



The Beacon

"The unfolding of Your word gives light" Psalm 119:130a

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When the Economy Collapses

*"I will exult in the Lord,
 I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.
 The Lord God is my strength, . . . (Habakkuk 3:18-19a)*

The news is ominous. Business executives, economists, many opinion makers, and a significant number of politicians are telling us that the U. S. economy is in real trouble. Their forecasts are anything but encouraging: escalating unemployment in the wake of massive layoffs, deflation followed by skyrocketing inflation—the result of out of control government spending and an exploding money supply, a crashing stock market, soaring prices for precious metals, collapsing real estate values, bank closures, home foreclosures, huge investment losses, especially in retirement funds and pensions, businesses closing their doors, bankrupt state and municipal governments, and utter cluelessness in Congress and the White House who are spending us into oblivion. A new depression? It's not a pretty picture.

How are we who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ supposed to handle all of these dire predictions and crisis situations? Are we justified in panicking or descending into despair? Should we allow ourselves to be consumed by worry? Should we join the mad rush to buy gold or invest in foreign banks? No, the Bible gives us wise counsel and profound hope for troubled times like those in which we are currently living. One of the most relevant and helpful passages is the little book of Habakkuk. The prophet whose name these three chapters bear proclaimed God's Word towards the end of the Southern Kingdom of Judah in the late seventh century B. C., sometime around 620-610. He was a contemporary of the more well-known prophet, Jeremiah, and prophesied during the latter years of King Josiah's reign. The end of his ministry correspond-

ed with the fall of Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire, and the rise of Babylon as the dominant world power. Within a decade (605 B. C.), Babylon would invade Judah, enforcing the first of three deportations of God's people from their homeland.

Habakkuk saw it all coming. The Lord once told the prophet Amos, "Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7). What God revealed to Habakkuk was ominous. It seems to have been prompted by the godly prophet's question to the Lord as to why he had to be exposed to such sin and violence among the people of Judah. The Law is ignored, justice is nowhere to be found, and wickedness is everywhere. And perhaps worst of all, it appears that God doesn't see and doesn't care (1:1-4). In response, the Lord says, "Oh, I care all right! In fact, I'm going to do something during your lifetime that you wouldn't believe if anyone else were to tell you. I'm bringing the Chaldeans (Babylonians) against you. They have unmatched military strength and are fierce and impetuous. They're a brutal enemy, and they will sweep into this land, devastating it" (1:5-11).

Having received the revelation, Habakkuk reacts with profound shock. The punishment God had planned for His people was so devastating, and was to come at the hands of a nation so renowned for its brutality, that Habakkuk couldn't believe God would actually permit such tragedy. In fact, he says, "You, O Lord, are too holy to permit such a godless nation to harm your people. They're pagan idolaters!" (1:12-

17). To this objection, God apparently gives no verbal response. He does, however, give Habakkuk a vision. It's a vision of the visible coming of the Lord to wreak havoc on the wicked nations of the world (3:3-15). The Lord then tells Habakkuk to write it down, because it's a vision for a distant future "the appointed time" (2:3). Its fulfillment would not be for a long time, but it would certainly come.

The force of this vision is to assure Habakkuk that whatever might happen in the intervening years—however severe conditions might become, the Lord had not lost control, and in the end, He will triumph gloriously. Thus, the coming bad times are part of His sovereign plan and will fulfill His sovereign purposes. And by the way, Habakkuk, there's coming a day in the much nearer future when I will also bring severe judgment down upon those wicked Babylonians (2:4-19)!

In our current crisis here in 21st century America, it is impossible to foresee all of the details of what's coming. We don't have prophets today. But it is not impossible to suspect that God might allow us to go through severe testing as judgment upon the United States for the squandering of our great heritage of freedom, grounded as it has been in the truth of God's Word. We are in the process of yielding our liberties to pernicious authorities who wish to dominate every detail of our lives. We may be permanently losing the high standard of living we once enjoyed as we slip ever further into economic socialism

That would have profound implications for our political liberties as well. No one can say what may become of the freedom of religion guaranteed by our Constitution. On the basis of Habakkuk's experience, however, how should we react? Three very important principles emerge out of this little prophecy that are as relevant to us in our turbulent times as they were to Habakkuk in his.

