

Faith Of Our Youth

June 1999

"The Voice of Young Christian Faith"

Volume 6 Issue 2

Here is your Mother

by Brad Tutterow

Was Jesus a good baby? Was he fussy or prone to colic? How many times did Mary wake up in the middle of the night to care for her screaming child? How many times did a frightened baby Jesus cling to his mother's clothing for comfort?

We don't know the answers to these questions, but we do know that Mary cared for and loved her child, because that's what mothers do. Just as infants are the most selfish of creatures, mothers are the most selfless creatures that God has ever created. For the infant that cannot think of anything but his own wants, God created the perfect match – the mother willing to give of herself to meet those needs.

The value of a mother is one of the many stories that can be told with the death of Jesus Christ. As Mary's little boy bled for the sins of an entire world, she stood there and watched him die. And in deep agony we can't even fathom, Jesus reflected on his mother. With the weight of a planet's sin on him, Jesus spoke, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." (Jn 19:26,27) For all the sleepless nights and sacrifices, Jesus made sure someone looked after Mom.

It is easy to take a good mother for granted. The good mother requires no payment or thanks for her services; they are given freely. But we can take from Jesus' example and make sure someone looks after Mom. She deserves it.



Member of Prince Rd. Church of Christ

Regardless of one's age, Satan is always trying to affect our Christian walk with his three D's: DOUBT, DISCOURAGEMENT, AND DESPAIR.

1. DOUBT - uncertainty, inclination not to believe or accept. "Is there a God? Does he care for me? Does he answer prayer? Where is justice?" All good questions that go through all of our minds at one time or another. Seeds of doubt sown by Satan. James 1:2-6 tells us we are to consider it pure joy when one faces trials. Why? Because the testing of one's faith develops perseverance. We are to ask of God believing and NOT DOUBTING. Doubting isn't abnormal, but what do we do about our doubts is the important thing. Think of Peter, the disciples, Rhoda and Thomas as the scriptures give us examples of each and how they handled their doubt. Jesus' admonition to Thomas in John 20:27, "stop doubting and believe."

Doubting is a negative response. Many times the easier response. Jesus told his disciples in Matt. 21:21-22, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, God, throw yourself into the sea, and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." Doubt is a very strong tool of Satan. Don't let him use it on you!

2. DISCOURAGEMENT - deprived of courage or confidence, hinder by inspiring fear of consequences. "Oh, what's the use? Don't get anywhere anyway. No one really cares." Another tool of Satan's. How many souls fall away due to discouragement? In the parable of the sower, the seed

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Just Shoot Some Hoops

by Matt Clark

Just recently, while I was driving to my morning classes, I witnessed a sight which woke something up inside me. As I was driving on a highway, a car pulled directly in front of the car next to me, causing the driver to slam on his brakes. That same driver quickly began to tailgate the car which had just pulled in front of him. As I passed them, I noticed that there was less than a foot between the two bumpers. I looked at the man who was doing the tailgating and saw nothing but anger in the man's eyes. This made me realize that I have the very same problem. I have had people pull out onto a busy road in front of me causing me to brake. As a natural response, I accelerate to get just as close as I can to the car in front of me. That day, though, those two drivers made me realize that sometimes I do not control my anger the way I should.

"Jesus controlled His anger, and in doing so, gave us a perfect example of how we can control our anger."

Anger is a very powerful emotion that can vary in intensity from mild irritation to intense fury and rage. Anger can be caused by both external and internal events. You could become angry at a specific person (such as a co-worker, a fellow student, or a parent), an event (such as a traffic jam, a bad test grade, or your favorite sports team losing a big game), or your anger could be caused by worrying about your personal problems. Memories of traumatic or enraging events can also trigger angry feelings.

As Christians, it is very important for us to try to control our anger; because, if we let our anger build up, we could "lose it." By "lose it" I mean lose your temper, and you could find yourself doing things you do not normally do. This could be swearing, hitting, kicking, breaking things, or a variety of other actions which are unacceptable for a Christian.

Now do not get the wrong idea, I am not saying that you should keep all of your anger bottled up inside you. That is almost just as bad as "losing it." Consider a bottle of pop. If you unscrew the cap without shaking the bottle, the air comes out at a normal rate and you can enjoy your pop. On the other hand, if you shake that bottle of pop first and then unscrew the cap, the air pressure inside the bottle is going to rise, the fizz and pop inside is going to explode out from the bottle, and you are going to have a big mess to clean up. If we let our anger build up inside us, it is going to explode just like the shaken bottle of pop. If we let our anger out before it builds up, then we should be safe, and we will

not have a big mess to clean up later. Remember the example of Jesus and the money-changers in John 2:13-16.

