



THE BELL

September 2021

Gather, Love, Serve, Impact

RED LETTER CHRISTIANS

Well, here we are at the start of September with kids back in school and the days growing shorter. For many of us this is our favorite time of year. Football is all over television and baseball is winding down for the year. This is the time of year where seasonal changes become obvious. Leaves change color only to wither and fall from the trees. As the days grow shorter the temps become cooler. Shorts and sweatshirts begin to give way to bulky coats and long pants. All of this is just a reminder that things change. No matter how much we may want to argue against it everything changes over time. That baby we used to buckle into a car seat is now driving that car to school. We all age, our eyesight dims and things change.

However, some things are eternal. Some things do not decline, grow old, dim over time, or change to something they are not. Paul wrote to his son in the faith, Timothy, after he had been at a new church for some time with a few words of encouragement. Timothy had become discouraged as he had confronted a group that while claiming to be followers of Christ they had drifted away from the truth. After reminding his young associate of where he had come from and what he had been called to do, Paul reminds Timothy of what he could trust in and what would never change. In 2 Timothy 3:14, Paul writes, "As for you, Timothy, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it. And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." Paul is saying, don't be discouraged and forget what you know to be the truth, don't walk away from what has changed your life. He points him to scripture; he points him to God's self-revelation to His creation.

In so many instances this is the mistake the modern church makes today. We move away from the truth of scripture to the ideas of man. We decide in some instances that we know better than our Creator, or those men that he inspired to communicate His message to us. In the worst cases we see churches and individuals discounting the Bible completely or by questioning its relevance. But I think much more dangerous than those who reject the Bible wholesale are those who separate the words of Christ from those of the Apostles. One will commonly hear these people described as "red-letter Christians." In other words, what Jesus said should be followed but what Paul, Peter, or the others wrote can be questioned or ignored. One person said, "Well, Paul and Peter were just men and sometimes men get it wrong." And with one statement we have rejected the idea of the divine inspiration of the Bible. Once we are at this point it is easy to pick and choose what parts of the Bible are truly relevant to our lives today. Paul understood this all too well, he had dealt with this issue for many years, in many churches, and with many people.

In 2 Timothy 3:16, Paul uses one phrase to describe Scripture when he says, “All Scripture is God breathed . . .”. In other words, while one may be inclined to pay more attention to the words of Jesus in the New Testament, we must understand that each word, in all sixty-six books of the Bible, carries the same weight. The same source that inspired common men to write the ideas that He birthed in their minds is the same source that breathed life into a mound of dirt called Adam.

This can be difficult since Scripture makes people uncomfortable. Paul understood that because he had experienced the same reaction and the same conflict from the culture that Timothy experienced, and we experience today. In 2 Timothy 4, verse 2, Paul gives us this charge, “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their won desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”

So, you see somethings never change. The word of God does not change and the reaction of a broken and fallen world does not change either. Paul says preach the word when people like what you say and when they don't like what you say. Preach with patience and care. In other words, the Bible is not a club to be used on people until they submit. The word of God is the truth that can set people free from what ails them, it is a medicine for the soul if we care for the person and love them for who they are, a person bearing the image of God. It's not up to us to change anyone, all we can do is present them with the truth and get out of the way while the Holy Spirit changes their hearts. And while some will argue this is instructions to a pastor who preaches sermons, we all know that we each preach a sermon every day of our lives. People watch what you say and what you do, each action and each word is another line in your sermon. We all have a ministry; we are all evangelists.

Missions

The mission focus for September will be Camp Quaker Heights Scholarships. These donations help pay for the kids to attend summer camp. Please visit their website to find upcoming events for this fall!
www.campquakerheights.org/quakercamps

Thank you to those who came to hear Paul and Andrea Goodrich share about their mission. The donations were greatly appreciated, and they were elated to have come on potluck Sunday.

Calendar

9/12-Fall Sunday school starts

9/12-Quaker Men's breakfast at 8:00

9/15-DEEPER 6:00 meal and 6:45-7:45 classes

9/16-Liberty USFW at Diane's at 6:30 PM

9/19-Monthly potluck with Committee B hosting

9/22-DEEPER 6:00 meal and 6:45-7:45 classes

9/25-USFW Fall Retreat at Camp Quaker Heights

9/29-DEEPER 6:00 meal and 6:45-7:45 classes



A Sweet Lesson in

Humanity

Years ago, a 10-year-old boy approached the counter of a soda shop and climbed on to a stool "What does an ice cream sundae cost?" he asked the waitress. "Fifty cents," she answered. The youngster reached deep in his pockets and pulled out an assortment of change, counting carefully as the waitress grew impatient. She had "bigger" customers to wait on. "Well, how much would just plain ice cream be?" the boy asked. The waitress responded with noticeable irritation in her voice, "Thirty-five cents." Again, the boy slowly counted his money. "May I have some plain ice cream in a dish the, please?" He gave the waitress the correct amount, and she brought him the ice cream. Later, the waitress returned to clear the boy's dishes and when she picked it up, she felt a lump in her throat. There on the counter the boy had left two nickels and five pennies. She realized that he had had enough money for the sundae, but sacrificed it so that he could leave her a tip.

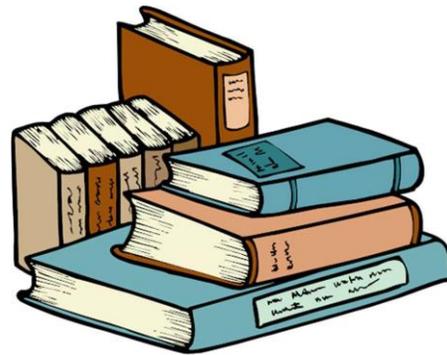
The moral: Before passing judgement, first treat others with courtesy, dignity, and respect.

Adapted from A Lifetime of Success

Pat Williams

Library Ledge-Donations

We have received several books from Liberty USFW suggested reading books. They include: I'll Push You by Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck, Miracles for Friends by Karen Kingsbury, The Underground Girls of Kabul by Jenny Nordberg, The Half-Stitched Amish Quilting Club by Wanda Brunstetter, Simple Faith by Anna Schmidt, The Irony of Grace by Chandler Gerber, The Invisible Girls by Sarah Theborge, Land of Silence by Tessa Afshar, Called for Life by Kent & Amber Brantly & To Heaven and Back by Mary C. Neal, MD.



MYSTERY FRIEND

Our Mystery Friend for September was born in Des Moines, IA. They have 1 sister and 1 brother. In their job they attend West Marshall, participate in sports, and do chores at home. Favorite foods are steak and french fries. This person has visited the Bahamas, Mexico, and Canada. Most people would not know that our Mystery Friend loves old country music, does livestock judging competitions, and is on the swim team. They commented that they love Bangor Liberty Friends because everyone is welcoming and friendly. He/She also enjoys DEEPER and Matt's sermons.

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The answer will be in next month's Bell.

Thank You! The Little Rock Board members send their thanks for the financial donations and many school supplies you provided for the children at Pine Crest. Your generosity made it possible to give 28 children backpacks filled with all the items the school requests. This will help these students to return to school feeling confident and ready for a new year of learning. Thanks for bringing smiles to so many kids!

We also appreciate the \$220 collected as the mission emphasis during August which will help with the basic needs of electricity, heat, meals given during Monday & Thursday clubs, and crafts for the girls.

Please remember the children in prayer and join us in praying for 2 men to be willing to lead a weekly or biweekly Boys club. Also, Margaret would like a helper to join her at Thursday Girls club. Our afterschool clubs begin after Labor Day.

Margaret Good on behalf of Little Rock Ministries