1. *Give reverent submission to a sovereign God.* "But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him" (2:20). No matter how bad the times may become, we must always remember that God is in control. He is sovereign over every event, and He cares about the affairs of His covenant people. In fact, He cares enough to subject them to discipline at times, especially when they turn away from Him and follow other gods. Never forget the potent warning with which 1 John closes: "Little children, guard yourselves from idols" (1 Jn 5:21). We are also reminded that the Lord Jesus told His hearers that no one can serve God and wealth at the same time (Mt 6:24). Thus, ours is not to complain or argue with God, but reverently submit to His wise providence, regard-less of what form it takes. "For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few" (Eccl 5:2).

2. *Offer earnest prayer for revival in judgment.* "Lord, I have heard the report about You and I fear. O Lord, revive Your

work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy" (3:2). Habakkuk admits to the fear he felt when he realized what the Lord was revealing to him. We may initially react to bad economic and political news with the same fear. But Habakkuk was not content to live indefinitely with that fear. There was another option, one He could not be certain He would see, but one he had every rea-son to pursue . . . revival. Habakkuk prays that God would breathe new spiritual life into His covenant nation "in the midst of the years"—in other words, during this undefined period of judgment that lay just ahead. There is always hope that God will awaken His sleeping people, purify them, and invest them with new spiritual power. And this should be our prayer at the present time. Our immediate prospects may look bleak, but God has proven himself to be a God who revives. We need to read the history of the great revivals and let it motivate us to pray for a new rebirth of godliness in our churches, and through them, in our nation.

3. *Maintain confident joy in the midst of suffering.* This may be the most difficult of all, yet Habakkuk closes his prophecy by admitting that he was shaking on the inside, his lips were quivering, and he felt weak, all be-cause he could look forward only to a "day of distress" at the hands of the Chaldeans (3:16). But, he gathers his resolve and declares that in the face of adverse economic conditions, he will rejoice

in the Lord. "Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the god of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places" (3:17-19).

In other words, no matter how bad the economy becomes, even if it should collapse into a new depression, we have every reason to rejoice in the Lord. He has saved us, and He will not abandon us who love and trust Him. The promises and comfort of His Word are our strength. And when we grasp that, the burden of our dis-tress is lifted, the weight on our shoulders is gone, and we can leap like the deer as he skips over the mountain-ous terrain!

So brothers and sisters, if our economy disintegrates in the coming months, we will not need to join the chorus of desperation and despair. We must not seek our refuge in gold or foreign currency or government sponsored bailouts. Our hope is in the Lord. Let's trust His sovereign wisdom, pray for His reviving power, and rejoice in His constant strength. That's how we will survive a collapsing economy!

--Pastor Ron Glass



How to Promote Revivals

First, we must believe in revivals. I do not see how anyone who reads his Bible can say one word against them. Why, look at the great revivals in Moses' time, and those under Joshua and David and Josiah. Think of the great gathering that Ezra had, when all the people stood in the street all day for a revival meeting. Moreover, every denomination that I know anything about is the result of some revival. The Episcopalians say they are apostolic. That takes them back to the Pentecost, when three thousand were converted in a single day. The Lutherans proclaim in their very name the greatest revival under Luther. The Quakers sprang from a revival under George Fox; the Methodists from that under Wesley; and more than that, four fifths of the names on the church rolls today are those of persons

converted in a revival. They make our best workers. They are more likely to hold out. A man converted and entering a cold church is like a baby thrown in a snow drift. But in times of revival the church is warm, ready to receive the new born souls. I don't believe in spasmodic efforts, when the church rouses for a year or for five years; but God has his special harvest seasons in nature, why not grace? The longer I live, the more I believe in revivals.

But second, we must get things out of the way for a revival. When the savior came of old, John cried, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." I believe that in many places the Spirit of the Lord is grieved, and his blessing withheld, simply because we crowd him out of our churches. We hold meeting during

the week of prayer, and Christians are getting warmed and revived, and the heart of sinners are melting; but the moment the week is over, we clear the way for sociables and lectures and concerts, things which distract the minds of the unconverted, and scatter their serious thoughts. Shall it be so in your churches this winter, brethren? Will you gratify the eyes and ears of the people around you without making one earnest effort to save their perishing souls? How important it is that the meetings should continue, that room should be made for the Lords work. What a wave of blessing would sweep over this country if our churches would all agree to let all these things go this winter, and give themselves with all their might to the work of saving souls!

