

Bibleway Newsletter

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Dear Friends,
In his book, *Enjoying God*, Lloyd Ogilvie writes: "My formative years ingrained the quid pro quo [that given or received for

something else] into my attitude toward myself: *do and you'll receive; perform and you'll be loved*. When I got good grades, achieved, and was a success, I felt acceptance from my parents... But I still felt empty.

"...I'll never forget as long as I live the first time I really experienced healing grace. I was a postgraduate student at the University of Edinburgh... [The heavy load of my classes] was very demanding, and I was exhausted by the constant feeling of never quite measuring up. No matter how good my grades were, I thought they could be better...

"My beloved professor, Dr. James Stewart... saw into my soul with x-ray vision. One day ...he stopped me. He looked me in the eye intensely ...and said, 'Dear boy, you are loved *now!*'"

Romans 5:8 addresses those of us who feel inadequate, failing to meet the "Christian status quo." Paul simply stated: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were *yet* sinners, Christ died for us." *He's not waiting for you to measure up*. He extends His love freely. He could never love you more!
Be Encouraged by His love,

Rev. Larry McGee

Lessons of His Love:

- ✓ *"Life with Christ is endless love; without Him it is a loveless end."*
—Billy Graham
- ✓ *"[The love of Christ] must be exercised by individuals within the church to benefit the whole."*
—Sunday School Lesson
- ✓ *"The world may never see the love of Christ except they experience His love through you."*
- ✓ *When things are at their worst, God is at His best. Meditate upon His love and goodness."*
- ✓ *"No matter what fails you, you can be sure God's love will never change."*
- ✓ *The Call of His Love: "You must learn and study the Word, but don't do it because you've been told to do so; don't do it because it's the right thing to do; do it because you love the Lord."*
—Sunday Sermon
- ✓ *"God, even in His dealings with our sin, acts in the spirit of love and grace."* —Tuesday Bible Study
- ✓ *"God's grace [and His love] is not limited by man's limitations."*
- ✓ *"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
—Romans 8:38-39

Special Mention:

- Thanks so much for your prayers and financial support during our Annual Musical Extravaganza! This year's event was another huge success! \$300.00 was raised for the Bibleway Building Fund. We give God all the glory for the outcome!
- This month, we will have our annual celebration of womanhood. We will be honored with three talented guest speakers, whose words of encouragement will uplift and inspire our women to a closer walk with Christ!
- *Q – "Is Jesus really the Son of God, or was He just a good example for you and me?"*
A – Check in for our exciting new "I Am" Series, which will provide the answer! This in-depth Bible Study, held on Tuesday nights at 7 pm, addresses the seven "I Am" statements made by Jesus, and aims to test the tenability of His deity. Search the Scriptures, and be prepared with any difficult questions you might have about Christ. This is sure to be a real faith-builder!
- Our study of Titus has finally concluded! But not without precious insights gained into the roles of Christians in the body of Christ. What joy it brings to learn the Word of God, and to grow in our knowledge of the God of the Word!

The Message Behind the Ministry...

It Does Matter

With great earnestness, an elderly man stated, "It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you're sincere." He was a good man, one who believed that sincerity was all that mattered between him and God.

But there was a Mr. Johnson who, feeling ill, went to the medicine cabinet and accidentally swallowed the contents of a bottle of rat poison. An hour later, he died in great pain. Did his sincerity of belief save his life?

The Smith family, out for a pleasure ride one Sunday afternoon, sincerely believed the railroad tracks were clear. But several members of the family were instantly hurled into eternity when an unseen train hit their car. Why, their sincerity could not be questioned! But did it keep the deceased from perishing?

Sincerity is a noble virtue. It may help our friendships, make us better neighbors, or earn us respect in the world's eyes, but when it comes to the salvation of our souls, sincerity can also send us straight to Hell.

It makes an eternity of a difference what you believe! If you believe you're a good person and that's enough in God's eyes, think again! In Romans 3:23, it says, "For all have sinned..." Romans 6:23 tells us, "...The wages of sin is death..."

You and I have an outstanding debt looming over heads, and no matter how sincere we try to be, we can't get rid of it! But God provided a way out. He sent His only Son, Jesus, to endure the penalty for our sins—death and Hell. That's the free gift we find in Romans 6:23b, "...But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

We can have the assurance of eternal life, *not by how we live, but by what we believe about Jesus*. Jesus Himself stated in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Won't you take the gift today? Life is a limited-time offer!

If you have made a decision for Christ, please let us know! Either write or email the below addresses.

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