

# The Boys Bugle

Calling all young men to the service of Christ

Vol. 2 Number 4

Winter 2003





# Welcome to the Boys Bugle

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Real prayer always does one of two things:  
it either frees us from the trouble we fear  
or else it gives us the strength and courage to meet the  
trouble when it comes.



# Editor's Desk



Dear Readers,

As you may have noticed, this issue has 4 extra pages. I have more to print than I could fit on 16 pages. However, that does not mean that I have too much material for the future issues.

Thank-you for responding and actively making this magazine a success. Thank-you for the donations of articles, letters, and money that you sent to us. They are very much appreciated.

We figured out how to save on postage. If we send the magazines off the day after we print, they will be light enough to be classed as one ounce. If we wait a few days to send them off, they will be classed as two ounces. The reason is the copiers heat the paper up to melt the toner, which dries the paper out, making it lighter. But that will not work for this issue because it is bigger.

If you find in this magazine any thing that disagrees with the Bible, please bring it to our attention. Our goal is to print only biblically sound material that brings honor and glory to God.

On Monday evening, November 18, 2002 my Grandpa died. He was prepared to die. It is a joy to know that he went to heaven, to a better place.

## The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak  
At the funeral of a friend  
He referred to the dates on her tomb-  
stone

From the beginning...to the end  
He noted that first came her date of  
birth

And spoke the following date with  
tears.

But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between those years,  
(1934-1998)

For that dash represents all the time  
That she spent alive on earth...  
And now only those who loved her  
Know what that little line is worth.  
For it matters not, how much we own  
The cars...the house...the cash,  
What matters is how we live and love  
And how we spend our dash.  
So, think about this long and hard...  
Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is  
left,

That can still be rearranged.  
If we could just slow down enough  
To consider what's true and real,  
And always try to understand  
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,  
And show appreciation more  
And love the people in our lives  
Like we've never loved before.  
If we treat each other with respect,  
And more often wear a smile.  
Remembering that this special dash  
Might only last a little while.  
So, when your eulogy's being read  
With your life's actions to rehash...  
Would you be proud of the things they  
say

About how you spent your dash?

Author Unknown

My Grandpa's dash was well spent.

Come visit us sometime.  
In his service  
Melvin Martin

# The Love of Jesus is Aggressive

By Leonard Martin

“For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend [to them] of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.” Luke 6:32-34 (KJV)

Here in these passages we see the kind of love illustrated that we can manufacture in and of ourselves. It takes no greater power than self to live out this love. It is natural and most anybody can produce it. This is simply saying that if someone is nice to me, I can be nice to them. If someone sends me a card, I can naturally send them one. If someone says “hi” to me, I then repeat it back to them. If my spouse or my neighbor treats me nice, I then can treat them in a nice way. Our churches are full of this kind of people. The problem with this love is that it is natural and certainly falls far short of what the scriptures are calling the true follower of Jesus to live out.

Consider the following verse: “But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and [to]

the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.” Luke 6:35-36 (KJV) We see by these verses that our love is to reach out to those that do not look at us, that do not treat us nicely, that take advantage of us.

Here are some more verses that contrast the two kinds of love:

“For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more [than others]? Do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Matt 5:46-48 (KJV) Here we see that Christ was calling his followers to a love that we all know does not come naturally. It is only those that are born again that can love in this aggressive way. Without Christ, man is driven to protect him self, his stuff, and his way with his might, his weapons, and his rules. With Christ, our aggression becomes tempered and empowered by His might, the sword of His spirit, and by His rules.

One day Jesus was on his way through Jericho and a big crowd of people were all around him. There was this little man who nobody liked and that was despised by all. He wanted to see Jesus and it seems that, because

he was little, he climbed into a tree so he could see over the crowd. Jesus came under this tree and knowing that Zacchaeus was up there, stopped and invited himself to his house.

How many of us have the aggressive love that Jesus had? Put your self in these shoes. Say, you know a person that is bad, despised by all; nobody has anything to do with this person. Would you have the capacity of love for the person to invite yourself to their home because you really want to show them a love that is superior to what they are seeing in the so-called Christian?