And third, if we want a revival in our churches, we must pray for it. It isn't great preaching that we want, brethren, so much as it is great praying. The work is the Lord's not man's; and if Gabriel were to preach to a church six months, not a soul would be revived, not a sinner converted, without the Holy Spirit. All our quickening must come from his blessed presence and power. And the earnest, importunate prayer of one person, one poor humble, brother or sister who will not let God go without and answer, may call down the blessing.

One of the first series of meetings I ever attended was started by a poor sick man, who lying flat on his back, became so exercised over the condition of the church that he could not rest. The church was dead, and the young folks around were all unsaved. He sent for the brethren of the church, and entreated them to pray for revival. But they were too cold, and too much wrapped up in the world. Then he sent for the sisters, and begged them to pray, and at last a few of them did so. The Lord revived their hearts. Others were added to them, and when I came, they had been before God many days entreating for a blessing. The first night I preached, all was cold. It

seemed like beating the air. But that night at midnight the son of one of the elders came down to his father's room crying out, "Father, pray for my lost soul." The Lord came suddenly to his temple, and we had a great blessing. Now, is there any one so weak or humble that he or she can't do as much as that sick man did? You can pray yourself, and perhaps you can get some one else to unite with you in prayer, and the Lord will add to your numbers, and your own souls will be revived. And once let this church be set on fire of God, and there will be no trouble about the unconverted. Red-hot coals will kindle a fire where ever they fall.

But fourth, and last, not only pray for a revival, but work for it. Many people act as if the verse in the Bible were, "Let him that heareth pray, come." They pray for their friends, their children— they have prayed for them for years, but they have never said come. "Let him that hearth say, come." How many men in this city today only need an invitation to bring to Christ! How many mothers have talked to their children about their behavior, their dress, their studies, but never one word about their immortal souls! "Ah," you say, "I can't talk to them; my own

life is so inconsistent!" And that is true,. The less any Christian indulging in known sin says about religion the better; but that does not lessen, it only increases our responsibility. It is as if a father should command a child to do something, and say, "Father, I can't." Come out from that sin—from all sin— for the sake of the souls who are stumbling over you in perdition. Don't wait a moment. Go to them and confess your unfaithfulness, and ask them right then and there to come to Christ. Would not the Spirit use such a witness as that would be?

Brethren, we have this matter of a revival very largely in our hands. God is ready—are we? Do we really want a revival more than anything else in the world? Are we praying for it? Are we determined to pray for it until it comes? Are we living such lives that God can hear us? "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

Are we saying, "Come," as well as praying it? The Lord help us all to prepare the way of the Lord, that he may come among us in power!

By D. L Moody

--Pastor Vince Ingoglia
369-4390

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"The Everlasting Love of God" Senior Saints' Luncheon

Winter snows and cold temperatures did not keep the seniors away from WRBC's senior luncheon on January 31, 2009. Even though we had a few absentees nursing illnesses that prevented them from attending, the luncheon held to its numbers of over 30 as it always seems to do.

Fellowship Hall was decorated in a Valentine's traditional décor that brought the seniors into a mood of the theme, "The Everlasting Love of God." Not to expect anything less from the kitchen, the menu once again had excellent reviews, with a menu of Sweet & Spicy Wings for an appetizer; Overloaded Stuffed Potatoes (Mmmmm) for a one dish entrée; and Strawberry Poke Cake for dessert. Thanks to the volunteer kitchen staff headed up by Marianne Lanphear for the great food and equally great service.

John Lanphear orchestrated a wonderful presentation and testimony entitled, "How Could God Let This Happen?" It was a film offering a testimony of Walt Lawrence of Vancouver, British Columbia that at the age

of 17 dived into a body of water, striking his head on the bottom changing his life forever, putting him in a wheelchair, physically limiting him. John Lanphear's testimony on the effect of this film on his life touched a chord within the senior audience.

