I pondered on how to sum up my dad’s life. Now please consider my dad was not always the man he ended up becoming. But, praise God, Dad ran stronger the further he went in life.

The first thing that came to mind was the Golden Rule, **“Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.”**

I saw my Dad live this Scripture in many different ways. Most of the things he taught me lined up with the Golden Rule. Please allow me to share some of those lessons with you.

God First in All Things

Before Dad’s salvation experience, he was as Christian as one could be without being a Christian. Dad lived by the Golden Rule before he came to know Jesus. Once Dad was born again, his heart grew bigger and even more loving. He loved supporting the church we attended with his attendance, time, tithes, and offerings.

Being we were farmers at the time, Dad spent a lot of time riding from farm to farm, checking on the crops while seeking God’s direction about things that needed to be done. He would always give God praise when it rained, and the crops would mature. He often reminded me that if we would do our part, God would always be faithful to do His. *“No matter what, Son,”* Dad would say, *“put God first in everything.”*

Family

My father believed in family working, fellowshiping, and worshipping together. He and my mom would often cook for the entire family because he loved having us together. More than once, Dad told us, *“Family is one of God’s great gifts, cherish it.”* He was very encouraging to his children and grandchildren. He made us all believe we had special gifts and talents and could accomplish great things. My parents were together for sixty-four years, and we never doubted Dad’s love for our mom and us.

Neighbors

My father helped others in any way he could. He was an awesome farmer and would gladly share his knowledge with others to help them be more successful. When we finished harvesting our crops, he would send us to help our neighbors get their crops in as well. I have seen times when others would cheat my dad in some way. His response would be to pray for them and allow God to handle them. I will never forget my dad’s advice when it came to loaning neighbors money. He told me if someone really needs money and I have it to give, then give it to them with no expectation of getting it back. If you lend money to someone and they cannot pay you back, you may lose a friend. Dad treated his neighbors like he wanted to be treated.

Giver

I cannot count the times my father gave his children and grandchildren money or helped them with some type of purchase. He liked driving a nice truck, but that was about all he would spend on himself. He enjoyed sharing what he had with family and friends. It meant more to him to see others have the things they wanted.

Dad loved giving money at Christmas to those who had helped us on the farm over the years. He was always looking for opportunities to help people with some type of need. He not only gave money, but he also gave love, support, great advice, and lots of encouragement.

Dad Prayed

My mom said my dad would pray for his family, neighbors, and friends every night before going to bed.

I often heard him thank God for all the blessings he had received. In his remaining days, my dad prayed powerful prayers over each one of us. His prayers alone told me how close to God he had become. When he prayed, it was as if Jesus was sitting right in the room with him. Prayer was a big part of Dad’s life.

He Was Ready

My father had a bad heart and when the doctors told him there was nothing else they could do, he accepted it with grace. He had a great peace about his life and believed that God was in total control. Dad lived every day like it was his last. God allowed him special time to be with family and friends before going home to Heaven.

Conclusion

Jesus is my Lord and Saviour, but Dad was truly a hero to me. There are many ways in which I want to be like my dad, because in many ways my dad was like Jesus. So, what did I learn from my dad? Live the Golden Rule daily, love family completely, help neighbors faithfully, be a generous giver, pray expectantly, and be ready continually. Thank you so much for allowing me to share some of the lessons my dad taught me as we celebrate dads this Father’s Day.



Dr. Glenn Mills is a long time supporter of GoMix Christian Radio and a full-time Evangelist with the Glenn Mills Ministries. www.glennmillsministries.com

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And Finally...



Father's Day...

One of my favorite memories of my dad was of him teaching me how to ride a bike. Because of that, I learned that learning new things is a step-by-step process, along with having patience and perseverance.

J. T.

I have a million great memories with my dad from when I was growing up. One of my favorites is how he would plaster signs all over the house to encourage my brothers and I to be the best versions of ourselves we could be. The paper signs were small and unassuming, but they were everywhere. You couldn't miss the reminders as they were in our bedroom, in the bathroom, on our doors, in all caps: "STUDY HARD, WORK HARD, DO MORE THAN OTHERS." They stayed up until the signs faded and their corners crinkled. The whole family would make jokes about it! In the end though, it was ingrained in our brains to strive to be better and produce more work than what was expected of us. It was just one of the examples that my dad would use to teach us life lessons which we'll take with us forever... and probably plaster all over our future children's walls, too.

M. B.

When my mom was at work and my dad was on the night shift, he'd be in charge of doing my super curly

hair in the morning. I wanted a Topsy Tail so badly when that was the going thing. I didn't have one, so my dad made one for me using duct tape and a piece of plastic from a brown hanging basket. It worked perfectly!

H. M.

When I was little, my dad and I both loved to swim. When we went on family vacations, we would both immediately head to the pool. He had this trick that I loved where he would hold my feet close to the surface of the water so that I could 'walk on water.' I thought it was the most magical thing and would ask to do it repeatedly for hours on end. He always would. What great memories. He was a good sport!

E. K.

And Finally
will be retiring after **this** issue of
PathPointe Magazine.
Thank you to everyone that has contributed
over the years by sending in your funny,
inspirational, and heartfelt memories
and thoughts.
Be sure to check out this page **next month**
for something new and improved headed
your way!

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A photograph of a man and a woman sitting on a blue beach chair, holding hands. The background shows a sandy beach and the ocean under a clear sky.

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