

FAITH & WORSHIP



On a quiet night we can hear it growing

By VAN YANDELL

Luke 24: 44 "Jesus said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."

Early mornings are a blessing those "sleeping in" never experience. We sit on the front porch and watch the wildlife that feed in the early hours before the heat sets in here in the south.

Across the road this morning in the woods, we saw a skunk, several squirrels, two rabbits and hundreds of birds. Three male cardinals appeared frantic as they rushed from one tree to another. Yesterday, while talking to a neighbor, a flock of turkeys flew over toward a wheat field and an occasional deer can be seen sticking its head up above the wheat to make sure nothing is happening he needs to know.

A corn field on the north east side of our porch appears to grow a little every day. The comment made is "On a quiet night, we can hear it growing!"

A friend living in a Florida port city once said to me "Everything here rusts! We can hear the old ships rusting on a quiet night."

The analogy of relating some concepts or processes to actions we usually don't normally think of as being applicable at times, make a very powerful statement.

The rusting of the old ships is such an example. Rusting obviously

doesn't make sounds that can be heard by the human ear.

The growth of plants and the oxidation of ferrous metals is obviously not an action that can be readily observed. But come back tomorrow or next week and the progression is clear.

Jesus gave us many New Testament commandments. Of paramount importance and observable is what many call the Great Commission. Those observable outcomes may be like the growth of grass or grain but given time, the effects are dynamic.

Matthew 28: 18-20 "Jesus said, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

To evangelize the world is a command of our Jesus. Christianity teaches the only eternal salvation is by a faith based belief in Christ Jesus, crucified for the remission of sin and resurrected from the dead. Jesus shed His perfect blood and died to redeem mankind.

Lost souls are won to our Jesus one at a time. We hear the saying "Rome wasn't built in a day." Similarly, the world will not be Christianized in a day. It must happen one person at a time.

To tell every person about Jesus is not only because of eternal souls. For the sake of humanity and civilization, to know God and His teachings in the Holy Bible has reached a state of urgency.

Without God's rule book, how is man to

know civilized behavior? We have found by experience and observation, acceptable behavior does not come naturally. To know right from wrong must be taught and can only happen through the teachings of God in the Holy Bible.

Sadly, mankind appears to be teaching hatred, bigotry and division. This adverse thinking serves only to destroy our precious world and seems to thrive rather than die. Civilization is not dead but may be on its death bed.

Mankind has written many rule books and laws but the only true standard of behavior is set by God. Laws become obsolete (for various reasons), but God's rule book never loses its validity.

Chaos and violence are in the hearts of men without standards for our actions. Proverbs 24: 2 "For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief."

Children become adults and many witness violence and many other forms of contempt in their homes. How is anyone to expect any better from them as adults other than what they have been exposed to in earlier years?

There are many reasons for Christians to be active in the teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. Of course the primary reason is because Jesus told us to. After all, He gave his life blood for our transgressions that we might have eternal life.

Mankind has been seeking eternal life and/or longer life for centuries.

Ponce de Leon is famous for his seeking a fountain of youth in Florida and on the island of Bimini in the Caribbean. Many believe Ponce de Leon's exploration for such a fountain is a myth and he never had that purpose.

At any rate, many are willing to believe anything and go anywhere to gain a longer life span. Specifically, many have invented for themselves a god with the dream this god could extend their life or even give eternal life.

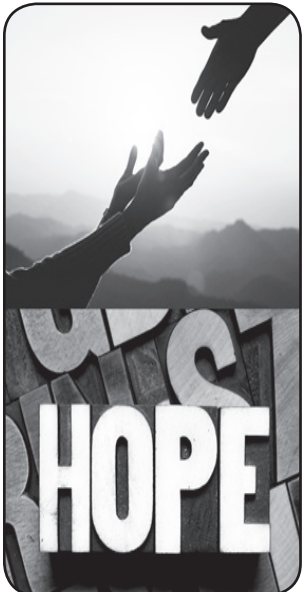
In such a case, why not provide them with the extensive evidence of the reality of the Holy Bible? Salvation is by faith but nothing is to say it must be blind. Evidence for the Holy Bible is abundant and compelling.

