

The Boys Bugle

Calling all young men to the service of Christ

Vol. 4, Number 4

Winter 2005

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a
workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15



Welcome to The Boys Bugle

This issues theme **“Holy Living”**

Contents

Editor’s Desk.....	3
Who’s behind The Boys Bugle.....	3
It’s “Just” Entertainment.....	4
Please Him.....	6
Young People of the Bible	
The Virgin Mary.....	7
The Calling of:	
Joseph Paul.....	8
Questions and Answers	
Henry Martin.....	10
Tim Martin.....	11
John Boskovic.....	13
Step by Step.....	16
From Our Readers.....	17
Holy Living...God’s Plan.....	20
Proverbs.....	21
k	

Subscription Information:

Please let us know, once a year, stating that you want to continue to receive “The Boys Bugle.” Back issues available. Donations appreciated. Donations include articles, stories, poems, pictures, ideas, letters, and etc. We reserve the right to print anything you send us, unless you specify otherwise. (Our cost per year for printing and postage for both “The Boys Bugle” and “Heart and Home Harmony” is \$5.20.) Please make checks payable to The Boys Bugle.

Send to:

The Boys Bugle
156 Newton Rd.
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676
theboysbugle@yahoo.com

The Planned Theme for the Next Issue. Cleanliness

In what different ways should we be spiritually and physically clean?

Why should we be neat and orderly?

Can we be too “clean”? Is it ever okay to have things a mess?

Remember, cleanliness affects health.

Scriptures to ponder: Genesis 18:4;

Exodus 29:17; Leviticus 14:44-47; 2

Kings 5:10-14; Psalms 51:7-10; Mat-

thew 6:17; John 15:3; Acts 22:16;

Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:7.

Please send us your contribution before January 31 to get it here in time for the next issue. Thank-you.

Magazines also available at:

Evans and White Ace

1 Maple St. Potsdam

Collin's Market (formerly Watson's Market)

RT. 11B

The Birchbark Book Store

Ashton Rd. Parishville Center

The Potsdam Food Co-op

Elm St. Potsdam

On the Cover:

Jonathan Martin reading a book.



Editor's Desk



Dear Readers,

I'm reprinting "It's 'Just' Entertainment" from Family Discipleship Magazine on page 4. I've been looking for an article on the subject of TV for a long time already. Being I never watched TV, I am not qualified to write on the subject. But here is an article written by someone who did watch TV. I hope it will bless you and encourage

you to do what is right.

I do not have any good articles on the topic of cleanliness. If you have anything on this topic, please send it to me. Thank-you.

In His Service,

Who is behind The Boys Bugle?

The Boys Bugle is published by the Martin family. The Martin Family consists of: Luke (Dad), Rachel (Mom) (both 53), Daniel (32, married to Mendy), Ellen (31, married to Mike Atnip), Tim (29), Emily (27, married to Robert Hall), Dawn (25, married to Luke Rosenbarker), Joy (24), Melvin (22), Luray (20), Nathaniel (17), Larisa (15), and Jonathan (13).

I, Melvin, am the editor of The Boys Bugle. All of us children that are not married live at home with Dad and Mom. We live on a 275 acre farm. We try to raise and make as much of the things we need as possible. We have a large garden, cattle, horses, sheep, chickens, and bees. We (mostly Dad) log with horses. Daniel and/or Nathaniel saw the logs with the portable band sawmill. We sell the lumber retail. We (mostly Daniel and Luray) raise and sell

produce. Luray also raises early tomatoes in a greenhouse. Tim does blacksmith work, besides many other odd jobs. I do mechanic work, help with the produce, and many other odd jobs. Johnny likes to hunt, and tan skins. All of us boys invent and make many machines; some of our inventions work but others don't. The girls do most of the housework and raise dogs, and sheep.

Daniel and Mendy live 3 miles away. They have two little boys. Daniel owns the sawmill and the produce stand.

Mike and Ellen live in PA. They have a little adopted boy. They are not part of The Boys Bugle.

Rob and Emily live 2 miles away. They have 3 little girls and two little boys. They have a dog kennel.

