



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

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SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP

Author Unknown

A parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule 'braying' - or - whatever mules do when they fall into wells. After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead, he called his neighbors together and told them what had happened...and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially, the old mule was hysterical! But as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back...a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back...**HE SHOULD SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP!** This he did, blow after blow.

"Shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up!" he repeated to encourage himself. No matter how painful the blows or distressing the situation seemed the old mule fought "panic" and just kept right on **SHAKING IT OFF AND STEPPING UP!**

You're right! It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, **STEPED TRIUMPHANT-**

LY OVER THE WALL OF THAT WELL!

What seemed like it would bury him, actually blessed him...all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity.



THAT'S LIFE! If we face our problems and respond to them positively, and refuse to

give in to panic, bitterness, or self-pity...**THE ADVERSITIES THAT COME ALONG TO BURY US USUALLY HAVE WITHIN THEM THE POTENTIAL TO BENEFIT AND BLESS US!**

Remember that **FORGIVENESS--FAITH--PRAYER--PRAISE** and **HOPE**...all are excellent ways to **"SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP"** out of the wells in which we find ourselves!

THE BLOOD

One night in a church service a young woman felt the tug of God at her heart. She responded to God's call and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. The young woman had a very rough past, involving alcohol, drugs, and prostitution. But, the change in her was evident.

As time went on she became a faithful member of the church. She eventually became involved in the ministry, teaching young children.

It was not very long until this faithful young woman had caught the eye and heart of the pastor's son. The relationship grew and they began to make

wedding plans. This is when the problems began.

You see, about one half of the church did not think that a woman with a past such as hers was suitable for a pastor's son. The church began to argue and fight about the matter. So they decided to have a meeting. As the people made their arguments and tensions increased, the meeting was getting completely out of hand.

The young woman became very upset about all the things being brought up about her past. As she began to cry the pastor's son stood to speak. He could not bear the pain it was causing his wife to be. He began to speak and his statement was this: "My fiancée's past is not what is on trial here. What you are questioning is the ability of the blood of Jesus to wash away sin. Today you have put the blood of Jesus on trial. So, does it wash away sin or not?"

The whole church began to weep as they realized that they had been slandering the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Too often, even as Christians, we bring up the past and use it as a weapon against our brothers and sisters. Forgiveness is a very foundational part of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. If the blood of Jesus does not cleanse the other person completely then it cannot cleanse us completely. If that is the case, then we are all in a lot of trouble.

What can wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus...end of case!!!

Received from Joe Downs

GOD STILL ANSWERS WHEN WE CALL

There is a family that lives near me in Fort Payne. Their little boy, 6, has a tumor in his brain that is very rare and without treatment will kill him. But the only doctor in the world that has experience in treating it lives in Asia. The family, their friends, their church all prayed for God's compassion as this little boy grew sicker and sicker. The family cannot afford to take the boy to Asia for the surgery. As a matter of fact, they couldn't afford the surgery if the doctor were in the US. The prayers asked God to prevent him from suffering as he died from this tumor.

Well, the dad works at a local Ford dealership, selling cars and trucks. A very nicely dressed man stopped at the car lot last week. The dad talked to him. The customer said that he didn't need a car. He certainly could afford as many cars as he wanted, but he didn't need one. Actually, he wasn't real sure why he had even stopped. The dad suggested they go into his office and talk while they looked over brochures.

As they sat down, the dad introduced himself to the customer. The customer's last name was the very same last name of the doctor in Asia that could operate on the little boy. The dad fell to his knees, praying and weeping. He couldn't believe that there in his office was someone with the very same name as the doctor. Maybe it was a family member, the doctor's brother. Maybe he could arrange for the doctor to help his son.

The rest of the staff of the Ford dealership began gathering around to see what was happening. The customer was more than a little surprised by the reaction he had gotten to his name. As the

story was told about the little boy, the customer began to understand much more.

You see... The customer was not a family member of the doctor. He was the doctor. He was moving from Asia to practice medicine in the US. Actually at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, which is only 2 hours from our little town. He promised



that as soon as he completes his move from Asia to the US, that he would perform the surgery on the little boy, free of charge.