Sometimes we forget who is the aggressor. Follow this story with me.

Joseph was a pastor in Romania in the 70's when the communists ruled the land. One night he was on his way as usual, to preach to a group of Christians gathered in a little village, hiding so as not to be seen. On his way, he was arrested and taken to jail for preaching the gospel. After being locked up, two men entered the cell and started beating him, knocking his head against the wall. Then two others came in and treated him torturously in the same way, and naturally, Joseph, from the abuse and pain screamed. The next day two entered his cell again, but this time they wanted to talk. Before they had time to talk, Joseph asked them if he could make an apology. So, they listened as Joseph proceeded to apologize for

screaming when they beat him the night before. He said, "I am so glad to suffer like Jesus did."

After this Joseph suffered 6 months of painful interrogation. Some of the interrogation was to bring up his past sinful years before he was converted and spread it to all the Christians around. One time he was so discouraged that he felt like giving up but his wife told him, "You wanted to die for Christ, now do it." That night he had a dream that he was carrying his cross to a point of execution and on his way there, he had Christians on either side of him clapping their hands with encouragement. The second part of the dream showed him carrying his cross with Christians on both sides throwing mud at him. He felt Jesus was saying to him, "You are looking for a cross that is nice and smooth and that is padded, but my cross is the old rugged one." Next day at the interrogation, he told the interrogator, "I pray for you. I pray for your wife. I pray for your family. I pray for your salvation.

It was only a short time after this that they let him go free. Before leaving, the most cruelest interrogator pulled Joseph aside and said, "I am going to miss you. Many that I am cruel to, hate me and rightfully so, but you are different!" Joseph's love got right into that hard, hard cruel man.

My reader, we forget who is the aggressor. We may have no more than the gospel, love, and

*(Continued on page 14)*

# The Old Time Farmer

Taken from, "The Farmers', Gardeners' and Stock-Raisers' Guide." (1850)

<p><i>A Guide Word.</i> — The Scotch have this proverb: -- "A guide word is as soon said as an ill one." Will not every person, when he</p>	<p>hears others use profane, indecent, ill words, or is tempted to use them himself,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Importance of Industry</b></p> <p>Man must have occupation or be miserable. Toil is the price of sleep, of health, and of enjoyment. The world does not contain a brier or a thorn that Divine mercy could have spared. We are happier with the sterility which we can overcome by industry, than we could have been with spontaneous plenty and unbounded profusion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Value of books in the Country</b></p> <p>When a young man has acquired a love of reading, and, of course, a relish for intellectual pleasure, he never suffers for the want of society, and has one of the best preservatives against dissipation and clownish manners. In the want of such safe-guards, a fondness for low company and noisy, intemperate pleasures, in the leisure seasons of rural life, may steal upon him unawares. Well-chosen books, therefore, in the families of farmers, are of inestimable value. There should be an appropriation for them every year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Good Manners on the Public Road</b></p> <p>In meeting loaded teams on the road, if it is very inconvenient for them to turn out, it is common courtesy to give them more of the road than the law requires; also, in meeting others, provided we have the best part of the road. Good manners are as conspicuous on the public highway as in the parlor. If we witness them in traveling among strangers, we imagine ourselves among Christian people.</p> <p>The first degree of folly is to think one's self wise; the next is to tell others.</p>	<p>remember, that "a guide word is as soon said as an ill one!"</p>
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# Young People of the Bible

A Series of Bible Character Stories that teach a lesson.

## David

### *The Power of Faith*

What does it take to kill a giant in face-to-face combat—great strength? previous experience? superior weapons? Would you like to face a giant if you were armed with nothing but a slingshot and faith in God? David did and won.

All of us are familiar with the account of David's victory over Goliath (1 Samuel 17). It is a favorite Sunday school lesson and appeals to people of all ages. It is a very satisfying story because the big boastful bully (Goliath), with all of his weapons and military know-how, is done in by a simple, unassuming shepherd boy with a stone and a sling. All of us identify with David and wish we could as easily overcome those who threaten or annoy us.