Luke and Dawn live 1 mile away. They got married last March.

We meet together in someone's house for church on Sunday morning. We like to sing and work together. We try to work together as a community. We love visitors.



Larisa, Melvin, Joy, Dad, Mom, Luray, Jonny, Nathaniel, Tim.

It's "Just" Entertainment

by James and Joy Marie Dunlap
Editors of Family Discipleship Magazine
27695 Blue Diamond Lane,
Romoland, CA 92585

We are a culture that lives for entertainment, and has for more than a generation. And many of us are naive enough to think that that entertainment has no effect on the way we think, our hearts, our values, our goals in life, our responses to everything. We think that watching a little crime, a little shooting, a little violence, a few off color jokes, a little devaluation of the family, a little senseless suffering—most Christians seem to think that none of these really affect who they are becoming because, “It’s only fiction. It isn’t real.”

As children watching TV, when what we saw did not seem right, and we questioned whether, as Christians, we should really be watching this, we were given the standard answer, “We’re only watching it.” The same is said today about violent video games “He’s just playing. It’s not for real.” The same can be said of all kinds of different media in our day, from technology media to print media to pictures. “It couldn’t be wrong because it isn’t real.” **Who are we trying to kid?** Our parents? Our children? Our church? God?

God isn’t fooled by this simplistic little self-justification. Secular people like to make fun of conscience by showing monkeys with their hands over their eyes and ears, but it isn’t really funny. **What we watch, hear, read, and absorb affects us—for life** if we get enough of it. **We all have enough pull from our lower natures**

without encouraging it further with unrighteous media. (If it isn’t righteous, it’s unrighteous.)

Yet why do so many modern Christians still watch off-color or violent TV, movies, videos? **We ask ourselves the wrong question, “Is it really wrong?” We should be asking, “Is it really right?”** The first question shows a heart that is eager to do anything it can possibly get away with. It is the question of a kid who never grew out of whining, “Aw, can’t I? Why can’t I? Oh, pleeeezzzze?” A person who really loves God will ask, “**Should I? Is this really right, because I only want to do only what is right.**” The first person will drown out the tiny voice of conscience, while the second person will listen and obey God’s still small

voice.

“My sheep hear my voice, and they know me,” said Christ in the gospels. Those who are not His sheep either don’t recognize His still small voice saying wordlessly, with an uncomfortable feeling, “No, no, don’t do this! It is wrong! It is damaging!” **Those who are His true sheep grow steadily, year by year in their ability to both hear conscience, and respond to it more and more quickly and completely.** We are all growing, and in need of further growth. However, **woe to us if we care so little about what God thinks of our activities that we crowd out His still small voice more often than we listen to it.**

How does watching the kinds of things that are on TV, and in the movies, and on video games change us? **We grow accustomed to watching compromise**, until we begin to feel that everyone gets away with compromise, so **“Why can’t I?”** We start to **mistrust our fellow believers** because of what we have seen people be like on TV, assuming that everyone is dishonest and greedy, and trying to take advantage of us. **We begin to absorb the slant, or worldview of the shows we watch, and our whole perspective on life goes askew.** But we don’t even realize it is happening because **the change takes place gradually**, show by show, movie by movie, and the subtle changes go on **deep inside our subconsciousness, as we busily fool our conscious minds with all kinds of excuses and alibis. Whether violent or not, the whole worldview we receive in our living rooms from TV is askew from the Word of God, teaching our hearts a very different set of values.** Even the commercials make us **feel deprived even when all our needs are met substantially.** We then **withhold from God** that which a Christian brother needs to **survive** in order to **hoard our money for the things we feel deprived without, because of the TV ads.** We begin to see money and pleasure as the most important goals in life because that is what is presented in the media. **But we fool ourselves** on the surface, that our goal is really to “serve the Lord,” **though we don’t really live that out in our priorities.** We begin to live a **double life**, responding to the values we are bombarded with constantly, on TV, while at the same time, fooling even ourselves that we really want to live according to God’s will.