For seniors that have yet to experience one of the senior luncheons, this is an open invitation to the next luncheon. The food is always good; there is always lots of warm and friendly fellowshiping; there is worship in both hymn singing (accompanied by Marie Caputo) and devotions; and not to forget the "Trash to Treasures" table where the seniors bring in their old stuff and take home some one else's stuff.

A box of Valentine Candy was placed at each seating as a favor. In addition, some went home with a small sweetheart box of Chocolates as door prizes, for their contributions to the luncheon. Their contributions were in the form of "quips & quotes" or stories taken off the Internet worthy to share with other Christians at the luncheon.

One of the seniors, Ruth Kerr, was a recipient of a door prize mainly because her attire so reflected the Valentine spirit as she was dressed in red. What caught our attention was the beautiful homemade red shawl that she was wearing. The red shawl opened up a line of communication with Ruth, not only bringing her into the body of Christ at the WRBC but allowing us the knowledge of her skill of crocheting. She loves to crochet and is quite good at it and is ready to fill orders of those desiring a "made to order" sweater, afghan, baby outfits or even place mats for your dining room table. Let me know and I will take the order.

These luncheons are not limited to the seniors of WRBC but to all seniors from the community, especially those seeking the Word. So let this be a special invitation to seniors seeking good Christian fellowship. See you at the next luncheon!

--Joan Tyska

Missionary of the Month

Ralph & Sandra Thompson
Mombasa, Kenya



Ralph Thompson's mother, Cathy has been diagnosed with breast cancer and was scheduled for surgery. Not knowing the time line of the surgery and Ralph's plans to come back to the states to be with her for the surgery, please pray for her healing and his safety and for the wisdom of the doctors.

Sandra Thompson is having extreme pain in her lower back that has interfered with her daily routine. Please pray that they would find a good doctor who can treat her properly.

Pray that all their financial needs are met especially their ongoing daily support. Pray for the financial support for those involved in the World Venture's MEGA 2 Conference for theological education and leadership training coming up April 27-May 5. Ralph's spring semester for Modular Program in Apologetics through BIOLA University is coming up and he will need \$1,300. Pray that this need is met.

Continue your support in prayer for the growth of those they are discipling and mentoring for there are many. The city of Mombasa is a bustling city but trash is a common sight everywhere and the smell is overwhelming. The people are mostly poor, needing to hear of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray for the Thompsons that they will stay strong and energized to reach out to these people that we can only read about.

--Joan Tyska

"Sweets of the Spoon"



Do not let the name *Sweets of the Spoon* fool you into thinking it is all about sweets. On the contrary this brand new café on Route 25A in the heart of Rocky Point has a balance of healthy, even organic food as well as the desserts designed to please those with a sweet tooth.

The proprietors, Wally and Lisa Coleman have been over heard telling business men

that even though the *Sweets of the Spoon* technically is in their names for all reasons of operating, the real proprietor is God. "We just work for Him!" claims Lisa. Supporting their gratefulness to God for enabling them to fulfill a long awaited dream is a sign hanging on the Audubon rustic colored walls - "Give Thanks for Unknown Blessings".

The buzz is going strong among the community since the opening of the "Sweets of the Spoon" on February 2, 2009; and locals are beginning to drift in with rave reviews on its menu. Many of the enthusiastic customers are from WRBC, not one bit shy in sharing their favorite selection thus far. Laura & Luke favor the vanilla soft serve but Jackie seems to favor the gelato as well as Garrett trying to finagle a 2nd one on his

first visit. Diane loved the chocolate soda where Marianne had a made to order Panini with grilled chicken, sundried tomatoes & provolone cheese. Personally my favorite so far was the baked oatmeal served with steamed milk. Outstanding!

As you can see there is a variety. *Hot off the Panini Press* list a few selections that you will not find anywhere else. The same goes for *It's a Wrap* selections. If you have avoided the *Sweets of the Spoon* because of watching those calories, here is the best part. There are salads, soups and side dishes that would fit right into your diet needs. To list all the wonderful made on premises dessert items would only make your mouth water. Trust me, there is so much to choose from and if your choice for dessert is fruit, they can deliver.