"When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" (NIV)

In this passage Jesus was obviously angry at the money-changers, but He did not "lose it." Jesus controlled His anger, and in doing so, gave us a perfect example of how we can control our anger. Since we are to strive to follow Jesus' example as closely as possible, this passage tells us that we are allowed to become angry, just as long as we control that anger, and not let it control us.

So, you may ask, how am I to release my anger without letting it control me? The answer to that question is not an easy one, because I feel it is different for every person. Whenever I get mad, and I can feel my anger beginning to control me, I like to go outside (if I am at home) and play a little basketball. The physical activity allows me to get my anger under control. In a way, you could say I sweat my anger out.

There are many other methods of expressing your anger in a healthy manner. I have heard that some people like driving to calm them down, but I would be reluctant to try this because I just feel driving a car when you are already angry is a bad idea. Other ideas are: 1) Breathe deeply for a while; 2) Slowly repeat a calm word or phrase such as "relax," or "take it easy;" 3) Use imagery to visualize a relaxing experience.

The methods I just mentioned usually work for me, but keep in mind that they may or may not work for you. The point is that you need to have some way to calm yourself down when you become angry. These methods can be used to control your anger when you are at home, school, work, or in the car. So, the next time you feel yourself getting angry, pick up a basketball and just shoot some hoops.

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Member of Vandalia Church of Christ

that fell on two types of ground did not bring forth fruit due to discouragement: Rocky-when trouble and persecution come (and they will) because of the word (doing and standing for right) they quickly fell away because there was no root to their faith. Thorny - worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth (these are always close to us) choke it, making it unfruitful.

Rather than being discouraged, or one who causes discouragement, show encouragement, instead! Read I Thess. 5:9-11. Our admonition is in verse 9 is "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

"Satan's tactics are of a negative nature, while God's are of a positive nature."

We all need encouragement to be built up at different times in our life. As Christians, our purpose in life is to be pleasing

to God. This in and of itself is encouragement.

3. DESPAIR - utter loss of hope, a cause of hopelessness. "I don't see a way things are ever going to improve. The harder I try the more I seem to fail. Is there really something to hope for?" In today's society, suicide is rising as one of the leading causes of death; especially to our young. They see nothing but despair and they feel ending life is easier than facing it. Judas Iscariot, taking his own life, is an example of despair and utter hopelessness taking over--even after he tried to give the thirty pieces of silver back. Paul, in II Cor. 4:8-9 makes these statements: "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."

Hope is the key to conquering despair. I Peter 1:3, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a LIVING HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Don't ever lose sight of this. Satan will do anything he can to divert you from serving God and remaining true to his teaching. Life can throw some real bummers our way and Satan will take advantage of these to try and distract us from God, or we tend to blame

God for them. Satan's tactics are of a negative nature, while God's are of a positive nature. God uses faith, encouragement, and hope to direct and uphold you. WE SERVE A LIVING GOD! Don't ever forget that.

How we handle doubt, discouragement, and despair is up to us. And each of us has to deal with these whatever our age or our place in life. The older I get, the more I think Satan uses these three things to get us off course. The final result depends on how we face life and what we do with it. Whether we let Satan get us down or God lift us up. Just remember I John 4:4, "You dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is GREATER than the one who is in the world!"



Elder of Lawrence Church of Christ

Thank You

The church at Ozark would like to thank all of the brethren who have aided in the support of this publication up to this point. Several of you have offered aid or asked how you may be of assistance. Inquiries of this nature are best written to the Editor at the address listed on the back or e-mailed at jmmm@cwix.com.

Currently, every effort is made to issue Faith Of Our Youth three times each year. We would like to increase this to four times a year. The best means of achieving this goal is to encourage all of our young Christians to express their faith in writing. All members of Christ's body, both young and old, gain strength in witness our youth boldly standing up for the paths of truth.

The only requirement for submissions is that they be based on the Bible. Outside of this, subject matter and length are solely dependent on the author. But we, as fellow members with our youth, must lovingly encourage our youth to produce these articles.

Generations of Christians have faithfully expounded the Word of God utilizing the talents placed within themselves by the Creator. The goal of this publication is to nurture and foster such talents through the written word.