Now. Why would a man from Asia, that is a very successful, wealthy doctor moving to Birmingham, Al, stop at a Ford dealership in Fort Payne, Alabama? There is only one reason. The only reason for anything at all. God still answers when we call.

◇ Received from James Sparks

TEN LITTLE CHRISTIANS

Author unknown

A good but simple message.....

Ten Little Christians, standing in a line,

One disliked the pastor, then there were nine.

Nine little Christians stayed up very late,

One slept in on Sunday, then there were eight.

**Eight little Christians on their way to Heaven,
One took the low road, then there were seven.**

*Seven little Christians chirping like some chicks,
One disliked the music, then there were six.*

**Six little Christians seemed very much alive,
but one lost his interest then there were five.**

*Five little Christians pulling for heaven's shore,
but one stopped to rest, then there were only four.*

Four little Christians, each busy as a bee

One got their feelings hurt, then there were three.

*Three little Christians knew not what to do,
One joined the sporting crowd,
then there were two.*

**Two little Christians, our rhyme is nearly done,
differed with each other, then there was one.**

*One little Christian, can't do much 'tis true;
brought his friend to Bible study --
then there were two.*

**Two earnest Christians, each won one more,
that doubled the number, then there were four.**

*Four sincere Christians worked early and worked late,
Each won another, then there were eight.*

**Eight splendid Christians, if they doubled as before,
In just a few short weeks, we'd have 1,024**

*In this little jingle, there is a lesson true,
You either belong to the building,
Or to the wrecking crew!*

ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND SERVICE

SUNDAYS

**MORNING WORSHIP 8:15 AM
& 11:00 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM**

MONDAY'S

BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION
1:00 PM

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SATURDAY AUGUST 12th

MEN'S BREAKFAST @ LISA'S:
8:00 AM

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CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:
9:30 AM

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LADIES LUNCHEON:
11:00 AM

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 20th

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16th

SENIORS ON THE GO: 12:00 Noon

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 17th

AMERICAN LEGION
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
6:00 PM

MEMORY CLINIC

Two elderly couples were enjoying friendly conversation when one of the men asked the other, "Fred, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?"

"Outstanding," Fred replied. "They taught us all the latest psychological techniques: visualization, association, etc. It was great."



"That's great! And what was the name of the clinic?"

Fred went blank. He thought and thought, but couldn't remember. Then a smile broke across his face and he asked, "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?"

"You mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's it!"

He turned to his wife, "Rose, what was the name of that memory clinic?"

◇ Received from Joe Downs

BEYOND DEATH

Author Unknown

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was leaving the room after paying a visit, and said,

"Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door, on the other side of which came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice that dog?"

He had never been in this room before. He did not know what



was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing: I know my Savior is there, and that is enough. And when the door opens, I shall pass through with no fear, but with gladness.

◇ JC & Phyllis Sparks

HEAT PUMP



We have gotten off to a great start in raising money for our heat pumps. We



need about **\$ 18,000.00** to install a heat pump in the sanctuary and a ductless one in the fellowship hall. As of July 14, 2017 we have raised **\$ 5,516.09**. With God's help we hope to raise all that we need before winter sets in. The saving of our heat bill will be a wonderful blessing.

GET A GRIP ON THE WORD

Bible Study (part 1)

Kathleen A. Mulkins

Study – it sounds like work, probably because we associate “study” with school. But studying doesn’t have to be hard. It’s just harder than reading for pleasure or just listening. The purpose of study, and this is studying anything, is to help you retain what you’ve read or seen or heard so you can discover what the original author (or speaker) intended their target reader (or audience) to understand or know. And, of course the goal of understanding (or knowing) is application.

Bible study differs from other studies in that the Bible is God’s love letter to you. The more you retain of His love letter, the more you understand of His love for you and the more you fall in love with Him. The more you love Him, the more you’ll want to apply His Word to your life. Study (and later memorization/mediation) will no longer be work at all but pure



pleasure and interaction between you and Jesus.