In critiquing the *Sweets of the Spoon*, the food is of high standards, the sweets are delectable and the atmosphere is warm. Most of all there is a greater sense that God is there running the business.

--Joan Tyska

Let's Get Acquainted

Felix Acerra



For anyone that is a faithful reader of the Beacon Newsletter, the name Felix Acerra should be a name familiar to you. His name has appeared in the Beacon every month except once since June of 2006 being congratulated for having all the right answers to the Bible Quiz published in the monthly newsletter. But beginning this month, the tables will be turned as Felix will be the creator of the Bible Quiz so sharpen up your Biblical knowledge and see if you can find the right answers.

This man, now with a deep understanding of the Bible, was born in Long Island City, NY on August 18, 1925 to the parents of Clemente and Elvira Acerra. His Father owned a butcher shop and his mother was a homemaker. Felix has wonderful memories of his mother as she sang while doing her household chores. He remembers this because her voice was so beautiful and so powerful. He was one of six children, 3 older sisters, and two younger sisters.

Felix attended elementary through Junior High School in Astoria, Queens and finished his high school years in Manhattan at the Manhattan High School of Aviation Trades.

From there he was drafted into the USNR during WWII in 1943. It was in the reserves that when he was stationed in Pensacola, he was put in charge of the flight test line and was responsible for getting planes that had under gone major repairs, ready for the flight testing. Felix's required monthly flight time consisted of accompanying the test pilots in their rigorous testing to ascertain whether these advanced training planes were safe to fly for Naval Air Cadets who were in training there.

After serving his time in the military, Felix began working at the LaGuardia Field for the American Export as an aircraft sheet metal mechanic. He continued his employ-

ment years at the NY City Transit Authority as a bus mechanic for 6 years followed by 25 years at the NY City Department of Sanitation, Bureau of Motor Equipment as a mechanic and supervisor of mechanics of all types of motor vehicles. In his retirement, he went to work at the Shoreham post office for 6 years.



For the first 38 years of his life he lived in Astoria, Queens where he met his wife, Florence. She was a friend of his younger sister's, living just around the corner from them. Whatever friendship had been kindled at that time, was sort of put on hold as Felix served his time in the military. Once he was discharged, his interest was rekindled and he developed a secret crush on her. It took a sprig of mistletoe at a Christmas party in his family's home to allow Felix to express his feelings for Florence. Later, they started dating, he proposed and the two of them became one on September 12, 1953.

They settled in Astoria increasing their family to include three daughters, Andrea, Michele and Cheryl. After moving to Smithtown in 1965, their son, Paul was born. They lived there for 24 years. Once retired, Felix and Florence left NY and spent 4 years in Tennessee and 5 1/2 years in Pennsylvania.

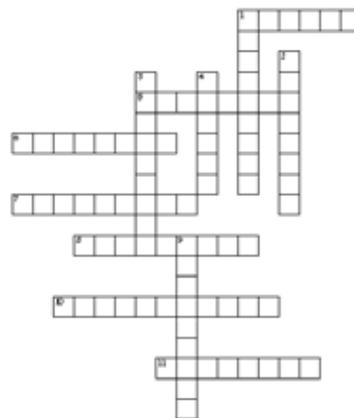
Felix, raised Catholic, was unaware of Biblical truths until he began to read some popular Christian books and listen to a few TV evangelists. It was well into adulthood that he began to question his beliefs concerning Biblical knowledge of Jesus. By 1987 both Florence and Felix made their confessions

of faith in their Lord Jesus Christ. It was at this time they retired and moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee where they made great strides in their Christian growth. During their 4 years there, they attended their daughter Cheryl and husband's Church, took classes at Kay Arthur's Precept Ministries and truly got into God's Word.

After leaving Chattanooga and moving to Harleysville, Pennsylvania, Felix & Florence settled near their oldest daughter, Andrea & her family. There they attended a Bible Teaching Church and were baptized. They remained there for 5 years at which time they came back to Long Island, specifically Leisure Glen, finding the WRBC, now in attendance for 8 1/2 years.