But David's victory was not a matter of chance or a result only of Goliath's overconfidence. God helped David, and He helped David because of his faith. David's faith had been tested while he was keeping the sheep and it had passed the test. David had looked to God for help in overcoming the wild animals and He gave David the wisdom and strength to kill them. David gave God the glory for these victories and trusted Him to help him in meeting any new enemies. Saul offered David weapons to fight with, but David refused them. They would only be a hindrance to the one who was armed of God.

How much God values faith in

His human creatures. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). Do we desire wonderful blessing in our lives and the lives of our loved ones? Most of the miracles of the New Testament and many in the Old were performed as rewards of faith. God is still performing miracles today. For example, new birth is a miracle; God's care for our physical welfare (often in ways unknown to us) is a miracle; and, as one secular writer has claimed, a marriage which lasts for many years and which remains truly happy all that time is a miracle. We need faith to obtain these blessings and to appreciate them.

Do we desire victory over our spiritual enemies? We are given a list of God's provisions for Christian warfare in Ephesians 6. One verse has always stood out for me: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked" (verse 16). The Lord said to Peter, "Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat; but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not" (Luke 22:31-32). Faith, then, is our most important weapon in dealing with Satan and all of his devices. Like David, let us reject human solutions

*(Continued on page 18)*

# The Calling of:

Melvin H. Martin

Melvin was born on November 5, 1928. He grew up on his parents' farm in Brownstown, Pennsylvania. He was a child during the Great Depression and learned thriftiness and good stewardship.

One time they got a load of young steers from Virginia. Shortly after they arrived, a gate came open, and the steers escaped, running toward Brownstown. If you know anything about how steers act when they are loose in a new and strange place, you realize what a problem they had on their hands. Melvin believed in the power of prayer. He prayed that they would turn around and run back into their pen. After running about a mile, they met some barking dogs, turned around, and ran back into their pen!!!

On November 20, 1948, he married Verna Musser. They had 7 children: Elva, Luke, Marian, Arlene, Lamar, and twins, Jean and Joan.

They bought a small farm in Bethel, Pa. Besides farming and dairying and working various other jobs, he became a volunteer fireman. Later he joined the ambulance crew and became an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). Many times, he dropped his work or was jolted out of sleep to go help some hurting person. Through the years he made 5000 ambulance runs as a volunteer.

Twenty-two years ago, he took an unplanned break from ambulance duty. One night he was rushing a lady to the hospital. Two drunk men stopped at a stop sign, saw the ambulance coming and trying to beat it, pulled out in front of it. The impact sent the ambulance rolling, end for end, three times. The cab was torn loose and burned, leaving a terrible pile of wreckage. The lady died but the attendant and the two who

had been drinking, survived with moderate injuries.

Melvin was thrown from the cab into a ditch, where he lay unconscious, breathing his vomit. Rescue workers found him after searching in the dark for half an hour.

He had multiple injuries and although the doctors did not expect him to survive, they set to work. Soon pneumonia set in from the vomit he breathed, further threatening his life. He was unconscious for two days.

Three weeks after the accident, many people gathered at their home to witness the marriage of their daughter, Arlene. Father's chair was empty, because he lay in the hospital, improving but not well enough to go home.

Recovery was slow but he was determined. One day he said he is going to help in the barn. He found he was unable to push the broom to sweep behind the cows, so he walked around, pulling the broom. After a year and a half, he was working the farm again, though he was often tired.

He enjoyed tiring his wife in the garden. Planting sweet potatoes seemed to be a hobby. He kept his buildings well painted and when he got out the paintbrush, more than the building received paint. He also kept his equipment well greased and the oil changed, and made sure the next generation knows how important that is.

About one-half year ago, he quit his part time job because his health was declining. His lungs, probably weakened by the accident, were barely working. The first week of September he was in the hospital with pneumonia. He very much wanted to go to his grandson, Daniel's wedding in New York on the seventh. The doctor discharged him, and gave permission for



him to go to the wedding. A day later, he was on his way to New York. He enjoyed the wedding and taking grandson, Jesse for a walk (see picture on the front cover). The trip seemed to do him good. Three weeks later, he was again in the hospital but soon home again.