The difference between passive listening or reading and active listening or reading is asking questions which actively engages the brain. The biggest difference be-

tween reading and study is using a pen (or pencil or highlighter) and writing things down (or underlining/highlighting) which actively engages you physically. The more of your body you use in learning, the more you retain.

The second biggest difference between reading and study is review. An easy study to start with is to think back over what you’ve read and give it a “title”. A short summary, two or three sentences, under the title will help you remember what you’ve read. Reviewing what you’ve written before you begin your next study time will help refresh your memory as well as retain information longer.

Where you write is up to you. Sometimes I write on the margin of my Bible, sometimes I write in a notebook and other times on my computer because my handwriting is so bad. Because I have my Bibles on computer, I often print out the section I’m working on, write on that and then transfer my notes to the computer.

The first questions you’ll want to ask and answer is, “what is the genre (kind of writing) of this book (or section). Notice, I don’t say “chapters” or even paragraph. Chapter and verse numbers were added a few hundred years after the Bible was completed to help us locate specific sections. Paragraphs are also a fairly “modern” addition. Compare a few different translations and you’ll notice some differences. Comparing translations is a type of study we will deal with later.

Another thing to keep in mind as you study is the culture the Bible was written in. Culture impacts what is written as well as how it is understood. If you don’t understand something, culture is probably a big part of it. The culture is rarely explained

in writings because the author assumes their intended readers understand the cultural points.

I titled this article, “part 1” because there are many ways and aspects to studying the Bible. Study can be a personal interaction with God. The more effort you put into study the more you’re likely to have a “Wow, God, you’re so amazing!” experience. When you learn how to study on your own and make your own discoveries, you will want to tell others about Him as well as apply what you learn to your life.

THINGS I HAVE LEARNED

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But, if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that every day, you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch - holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

I've learned that people will forget what you said ... people will forget what you did ...but people will never forget how you made them feel.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

I've learned that, no matter what happens, how bad it seems today, life does go on, and God is in control.

Q
U
I
Z



Last month two people were able to come up with the correct answer to the quiz. Both Mert Horrocks and Katie Jackson knew that the answer was Lot's wife, whose story is found in the 19th chapter of Genesis.

Here is this month's quiz

*My names is in the Book,
I know that's it is there,
It tells everyone
Of my one and only prayer*

*It's not my fault
He lost his sight
I went as I was told
My heart was a fright*

*I did as I was told
I quickly obeyed
His sight was restored
And that right away*

*Now tell me my name
Its there is the Book
Tell my the other name
You just have to look*

THE ROOKIE

A rookie police officer was assigned to ride in a cruiser with an experienced partner. A call came over the car's radio telling them to disperse some people who were loitering. The officers drove to the street and observed a small crowd standing on a corner. The rookie rolled down his window



and yelled, "Move along! Get off the corner."

No one moved, so he barked again, "Let's get off the corner!" Intimidated, the group of people began to leave, casting puzzled glances in his direction. Proud of his first official act, the young policeman turned to his partner and asked, "Well, how did I do?"

Pretty good," replied the veteran, "especially since this was a bus stop."

TAPS

I too, have felt the chills while listening to "Taps" but I have never seen the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought I'd pass it along. I now have an even deeper respect for the song than before.

We've all heard the haunting song, "Taps." It's the song that gives us the lump in our throat and sometimes tears in our eyes. I think you will be delighted to find out about its humble beginnings.

Back in 1862 during the Civil War, Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier the Captain decided to risk his life to bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was a Confederate soldier but he was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern, then he

caught his breath and went numb with shock when suddenly in the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But out of respect for the father, they offered only one musician, so the Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he'd found written on a piece of paper



in the pocket of his dead son's uniform. His wish was granted. Thus the haunting melody we now know as "Taps" -- and used at military funerals was born.

*Day is done, gone the sun
from the lakes, from the hills
from the sky.*

*All is well, safely rest
God is nigh.*

*Fading light, dims the sight,
And a Star gems the sky,
Gleaming bright From afar,
Drawing nigh, Falls the night.*

*Thanks and praise, For our days,
Neath the sun, Neath the stars,
Neath the sky,
God is nigh.*

⇒ Received from Sandra January