JAM

The Fork in the Road

by Lisa Power

Many times in my life, I have felt the dangerous pull and persuasion of ungodly temptations. Recently, though, I made an important realization: I cannot be a lukewarm Christian. When you are baptized into the family of God, you make a lifelong commitment to that family and to its Master. There are two roads from which you must choose: that which leads toward the world and that which goes toward the Lord.

Many young people, I believe, are under the wrong impression about God. It seems, often, that people think they can serve God on their own time and their own terms. Many seem to feel that it is acceptable to sleep in on Sunday morning, forget about Sunday evening, and/or go to a movie during the midweek service. They forget that we call it a service for one important reason: we are supposed to be serving God.

The world has many attractive features, especially to the young people who are experimenting and trying to find their place in life. For those of us who are hoping to spend eternity with God, however, we need to understand that these attractions do not mix well with God. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus says, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." God wants you to make a choice. He wants you to live, worship, and follow Him and He, in return, will guide, guard, and direct you. There will be times when you feel weak, even times when you fail, but if you choose His road, God will protect you all the days of your life.

When you come to the fork in your road, I encourage you to stop and think for a while. Would you prefer to walk alone down the bumpy, deceitful path of worldly destruction? Or, would you rather hold God's hand while He leads you down His straight and narrow road? The choice is yours, as long as you remember that if God becomes your Master, you must have fire in your heart and loyalty and faith in your soul. And THAT is your "reasonable service."

*She stands, undecided, before the God of right
She says, "I haven't the energy to continue this fight.
I've been unfaithful to Jesus, hurtful toward me.
I've made many wrong turns, I've lost sight of Your Plan."*

*The struggle grows fiercer, she weighs good against bad.
She can't seem to get over the trouble she's had.
She says, "You've left me a few times, I'm sick of it now,
When I needed to do things you forgot to show me how."*

*"Well, child," God answers, "Open your heart,
Next time you are lost, ask me where to start.
Don't try to rely on the wisdom of you,
For I am the one who knows what is true.
Look to me for strength whenever you feel weak,
And I promise to help you if you continue to seek,
I won't make you search blindly, I stay by your side,
Just lose your expectations, let go of your pride.
I really want to help you, but it's My plan, you see,
That will get to Heaven, to Jesus, and Me.
So now that you know what you must do,
Make your decision, I'll be waiting for you."*

*She stands at the road, looks left and then right,
As she starts walking she says, "Lord, help me fight."*

Member of Anaheim Church of Christ

As the Ark Turns

by Randy Ingle

I'm sure that many of you were looking forward to some good programming finally on TV when you saw "Noah's Ark." I was too, but it turned out to be the biggest joke I've ever seen. Not much upsets me to the point of taking action, but when someone mangles Bible stories on national TV, that does it for me. For the first time ever, I found myself writing and calling NBC to complain about the content of a movie.

They warned ahead of time that some changes were made. For example Lot and Noah were put into the same time frame. They failed, however, to mention they were basically re-

writing the Bible story of Noah.

The first thing that I noticed was how conveniently they omitted that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were homosexual. They just said they were wicked. How convenient to cater to the pro-liberal society of today. God will not be so generous. The only things that they got right in the story were the destruction of the cities and Lot's wife turning into salt. Abraham was the one who asked for the city to be saved if he could find righteous people--not Noah.

(See "THE ARK" on page 5)

In a poor attempt to make themselves right by putting Noah and his family at Sodom, the script had Noah's wife telling Noah that they can't trust the scribes who write about this in history. "They will probably say we weren't even there." Well, they weren't there. II Timothy 3:16 tells us that, "all scripture is given by God and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and for instruction in righteousness." I don't believe that God got the story wrong.

To continue, the story had Noah's wife constantly questioning Noah and his motives and then trying to console the three boys who thought that Noah looked silly while talking to God. This didn't depict a good family, but a worldly '90's family to me. Added to this, was the fact that the second night on the Ark, the unmarried boys were living with their girlfriends and trying to sneak around the Ark to commit fornication without Noah finding out.

They also depicted Noah as a man with a severe alcohol problem. If this was the way Noah and his family were like, then they would have died with the rest of the world.

For added drama, the world had

"How convenient to cater to today's pro-liberal society. God will not be so generous"

previously seen rain. According to God, this didn't happen until the rain of the flood.

Lot turned into a bad guy and had his own boat to survive the flood. He planned a hostile takeover of the Ark with his band of warriors only to be hit over the head by Noah's wife with a frying pan and sucked up by a hurricane. I, for some reason, don't remember those details in the

Bible.

There were probably more things wrong with the movie, but I couldn't stand to watch it all.