In a month and a half, he was back in the hospital. Antibiotics had destroyed his intestines and his kidneys failed. His wife of 54 years, continued to faithfully stand by his side. Others in the family also spent much time at his bedside. It was hard to watch him suffer and slowly slip away, unable to help him.

He slipped into semi-consciousness for a day. After several hours of struggling for breath, he half opened glazed eyes. Then he put his head back and opened his eyes wide, revealing blue, blue eyes that were clear and focused on something up above, high up. It was evident that he saw something, something delightful – a smile flitted across his face, he closed his eyes again, and that was the end of his life here. It was November 18,

2002.

He was 74 years young. He had 42 grandchildren (one more born since) and 6 great grandchildren. Grandpa will be missed by many. His smile and sense of humor will be remembered. He loved to take the grandchildren for walks. Many a fussy baby was quieted when Grandpa carried or walked them.

A quote of his was: I don't get hungry or tired because I eat before I get hungry and rest before I get tired. He'd also say: I like when the work is done and they didn't eat yet. He was a hardworking man, even when he was hardly able to get around.

We wish you well, and – as Grandpa would often say – keep up the good work!

**Grandpa has answered his last call. If you were the next to receive a final call, would you meet your Creator in peace?**



Melvin as a school boy.



Melvin and Verna soon after they were married.

# Questions and Answers

**Q. #1.** Is it ever right to break a vow? And if it is, when would that be?

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## **Answers to questions from the last issue:**

**Q. #1.** Imagine that you've died, and are standing before the judgment throne, and God asked you, "What have you done to get to heaven?" What would your answer be?

**Answer:** Your answer should have been: "I've trusted that Christ has paid the price for my sins."

## **Q. #2. What does it mean to walk by faith?**

**A. #1.** To walk by faith is to believe what God said, and to act upon it even though you may not see the result.

Written and Submitted by: Nathaniel Martin

**A. #2.** In this question, "to walk," means how you act or live. So to walk by faith means your actions are determined by what you trust and believe in. If we have nothing else to trust, we will need to depend on ourselves. Our passions will carry us along. Most people say they believe in someone or some deity. Indeed many try to live by the teachings of Buddha, or Muhammad or.... the list is long. Many others say they believe in the God of the Bible, but the teachings of religious leaders, or even their own feelings, are more important to them than the Bible. What we do, not necessarily what we say, shows what we have faith in.

The Bible certainly is a very popular book; nevertheless, this book says that many will use His name but not do as He says.

So, what does it mean to walk by faith in the Christ of the New Testament, the Rock of Ages? We cannot say we believe someone, if we disregard what he says. His first commandment is to love, first Him, then our neighbor. (Matt. 22:37-39 See also 1 John 3:23) **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 1 John 5:1-5.** In other words, if we do not love, we are not keeping His commandments. If we do not keep His commandments, we do not love.

To walk by faith in Christ is to obey even if it seems nobody else does. If we compromise truth for the sake of fellowship, we have more faith in the fellowship than we have faith in God. Instead of trying to make sure you and yours are getting fellowship, try to make sure you are giving fellowship and properly accommodating all those you meet. **But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body as it has pleased**

**Him. (1 Corinthians 12:18)** We should simply obey and trust Him enough to let the building of the church to Him.

In this walk, we will walk over no one. We will esteem others better than ourselves. Instead of regarding other Christians with an attitude of: **I have no need of you**, we will realize that, **much rather the members of the body seeming to be weaker are necessary.** (1 Corinthians 12:21-22) If we cast out or reject those that are born of Christ and walking in His Spirit, we will be walking in the faith of our own church. We need His church.

We will give unquestioning submission to Him, including honoring all authorities He has set up, as long as they allow us to obey Him. Our walk will represent His will.

When people observe our walk, whom do they think we have faith in?

Submitted by R. Martin.