One of the damages of the modern media is that it **hardens the heart against human suffering.** We see so

much trauma, so much suffering, so much bleeding and death, that we harden ourselves inside (again fooling ourselves) **so that human suffering does not touch us in the same way anymore.** TV shows tend to do one of two things. They either amuse us (with the humor often being off-color, and almost always tearing down Christian values) or they shock and traumatize us (which is “kinda fun,” because it’s exciting, and we want some excitement, **because having all our own needs met so comfortably gets boring after a while**—that is, unless we find someone whose needs are **still unmet** and take on the goal of **helping them survive!**).

Someone comes to our door at 8:30 PM, needing a ride, and we think to ourselves, **“I’m exhausted! I have already had enough excitement for one day.** Why should I have to get involved with this person’s distress?” **But what kind of over-excitement have we really experienced that day?** A traffic accident? A house fire? A burglary? A bomb? A shooting? A threat of eviction from your land lord? Or maybe just a bit of burnt toast and **a traumatic movie that left you feeling too drained to help your fellow man in his time of need?!!!**

One car pulls out of the parking lot first, “cutting” the other car off, and the second driver pulls him out and beats him to death while onlookers just watch, unmoved by his plight. You wouldn’t do that, but how much real human suffering do you watch, unmoved to any action because you’ve seen so much trauma on TV that you are satiated with it, hardened and unmoved in your heart. **Watching T.V. trains us to passively watch human suffering without being moved to any kind of compassionate action.**

(Continued on page 18)

Please Him

When you think, when you speak, when you read, when
you write,
When you sing, when you walk, when you seek for delight

—
To be kept from all evil at home or abroad,
Live always as under the “eye of the Lord.”
Whatever you think, both in joy or in woe,
Think nothing you would not like Jesus to know...

Whatever you say, in whisper or clear
Say nothing you would not like Jesus to hear.
Whatever you read, though page may allure,
Read nothing of which you are perfectly sure,
Consternation at once would be seen in your look
If God should say solemnly, “Show me that book.”

Whatever you write, in haste or in heed,
Write nothing you would not like Jesus to read.
Whatever you sing, in the midst of your glees,
Sing nothing that God’s listening ear could displease
Where ever you go, never go where you fear
God’s question being asked you, “What doest thou here?”

Whatever the past time in which you engage,
For the cheering of youth and the solace of age.
Turn away from each pleasure you’d shrink from pursuing
Where God to look down and say,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?”

Author unknown
Submitted by:
Margaret Gabor
Bright, ON.

Young People of the Bible

A Series of Bible Character Stories that teach a lesson.

The Virgin Mary

Is Premarital Chastity Important?

The world says, "If two people love each other, then any display of affection is proper between them." Does God approve of this attitude? Perhaps a study of the Virgin Mary will help us understand God's view of the proper relationships for couples that are in love or engaged to be married.

From studying the marriage customs of the time, most scholars believe Mary was still a teenager when Jesus was born. She was evidently not only a girl of high moral standards, but also had a vital relationship with God. (Would that all the Christian teenage girls today could sing Mary's song of Luke 1:46-55 from their own experience of God.)

Mary could never have been chosen as the mother of the Messiah if she had been influenced by the thinking that characterizes the world today—and has even influenced many Christians—that if two people are in love or engaged to be married, then any sort of physical demonstration of their love is acceptable. God honored Mary's purity and He will honor all young men and women who wish to please Him by remaining virgins before marriage, by helping them achieve truly happy marriages.

A truly happy marriage can only be achieved when there is a oneness of spirit as well as a oneness of the affections and of the body. Our spirit is that part of our being which is

capable of responding to God. It also includes the conscience and our ability to make moral decisions. The truest intimacy and oneness of spirit occurs when the spirits of both persons are drawn very close to God and thus they are drawn close to one another. In the measure that the spirits of both persons are subject to the Word of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in that measure there will be agreement and oneness between them.

Now the time to begin building this spiritual unity is before marriage and even before engagement. A physical relationship is only really meaningful as it expresses spiritual unity. A Christian couple should not plan to marry until they have laid a good foundation for marriage by developing a spiritual relationship and know that they can help each grow closer to God as the years go by.