In conclusion, if NBC didn't have enough material for a four hour movie, they should have shortened the movie and got the story right. Revelation 22:18 and 19 gives us an example of the outcome for those who change God's word.

I have included the web site and address for those of you who want to write NBC to protest such falsehoods in this and any future references to the Bible. I hope you write to show how much God despises false teachings like this.

NBC Viewer Relations
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112
<http://nbc.com>

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Member of the Church at Pleasant Hill

Born With It?

by Dan Huff

After the young homosexual student in Wyoming was murdered last October, there has been an increase of people, scientist, and biologist putting forth theories that a person who is homosexual is just born with it. As I heard these statements, I laughed, but as I realized what kind of impact these reported "assumptions based on limited information or knowledge; a conjecture..." would make on the world, I began to think about what the Bible has to say (One definition for theory: American Heritage Dictionary). This country relies heavily on science and the people put their trust in science way too much. Trust in God!

I do not write this to belittle anyone, but to speak the truth in love. I cannot be silent when the truth is being left behind like a smelly shoe.

What does the Bible have to say about this perplexing statement... "being born gay?" The Bible emphatically states that "God created man in His own image" (Gen 1:27, NKJ). Is God gay? Absolutely not! But to make such a statement as "being born gay" is reductio ad absurdum! Saying that a person was born gay... is making the accusation that God made them that way and they had no choice in the matter. God never has and never will cause a person to sin (Jam 1:13-16; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:18).

"...I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.

My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth" (Ps 139:14-15, NKJ).

"He created them male and female..." (Gen 5:2; 1:27, NKJ).

Jesus said, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?" (Matt 19:4-5, NKJ). (Mark 10:6-7).

"For I am the LORD, I do not change..." (Mal 3:6, NKJ). Since God does not change and God's word cannot change (Ps 119:89); and from the beginning God made them male and female... who changed? By whose authority did they change?

God made Adam and Eve... not Adam and Steve!

Young people and parents beware! Please do not be deceived by the flowery words that this perversion is being called. Disease, born that way, alternate lifestyle, genetic flaw, no choice, etc. God calls it an abomination (Lev 18:22, NKJ); detestable (Lev 20:13, NIV); and it is closely associated with: uncleanness, lust of their hearts, dishonoring their bodies, exchanging the truth of God for

(See "BORN?" on page 6)

a lie, worshipping the creature rather than the Creator, vile passions (Rom 1:24-27).

I searched and I searched in my Bible and other translations of the Bible, and I could not find the words "alternate lifestyle." I don't find any other option given besides what God has given in His inspired word, that is one that pleases Him. If we look closer at the word ALTERnate lifestyle, we see the word ALTER. ALTER means to "change, make different, modify." What is being changed made different, or modified? The lifestyle that God has given, which He said pleases Him! This is dangerous position to place oneself in.

Please read 1 Cor 6:9-11. If God is a just and righteous God and He is, then He could not create a person with a genetic flaw to condemn them to hell. Paul says that some of the Corinthian saints were homosexuals, but had repented--recognized they had sinned, had godly remorse, change of mind and will, had been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ and received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Ac 2:38). If the Corinthians could change from a life of homosexuals to a life of being straight, then so can anyone else who desires to live for Christ! If the Corinthians changed, and converted--washed! God is able to deliver anyone who will come to Him, giving up self to put on Christ. There is a way out through Jesus Christ! Jesus stands at the door and knocks. Will you respond to His invitation, on HIS TERMS?

Who do you choose to believe...God the Creator or scientist, biologist, reporters the creation? Choose for yourselves this day who you will believe...as for me, I will believe the LORD!

♦ ♦ ♦

Evangelist of the Church

Minor Matters

by Louis Garbi

The minor key is often associated with music that is sad or melancholy. It is also effective in expressing sober thoughts and deep contemplation. For some reason, the minor key is not often used in hymns to the glory of God. I am uncertain as to why this is. Perhaps it is that such sobriety seems out of character with the gospel. However, this doesn't make too much sense. We are exhorted to be sober as well as to rejoice. The major key is just a trend that we are used to. As with the minor key, it has no prohibition or exoneration from our Father.

Many hymns would be better served with a minor sound. For example, songs that depict the crucifixion would often have more appropriate emotional content. The lilting, merry sounds of the major key just don't seem adequate to the subject matter of crucifixion and sacrifice. Many of the psalms of David, as well as other truths have an emotional impact that would be best supported with a minor sound.