**Q. #3. From last issue.**

### **Brain Teaser**

90% of the time the “shun” sound is spelled “tion.” How many other ways can you find to spell the “shun” sound? Give an example for each:

1. tion      vacation

(ANSWERS): So far, I’ve been able to come up with 9 ways:

-sion	comprehension	-cean	ocean
-shion	fashion	-sian	Russian
-cian	politician	-cion	suspicion
-xion	complexion	-chion	stanchion
-tian	Martian		

Submitted by: Jane Demers  
Vergennes, Vt.

**Please send us your questions and answers:**

The Boys Bugle  
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## From our Readers:



Dear Mr. Martin,

I enjoy reading your newsletter but wanted to comment on two subjects in the Fall 2002 issue.

**Question: Is it right to serve as a Juror?**

Your answer reflects a different perspective on the issue. You quoted Romans 3:23 and 12:19 which relate to how we should personally deal with our transgressors. Whereas I believe that a juror is an agent of the government and is not under these restrictions.

Our government and judicial system were formed by men who were well versed in Scripture and I believe were inspired by their faith in God. Our judicial system says everyone is innocent until proven guilty and that everyone has the right to a jury of their peers. What would happen if only non-believers served as jurors? Could the non-believers (who may even be hostile to our faith) fairly represent our Christian brothers? Furthermore, who may be more fair (or at least have a solid basis for any decision), a Christian or non-believer?

Consider these verses in Romans: 13:1 "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God established . . . Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted." 13:4 "...He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer." From these verses I am led to believe that governments have the right to administer justice and protect their citizens from evil doers. Our government has the God given authority to call us into service, whether that service is jury or military service.

As far as the problem with giving an oath, given the tolerance in our society, I would be surprised if you were not given a waiver after presenting your objections.

**Does having insurance indicate a lack of faith and trust in God?**

While I agree with many of your points, I mildly disagree with

your conclusion and would like to provide you some other thoughts to consider.

What is insurance? it is the pooling of the resources of many people to provide assistance to those who need it (some insurance companies solely represent a specific Christian denomination). Unfortunately there is no such community as there was in Acts 4:32 in most Christian groups and people in need are usually not provided directly for by others. In these cases insurance has been a substitute.

1 Timothy 5:8 “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” I have heard this used as a reason to buy life insurance while you have a young family to support.

Sincerely,  
Kirk Nickman  
Bloomington, MN

.....  
Dear Kirk,

Thank-you for your letter. Thanks for the stimulating thoughts.

Here are some thoughts I had in response to your letter.

It is true that a juror is an agent of the government. However, while you are serving the government, do you have your whole heart, soul, and mind fully devoted to God? Are we following God all the time, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, or are we just a Christian on Sunday morning? Matthew 22:37  
-40

Do you have any proof that the founding fathers of America were well versed in the scriptures?

Also, the government is full of unbelievers. I would not want to be unequally yoked with unbelievers, especially having to make important decisions with them. “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what com-

*(Continued on page 18)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

the readiness to be slaughtered, but we are the aggressors!!!! As the Jews hanged Jesus on the cross, they thought they finally won; But Jesus rose from the grave in victory as an aggressor when the Jews thought they were the aggressor! (Matthew 27) The Jewish rulers whipped Peter and John and commanded that they may not preach Jesus, but they kept on and the church grew rapidly! Was not the gospel the victor? (Acts 4) Joseph's older brothers tried to get rid of Joseph out of hate, but they ultimately bowed and begged for mercy at his feet because he was faithful to God. Genesis chapter 37 to 45 Persecution continues today, even in America. When someone takes a stand and preaches the truth, many "churches" and religious communities will cast him out and by subtlety try to destroy him. But the gates of hell will not prevail against Christ's church. (Matthew 16:16-19)

It is time that the true follower of Jesus stands up and lives out the radical Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; while the world goes on hating, killing, taking advantage of others, loving only those that are nice to them, and being prejudiced against other races. Many religions continue to excommunicate and reject those who stand for the truth. We need those that are born again by the Spirit of Jesus to live out the radical, aggressive love that is only found in those that have met Je-

sus.