Premature entry into an intimate physical relationship short circuits the development of a real spiritual relationship in several ways. First, the intimacy is physically and emotionally exciting and the couple loses interest in spiritual matters. Second, the fact that their relationship is a secret between the two of them which they try to conceal from others may make them feel a certain closeness and loyalty to each other. They may mistake this closeness for real unity of spirit, but it will fade

(Continued on page 22)

The Calling of:

Joseph Paul

1. Tell us your name and your age.

My name is Joseph Paul and I'm 18, almost 18 ½.

2. Explain your appearance.

6 ft, medium build, tanned face, callused hands, dark brown hair, blue eyes, steel toed boots, faded blue jeans and t-shirt or heavy work shirt.

3. Tell us the ages and a few word description of your family members and anything else you want us to know.

My family is comprised of 8 individuals.

Dad, (Steve) has a computer repair business and is on call to fix printers for a company that sends him to various retail stores. He also does various other jobs and has been a Christian since he was a

teenager and enjoys Bible study.

Mom, (Teresa) has always stayed at home with us. She has taught all of us here at home and is always there if you need someone to talk something over with.

Abigail, (24) has published a Christian magazine for years and also enjoys music and graphic and web design.

Susanna, (21) likes working outdoors and with animals and also plays the fiddle and piano.

Lydia, (15) is great at cooking and being a second mom to the rest of us. She also plays the mandolin.

Daniel, (11) plowed on the kitchen floor before he knew how to walk and wants to follow in grandpa's footsteps as a farmer. He already raises goats and chickens and drives equipment (sometimes better than I can!) on the farm.

Rachel, (8) is the typical 8 year old. She's fun to be around and likes playing monopoly and dolls and writing to her pen pals.



Left to Right, Back Row: Lydia, Abigail, Joseph, Susanna,
Front Row: Rachel, Steve, Teresa, Daniel.

4. Tell us where you live, what the landscape is like, and what the climate is like.

I like to say I live right in the center of the Corn Belt, central Iowa. I can drive for hours in any direction and see nothing but rich

farmland and the (sometimes not so rich) people who farm it. I like the strong agricultural and family farm background of our state, and general area, and hope it continues on for generations to come. My great, great, great grandfather moved just a few miles from here back in the mid 1800's so our roots go pretty deep. My grandfather bought the 160-acre piece of property where we now live back in 1959, and we built our house just down the hill from theirs.

5. Tell us about your schooling experience.

I was home schooled my whole life and graduated this spring. I'm not sure if I'm going to continue my education yet or not. I've looked into several good colleges, but I'm not sure where the Lord is leading just yet.

6. Tell us about your faith.

I grew up in a Christian home and accepted Jesus at a young age, and have been trying to follow Him since. It's not easy, especially since I know very few Christians around me who are sincerely trying to live according to the Bible. With God's help, though, I am making progress and I won't turn back.

7. Tell us about your work.

Right now I'm working full time (at least seasonally) on the farm with my grandfather. He is easy to work for, and I enjoy the variety and self-sufficient lifestyle. Right now we are raising nine different crops (corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, rye, spelt, barley, buckwheat, and alfalfa) all organically, and we mill all of them (except the soybeans and alfalfa) into flours and cereals and sell them at markets and conventions. We also have around 15-20 ewes, goats, several beef cattle, and several hundred chickens (for eggs and meat). It is hard work, but I enjoy it. I like carrying on the legacy of the family farm, and it can be somewhat profitable through diversity and value-added marketing.

8. Tell us what activities you enjoy doing in your spare time.

When I'm not farming, I like tinkering with mechanical things. I especially like auto restoration (Right now I'm restoring a '73 Ford pickup that my grandfather gave to me). I also do some web design and web programming. Another thing I enjoy doing in my spare time is either playing or listening to good music. I started playing the guitar several years ago, and now my family has a little bluegrass band. I

(Continued on page 23)

We are looking for volunteers for this page. Ask us for our guidelines if you want some pointers and ideas. You may use whatever style you wish. Send your achievements to:

The Boys Bugle
156 Newton Rd.
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676



Questions and Answers

Question from last issue:
Why did Jesus have to die?