Pitching a minor song is not too difficult. A song is typically pitched with DO, MI, SOL, which is the root, third and fifth of the major scale. Many of you can hear that in your mind as you read. The minor scale is similar except that the third (MI) is flatted one half-step. This is called ME (may). So you would pitch

the song with DO, ME (may), SOL. The seventh is also flatted one half-step, from ti to te (tay). You sing the scale, DO, RE, ME (may), FA, SOL, LA, TE (tay), DO. More important than this, is just hearing the melody. Once you hear it, it is not too difficult to follow with the harmonies.

This is not an issue of great importance. The issue is far removed from the weightier matters of faith, mercy, and love. However, it may be the type of thing that can shift the attitude of the assembly from one that is used to routine to one that is paying attention more closely. (That is, until we become used to it.) The minor key is not a gimmick, but a legitimate form of expressing a song. If we will give it a try, we will find a lasting impression of something worthwhile. The meaning of many words will be better emphasized as we teach one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

The song for this issue is called House of Bread. Steve Wright based it on Micah 5:2. Steve uses the minor key quite effectively. If you have access to the Internet, you can see a rough picture of the score and hear what the music sounds like. The address is: <http://www.lakeozarks.net/~tikvah/bethsco.html> Give it a try, I think you'll like it.

Louis Garbi

"The lilting, merry sounds of the major key just don't seem adequate to the subject matter of crucifixion and sacrifice."

Songs of Our Youth

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House of Bread

Lyrics: Micah 5:2 Paraphrased

Music: Steven L. Wright
Arr. Louis Garbi

C Minor

Oh, Beth-le - hem, — house of — bread. Of you the pro — phet Mi — cah said,

"Though small by man's es - ti - ma — tion. From you will come He who is the — one.

His go - ings forth are from ev - er — last - ing.

Yes, — from of old, from ev - er last - ing.

Yes, — from of — old, — and from ev - er — last - ing."

Steven L. Wright
November 1998
Near-the-End Music

"FOOY" Views

The ultimate shame of Israel stood before Moses. As he spoke with God on the mountain, receiving the law written on stone, Israel had committed a great and vile sin. Moses, now standing before the nation, viewed the golden calf made from Egyptian gold, recalled the noise of wickedness coming forth from the camp, and then "Moses saw that they were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies)" (Ex. 32:25). Bursting forth from all the emotions swelling within him, Moses cried out one simple question, "Who is on the Lord's side?"

As each one of us progresses from toddler, to teenager, and on to adults, we gradually separate ourselves from the shadow of our parents to stand on our own two feet as individuals. In this process, we struggle to determine who we are and what we want to be. Our personalities, our goals, and ultimately our path in life is determined by a few choices we make. Far beyond any choices you will ever make—your future education, your career, and your mate—you must answer the question posed by Moses, "Am I on the Lord's side?"

Neither a gentle nod of the head, nor a passive "yes" will satisfy such a powerful, and life changing question. The response must be definitive and clear, because our Creator demands no less. Isaiah heard a similar beckoning in Isaiah 6:8, where it says, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Who shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." Isaiah, a man of God, knew that the nation of Israel and her people were struck with spiritual cancer and a leader, a righteous and God fearing leader, was desperately needed. Perhaps he recalled the story of Moses standing before the nation at Sinai. Regardless, Isaiah's answer was from the heart, "Here am I send me."

As each generation stands on its own in the church, those

who are older watch from a distance to see who will take the leadership. Who will rise up among the generation and guide them? They watch because they have been the unwanted witnesses of a generation's spiritual death. Sadly, nearly each congregation can tell the same story of an entire generation being led away because the generation's leadership fell from God; and, like sheep following a shepherd, everyone else followed.

The undeniable truth regarding this matter is that each generation will always have leadership. The heart of the matter is whether or not that leadership is godly. A leader need not be outright against the church to carry off his peers, simply not caring at all about the church will do just the same.

Your generation needs righteous leadership from both genders. A young lady's effect on her peers is no less than a young man's. Leadership does not always have to be a trait you're born with. A righteous leader is one who is pricked within his heart as to what he must do, and is so compelled that his conscience demands he help others come to the same conclusion. A leader has courage, conviction, and the integrity to chose right despite worldly consequences.

As you become productive young adults, ready to leave your parents' nest and fly on your own, what will your answer be to your eternal life's most important question: "Who will rise up for me...or who will stand up for me?" (Psalm 94:16)

Your Brother in Christ ,

Jeremy Morris

Faith Of Our Youth

FOOY Online : <http://members.aol.com/ddeis1234/index.html>

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