

“THE BELL”



BANGOR LIBERTY
FRIENDS
NEWSLETTER

January, 2020

Glorifying the One Who Gives Every Breath

In his first letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul writes, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Often in prayers you will hear someone call on God to use us to glorify Him. We talk in bible studies and the like about glorifying God and putting God's glory on display. But what does all of that mean? How do I actually do what this passage in Paul's letter is encouraging me to do? So at the beginning of the new year let's try to more clearly define what Paul was intending for that audience so many years ago and what it means for us today. Following is an attempt to define at least areas in our lives where we can work to accomplish what Paul is calling us to do each and every day.

Our Thought Life

Our thoughts are not just a reaction to the things going on around us. The thoughts of our minds are often the things that guide us to make the decisions that will define us. Our thoughts are a reflection of what we have filled our minds with. If we are continually filling our minds with negativity, confusion, anger and other things that are in opposition to God we will reflect that in our own lives by being negative, angry, confused in our thinking and stand in opposition to His desires for our lives. To glorify God we must ensure that our thoughts and emotions are in line with His commandments. This is never easy and we will rarely get it all right. Especially when things seem even a little dark in our lives. But by making sure that our mental diet contains His word and other sources that build us and others up we can start replacing the garbage in our heads with good seed that will yield benefits in the future.

Our Words

The words we speak are a direct reflection of what we have filled our lives with. If we are to glorify God with our words then we must avoid abusive or harsh language, gossip and any negative language that is meant to hurt, insult, abuse, belittle, control or marginalize. This begins with an understanding that the effect of our words are often dependent upon how they are received rather than how they are intended. This understanding requires a bit of thought before speaking, or at least a consideration of our audience and how they will hear what proceeds from our mouths.

Our Attitude

Our perspective on life, our approach to people and to ourselves in a reflection of what is going on inside of us. A negative or pessimistic person rarely attracts joyful, loving and smiling companions. It should be the goal of all believers to cultivate and reflect an attitude that encompasses the fruit of the spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Again, this is not easy. It takes work and being intentional about what we do and how we do life.

Our Physical Body

How we care for our physical body is a reflection of our attitude concerning ourselves, and our relationship with God. Keeping our bodies healthy is important, not just to us but to those who love and care about us. We should not overindulge or under-nourish our bodies with food any more than we should abuse it with drugs, or drink. Modesty comes into play in this area as well. How we choose to present our bodies communicates how we see ourselves and how we want other to see us.

At Work

Every aspect of our work ethic should reveal God's glory. How we do our job, school work and chores is a clear statement of who we are. Our work, school and chores are not our identity, but our identity determines how

we do these things. A lazy worker is a poor witness for God, an unserious student is a poor steward of the mind God has given them and a chore neglected speaks to the failure to honor a mother or father. It all matters and one builds on the other.

Our Relationships

“The measure of a man is the countenance of his wife.” Few statements are more true or painful than this one. The only addition I would make is “and the witness of his children.” It is easy to put on an act for the public the truth however, usually dawns at home. The person we present to those closest to us and those that love us the most dearly, is the truest definition of who we are. The way we treat our families and friends should be a reflection of how Jesus Christ treated people. Our relationships should be modeled clearly on His word and His design. Loving and healthy relationships are serious work and are only possible when our focus is on Him and not on what makes us happy or comfortable.

Glorifying God is not meant to be an afterthought, it should be the chief aim of mankind, but it is an unending struggle. The depth and difficulty of that struggle is demonstrated when we take an honest look at the world around us. As believers we are called to be light in a world of darkness. Our light burns brightest not in our evangelism or in how we talk about God. No, our light burns brightest when we live lives that leave no doubt as to who we belong.

Iowa Friend

Please let me know if you received your Iowa Friend for January. Just want to make sure it is coming to you. If you have not paid just leave the money in the desk.

January Library

Couples

Wore out from the holidays? Grab a good book from our library and relax. We have three new books for couples: **Becoming One** by Greg Laurie, **His Needs, Her Needs** by Willard F. Harley, Jr. and **Night Light** by Dr. James & Shirley Dobson. We also have two new devotionals: **The Duck Commander Devotional** by Duck Dynasty and **The Great Adventure** by Women of Faith. Also, this month, we have **Why Believe? Exploring the Honest Questions of Seekers** by Greg Laurie. Thank you all for your wonderful donations that allow us to expand our library.

Mystery Friend January, 2020

Our Mystery Friend for January was born in Marshalltown, IA. Our Mystery Friend has two children and four grandchildren. Their job is to cook, bake, and follow the Grandchildren's events (not really a job). Favorite food is fettuccini Alfredo. Most people would not know that our Mystery Friend greatly dislikes flying. The most special place they have traveled is Hawaii to tour Pearl Harbor. They commented that the great family at Bangor Liberty is wonderful, with the willingness to share with others of trial and also times of joy.

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The answer will be in next month's Bell

The Mystery Friend for December was Robin Bishop