While the churches of today are fighting and splintering, cliquing, pushing others down to climb higher themselves, and are so busy in their own worlds, they have no time or care for the lonely hurting souls around. We need the radical, aggressive love of Jesus to be demonstrated by those that really know Jesus.

When our marriages are crumbling and our homes in general are being torn apart with hatred, jealousy, greed and self, we need to see this true love coming out to bring new hope to our decaying situations!

Here are a few examples of where this love can be found blooming in spite of the conditions it finds itself in:

This true love will care like the Good Samaritan did when he found a poor soul lying in the ditch and sacrificed his goods and comforts to bring hope and life to the poor soul. The religious leaders that had passed him by showed they had no real care for him. (Luke 10:30-37)

This true love of Jesus calls for the husband to die as Christ did on the cross, (Eph. 5:25) and lead out and die to self for his wife without any expectation for her to make the first move or to act in a deserving way.

This true love of Jesus calls for the wife to live a Christ like life of love, (1 Peter 3:1&2) with desire to win him over. (1 Peter 3:1&2 is written to a wife with an unbelieving husband)

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 (KJV) Here we see that God did not wait for us to make the move or He would still be waiting today. Husbands and wives, you must go the way of the cross without calculating what your repentance and Godly response will do for your spouse. It is the right thing to do.

Have I written a letter or sent a card to that person that was in my path, even if they may never respond back to me?

Have I taken a gift to that sour, angry neighbor that everyone encourages me to stay away from?

Have I taken an interest in the life of the unbeliever?

Have I reached out to that lonely, nobody that lives in the ghetto apartment?

Do I greet that stuck up, crabby employee that I work with, with a cheery good morning?

Can I pray for them that despitefully use me, bless them that curse me, and do good to those who hate me? (Luke 6:27&28)

“Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. [Be] of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live

peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is] mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:14-21.



# THE FIRST COMING OF CHRIST

by Tom Lineaweaver

I recently went to a local restaurant and when I came out, I happened to see a wooden box with religious pamphlets in it, and on the front of the box was the word "Free." Well, the title of the pamphlet at the front was, "The True Meaning of Christ's First Coming." Of course, it peaked my interest.

The author of the article is Harold S. Martin. He starts his article by saying: "During the Advent Season there are so many things in our communities to distract one's attention, that we have a tendency to miss the true meaning of Christmas."

Mr. Martin continues by showing concern about how some link Christmas to decorated trees, sentimental carols, office parties, candy, tinsel, and toys. Well, my dear Mr. Martin, that is Christmas. The problem is that the early Roman Catholic Church, circa 354 A.D., linked Christ to pagan rituals such as the one's he mentions, and that's how we got Christmas in the first place.

So, what we need to do to make it right is take Christ out of Christmas.

When dealing with this subject, I usually simply tell the truth about the origin of Christmas. I'll get to that later. What I'll do is give a hypothetical that will show how we got Christmas in a manner that is more understanding to the masses.

Some people who identify themselves as Christian do not get involved with Halloween. They think it's evil. But, imagine if you will, a group of people deciding to celebrate the birth of Christ on October 30th. They do so by linking the birth of Christ to the Halloween rituals. Dress up little children like Joseph and

Mary. Boys dressed like Joseph accompanying the girls dressed up like Mary carrying a little plastic replica of Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes going through town seeking presents for baby Jesus. They knock on doors, and when the door is answered they shout "blessing or curse" instead of saying "trick or treat." The meaning would be the same however. You give us a blessing or we'll give you a curse. The people inside the house will give those blessings. Candy wrapped in paper labeled "Hershey's Gold," "Nestlé's Frankincense," and "Mars Myrrh."

Of course, in the early days of this new holiday, some people would be upset about it, and not take part in it. They'd even preach against it. But, in 1500 years, or so, it will become yet another man made religious tradition and will be accepted by the masses. October 30th will become "Christeen." And, like today when a few enlightened souls tell the truth about Christmas, those who tell the truth about Christeen will be branded as heretics. People will ask, "Don't you believe in the birth of Christ?" But, when the enlightened ones answer, "yes I believe in the birth of Christ, I just don't believe in mixing the birth of Christ with Halloween." By then Christeen will be so entrenched in religious consciousness, most won't remember what Halloween was.