Felix has served the WRBC church well not only as an usher and working with the Awana program, but in small ways that sometimes go unnoticed. He would seem quiet and reserved but as you get to know him, has a wonderful kind and giving heart and a great sense of humor. He is mechanically inclined and likes gardening; a plus to have around the house. He keeps his mind sharp doing various puzzles, such as crosswords, jumble, etc; and of course the Bible Quiz from the Beacon and continues to increase his wisdom through Christian reading.

--Joan Tyska





When the Faithful Flee

"It's no secret that the percentage of Americans in church on any given Sunday is dropping fast." So writes Washington Times religion editor, Julia Duin in her

recent book, *Quitting Church: Why the Faithful are Fleeing and What to Do About It* (Baker Books, 2008). "Why?," she asks a few paragraphs later. "I have sensed for several years something is not right with church life, especially with evangelical church life." It's the evangelical churches, she contends, that are losing ground. Polling data and surveys verify the trend.

In America today, 71% of all congregations have fewer than 100 participating adults. Ten percent of America's 331,000 congregations have 350 members or more, but more than half of those attending church attend those approximately 33,000 churches. Large or small, however, professing evangelicals are quitting. Duin's book is an attempt to provide some answers to this disturbing trend.

First, says Duin, many churches are irrelevant, not addressing life in the real world of the 21st century. Mediocrity has produced boredom. Churches need to provide answers to problems such as unanswered prayer and suffering. Second, churches today are not providing the kind of authentic community that addresses the overwhelming loneliness of modern Americans. This is one of the reasons for the popularity of small groups and the growing trend toward house churches. Third, churches are appealing to young adults, which explains the rise of the emergent church movement and the tendency to accommodate religion to culture. Fourth, many churches are neglecting over-thirty-five singles who wrestle with issues of sexuality and marriage. In addition, Says Duin, too many churches are spiritual "obstetrics wards," where there is a lack of solid teaching from overworked pastors; the megachurches are particularly vulnerable at this point.

Speaking of pastors, Duin says that another reason for discontent. Many pastors are distressed at the unrelenting pressure to be virtually superhuman

and feel that nothing they do is significant; many congregants are unhappy with pastors who betray their trust through financial or moral improprieties, and often feel that they cannot turn to their pastors, who don't seem real. Next, says Duin, is the problem of women who are fed up because they feel they have no significant place in the church. Women who are leaders in their weekday world feel shut out of the church's leadership. The final problem Duin surveys has to do with the declining fortunes of charismatic churches which generally seem to have lost the power the movement had in the 1970s (when Duin became a Christian was first involved in churches).

This book is clearly the work of a journalist. It is fairly brief and the research is not deep. The trends Ms. Duin identifies are clearly real, and they merit consideration, especially by those who serve in church leadership. There are lessons to be learned here and some helpful insights into and explanations of some of the disturbing phenomena impacting evangelicalism.

That said, however, the book is decidedly deficient. For one thing, Duin has studied only select segments of a broadly defined evangelicalism in America: charismatic and Pentecostal churches, megachurches, black churches, emerging churches, and the now-fashionable house churches. She has not given much attention to smaller, conservative churches, where people are more positive and are committed to the ministry and where pastors love their people and are faithfully preaching the Word. What used to be called "Fundamentalism" is ignored altogether. In other words, Duin's assessment of the fleeing faithful is too narrow and her analysis often too superficial.

That leads to the main problem with this study. Ms. Duin has totally ignored the biblical perspective. Although professing to be an evangelical herself, she does not explore the Scriptures in the pursuit of insight into the problems of contemporary Christianity. Neither does she acknowledge the reality of satanic opposition and spiritual warfare or the disturbing acceptability of worldliness within the evangelical culture in America.

The reader might come away from this book rather discouraged about the prospects for evangelicalism in the future. Some might be tempted to impose their own disillusionments on Duin's grid and decide to give up on his or her church. That's why, once having read this book, the following biblical observations need to be considered.

1. *The church is the body of Christ.* The only institution the Lord Jesus instituted uniquely for this age is so much a part of Him—so intimately connected with Him, that it is called His "body": God the Father, according to Paul, "put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body" (Eph 1:22-23).

2. *Jesus promised that He would build His church.* "I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it" (Mt 16:18). For 2,000 years, this has been the task with which our Lord has been occupied. When we get discouraged with the follies of people in the church, we must remember that ultimately, it is Jesus Christ who is building it!