While we may not be able to hear our faith grow, we can see it grow like we see plants growing. Sadly enough, the growth of Christianity in today's world is growing much too slowly.

The world population is growing much faster than the growth of Christian believers. Another negative is the growth of non-believers. While many attempt to reason with their Creator and rationalize His non-existence, believers are sitting on our hands and allowing them to succeed.

We are the hands, feet and voices of our Jesus in this lost and godless world. And we are moving too slowly and quietly. It is time to pick up the pace and get loud!

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email



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Your life reflects your heart

By DANNY CARR

"As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart." Proverbs 27:19

Ever seen the landscape reflecting on a lake? You get a good representation of the landscape on the water. If you look at the scripture today, you see a similar idea.

"As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart." If you look at the water, you can see yourself in it. You see the reflection of yourself.

If you look at how someone lives their life, the way they react to things, the things they do, the things they don't do, you can get a decent representation of who they are.

Your life, how you live it, reflects what's in your heart. Just like your words will show what's in your heart, your life will as well.

You can see people, and how they are. Now, can some people fool you? Yes, they certainly can.

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Help us to remain engaged

By BRO. TIM ESCUE

Talking to His disciples, Jesus said, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." (Matthew 26:38 NRSV)

In this scene from the garden, Jesus approaches his betrayal and journey to the cross. Being fully aware of what was ahead of Him, Jesus desired to approach his Father in prayer. He told those disciples who went with Him to keep alert and pray. You see, even though the disciples couldn't do anything to

alter the task ahead of Jesus or change His sorrow, Jesus desired their presence and friendship.

Jesus' request of His disciples reminds me of our "call to service" for the kingdom. We are taught that one's responsibility to one's calling is important. We are also encouraged to support others who are actively involved in kingdom work. What this means is this. We are to actively support those around us who are our fellow bondservants. Does scripture not consistently tell us the importance of encouraging

one another? Absolutely, it does.

Jesus desired companionship on the night in which He gave Himself up for us. And He was disappointed to find those with Him sleeping. The night Jesus needed encouragement, all they had to do was pray. Friends, we are all called to be involved in the work of the kingdom through words, actions, and prayers as a way to build up the faith of others.

Unfortunately, there are times when we fall asleep. Sometimes, we

disengage. Sometimes, we stop being available, and sometimes, we fall asleep while doing the work God has called us to do. Let us not forget that a large part of our companionship as brothers and sisters in Christ is our supporting the faithful work of others around us. Stay alert for the moment God calls us into action. Stay engaged and stay awake.

Let us pray:
Good morning, Father. Thank you for asking us to walk with you. Help us to remain engaged. Amen.

If the *Lord* will, we shall live, and do...

By REV. WENDELL GRAY

James 4:12-17 KJV
There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

As a Pastor for 43 years, I come not to judge but to point out lies from truth. Many, many, many churches have members who do mental manipulation and never do anything. They are going

deeper but never complete an assignment. Say all the (they believe) right things and I see right through them. Note! Both Black and White. They say big things and think I forget. But God brings it to my remembrance. Amen

[13] *Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:* [14] *Whereas ye know not what shall be on the mor-*

row. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

As it relates to a 10 year plan. Well, some said what they were going to do 50 years ago and have not done it yet. Really? YES! SO what have you done today to get you to where you said you will be?

[15] *For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or*

that. God is not in any lie you tell yourself or any one else.

[16] *But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.*

There all such is evil. Still buying what you want and then begging for what you need. Not paying rent and getting evicted. Not paying for the car and it is repossessed again. Changing hair do when you should

be changing your mind. Lied to her, him, and them. But always going to getting ready to right after this I'll do it and nothing gets done like you said. Stop with the excuses!!!! Stop blaming people for your failures.

[17] *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

Yes. You. Last verse is for all and any that are guilty. You know who you are.

Wake up and live the way God says we are to live. No. Do not get mad. Get better. Get counseling from God and go.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Pastor Wendell D Gray.

Rev. Wendell Gray is pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Bardwell. He and his wife Barbara own WBCE 1200 AM Christian Radio in Wickliffe where the motto is, "We Broadcast Christ Every Day!"