Well folks, that's how we got Christmas. The birth of Christ was mixed with pagan rituals. People don't remember the festival of Baal, or Brumalia, or Saturnalia, which all were celebrated on or about December 25th. For a long time, the church



at Rome attempted to bring the pagans into the church. Finally, Pope Liberius had the brilliant idea of allowing pagans to come into the church, accept the sacraments and still hold on to their pagan rituals, which in time have crept into the church at large. Over a thousand years later, Christmas is a man made religious tradition that is celebrated and protected by people that don't know any better.

There are many proofs that what I'm saying is true. Encyclopedia articles, other books written on the subject all point to the fact that Christmas has its origin in the mixing of the birth of Christ with pagan rituals.

The establishment of Christmas violated several Biblical principles, not the least of these is found in Exodus 20:3 which states, "You shall have no other gods before Me." (NASV) Then there's II Corinthians 6:14—18 which states, "Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness with lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE, says the Lord. AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty." (NASV)

Once you understand that Christmas has been established by mixing the birth of Christ, a blessed event to

be sure, with pagan rituals, how can you say that it's okay? Christ is the light of the world, and paganism is darkness. As is asked above, what fellowship has light (Christ) with darkness (paganism)?

Christmas has become a firmly entrenched tradition, and it is hard to convince people that it's wrong and sinful. In Matthew 15 the Pharisees came to Jesus and asked, "Why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders?" In response, Jesus asked in verse 3, "And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?" (NASV) Contextually, the Pharisees were asking why the disciples don't wash their hands when they eat. And Jesus was referring to when they supposedly give to God instead of helping their parents even though God told them to "Honor your father and mother." But, I believe the principle here, is the same. Many transgress the commandments of God for the sake of the man made religious tradition of Christmas.

I urge you, don't take my word for this. Study the history of Christmas and see for yourself where it came from. I believe you'll discover, as I have, that Christmas is a mixing of the birth of Christ and pagan rituals, and violates Biblical principles.



*(Continued from page 13)*

munion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. I think it would be vexation to try to enforce God’s laws in a group of non-Christian jurors.

Yes, it is true that we are to obey the government. However, if the government tells us to do something contrary to what God tells us to do; then we are to obey God. “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29)

There are communities that will provide for the needy. I live in one. Also, the insurance companies may be responsible for destroying many of the good communities that were in existence?

If you have any more thoughts or questions on this, please respond.

In His love,  
Melvin Martin

If anyone else has anything to add to this, please send it to me.

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*(Continued from page 7)*

and fleshly weapons; and, armed with faith and the other weapons God has provided, let us go forth to meet the adversary. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

Bedford, PA. 15522

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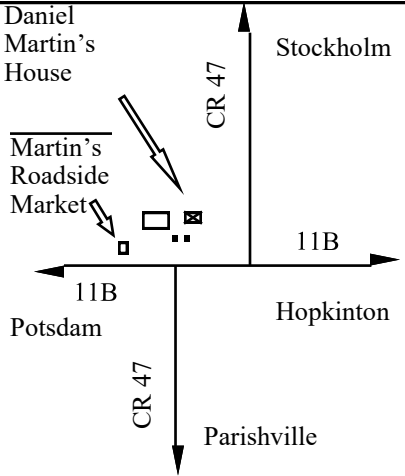
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## Proverbs

3:27-32

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of  
thine hand to do *it*. Say not unto thy neighbor, Go, and come again, and  
tomorrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee. Devise not evil against thy  
neighbor, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm. Envy  
thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways. For the froward *is*  
abomination to the LORD: but his secret *is* with the righteous.

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We know what love is--  
through Christ's having laid  
down His life on our be-  
half; and in the same way  
we ought to lay down our  
lives for our brother men.

1 John 3:16 (WNT)