3. *The Bible declares the church to be "the pillar and support of the truth" (1 Tim 3:15).* Jesus' work is centered on the truth of His Word, and that truth is the domain of the church. Thus, the church is foundational to everything God is doing in the world during this age: worship, preaching and teaching, ministry to the needy, evangelism, and world missions.

4. *Jesus Christ cares about the condition of His church.* He "loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory" (Eph 5:25-27). This is why He left explicit instructions for church discipline—to maintain the church's purity (Mt 18:15-17). In Revelation 2-3, He is seen walking among the lamp stands, which represent His churches. Throughout this age, He is constantly inspecting His churches, correcting them, and encouraging them.

5. *Jesus Christ promised that He would be with His church until the end of this age.* "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). He has promised never to leave us or forsake us (Heb 13:5).



Thus, the church is God's program for this age. Regardless of what you hear or read in the contemporary media, or even from religious leaders, telling you that the church is irrelevant and that it deserves to be abandoned, remember this:

the Lord Jesus Christ has promised that *He* will never abandon it! So don't give up on the church. Attend your church regularly; support it cheerfully; serve in it faithfully. Be committed to its ministry, submissive to its leaders, loyal to its programs, and en-

thusiastic about its future. Where faults and weaknesses exist, determine to make it better. Again, love your church, because Jesus does. Never turn your back on it, because Jesus won't. In short, *cherish the church!* God does!

--Pastor Ron Glass



March Bible Quiz Questions

- 1) Who did Jacob pronounce a curse on while on his death bed?
- 2) What was Jesus answer to the Jews when they questioned him about seeing Abraham?
- 3) Which curse church did Jesus refer to as being neither cold nor hot?
- 4) Which co-worker of Paul forsook him and left him, having loved this present world?
- 5) Who did Jesus say his mother and his brothers were?

Bonus: A branch of theology that deals with knowledge about God that is obtained through the exercise of the senses and human faculties without recourse to, or belief in direct revelation or prophecy is known as _____?

--Felix Acerra

February Quiz Answers

Congratulations to Felix Acerra and Tina Wiwczar for answering last months quiz questions correctly!

Answers

- 1) Elkanah (1 Samuuel 1:8).
- 2) Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2).
- 3) Christ's Love for the Church (Ephesians 5:25).
- 4) Nabal (1 Samuel 25:3).
- 5) At a well in Midian (Exodus 2:16).

Bonus: They must marry within their tribe (Numbers 36:6).

Submit the Bible reference and correct answers to: wrbc4Christ@hotmail.com. The correct answers will be announced in the next newsletter!

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45 AM Sunday School 11: 00 AM Sunday Worship	2	3 7:00 PM Home Bible Study	4 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting	5 8:30 AM Ladies Prayer 7:00 PM Home Bible Study	6	7 
8 9:45 AM Sunday School 11: 00 AM Sunday Worship Daylight Saving Time Begins	9	10 7:00 PM Board of Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Home Bible Study	11 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting	12 8:30 AM Ladies Prayer 7:00 PM Home Bible Study	13	14
15 9:45 AM Sunday School 11: 00 AM Sunday Worship	16	17 7:00 PM Mission Board Meeting 7:00 PM Home Bible Study	18 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting	19 8:30 AM Ladies Prayer 7:00 PM Home Bible Study	20	21
22 Missionary Guests Peter and Bette Verkaik 9:45 AM Sunday School 11: 00 AM Sunday Worship	23	24 7:00 PM Home Bible Study	25 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting	26 8:30 AM Ladies Prayer 7:00 PM Home Bible Study	27	28
29 9:45 AM Sunday School 11: 00 AM Sunday Worship	30	31				

Our Purpose

1. To glorify God through sharing the good news of salvation by God's sovereign grace through faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. To nurture believers through a strong program of Christian education, youth ministries, and expository Biblical preaching.

3. To provide an opportunity for Biblical worship, service, and fellowship.

4. To extend our ministry throughout America and around the world through participation in home and foreign missions.

WRBC is affiliated with the Conservative Baptist Association of America and the Conservative Baptist Mission to the Northeast.