Answer #1:

The penalty for sin is death. In Genesis 2:17 God told Adam, **“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it. For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”**

When Adam and Eve sinned by eating the forbidden fruit they immediately died the spiritual death (separation from God). They could no longer enjoy the presence of God as they did in the garden. They also became subject to the natural death of the physical body. Because all men are born with Adam's nature, we all tend to sin, and become guilty before God. **“Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned,”** Romans 5:12. God could not forgive or overlook man's sin, but he permitted them to atone for their sins by offering a burnt offering of an animal. This necessitated killing an animal, one without blemish. Bloodshed is necessary to atone for the sin of man. **“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood: and without shedding of blood is no remission.”** Hebrews 9:22

Because God knew from the beginning that man would fall into sin, it was His plan that Jesus should be the supreme sacrifice for man's sins. 1 Peter 1:20 Through His sinless life on earth, He met God's requirement for perfection and was able to atone for the sins of man. God laid upon Him all the sins of the whole world. And because death is the penalty for sin, Jesus had to die. He died to pay the penalty for your and my sins, so we don't have to die for our own sins. **“Herein is Love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”** 1 John 4:10

This atonement is available for the whole world, but it is only effective to those who come to God in sincere repentance and ask for forgiveness through Jesus. In this way and as we became born again by allowing His Spirit to transform us, our relationship with God that was lost through Adam's sin, can be restored. We became resurrected from spiritual death, and receive the promise of eternal life with God in heaven.

The animal sacrifices and rituals of the Mosaic Law are types and shadows of Christ, but we find that they were unsatisfactory. Hebrews 8:7 says, **“For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the sec-**

Please send us your questions and answers:

The Boys Bugle
156 Newton Rd.
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676

ond.” Also Romans 8:3, **“For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”** Those animal sacrifices could only atone for past sins. They could not give a person power to keep him from committing the same sins again. But in Christ Jesus believers have the power of Christ to give them victory over temptation, just as he was victorious over temptation in His own life on

earth. **“For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted.”** Hebrews 2:18

By Henry Martin
Savannah, N.Y.

Why did Jesus have to die?

Answer #2:

The short answer is found in Matthew 5:17, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”

Here is more explanation:

“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.” Hebrews 9:22

“For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.” Romans 2:13

“Ye stiffnecked... Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.” Acts 7:51-53

“For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.” Hebrews 7:19

“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered

himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions...” Hebrews 9:13-15

“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come ... to do thy will, O God. ... He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.” Hebrews 10:4-7, 9b.

“But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;... For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.” Hebrews 10:12, 14

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;” Hebrews 10:16

(Continued on page 12)

Why did Jesus have to die?

(Continued from page 11)

“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:19-20

The law was a yoke that those of old were not able to bear. See Acts 15.

There is another way!

“But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe...” Romans 3:21, 22a. Notice that the law and the prophets bear witness of that righteousness, but do not attain to it.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God (did by) sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Romans 8:1-4

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt

love thy neighbour as thyself. ... This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” Galatians 5:14, 16

Jesus came to restore us to glory. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” Hebrews 2:9-10

Jesus died to destroy the devil. “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Hebrews 2:14-15

The law fulfilled and more!

Tim Martin

Question for the next issue:

Is the saying true, “Cleanliness is next to Godliness.”?

Why did Jesus have to die?

Answer #3:

Did Jesus have to die? What makes us think he had to die?

Is this a true concept? Let us look at it.

Perhaps the most common understanding is that he had to die as a substitute sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins. It is based upon the concept of the 'penalty of death' to satisfy the demands of God's law (righteousness). Then it takes the position that despite his righteousness God loved us so much that he provided a Substitute Sacrifice to pay the penalty of his law (righteousness). In this manner his righteousness is satisfied and God can now forgive us and accept us, if (upon the condition that) we believe that Christ died in our place and paid the penalty for our sins, and if we ask that his death be applied to our record.

Are these concepts Scriptural? It is often easy to read into scripture what we think. Let us look at the crucial thought concepts expressed in this doctrine.

The crucial thought concepts of

- Penalty
- Substitute

They are crucial thought concepts because without them we could not have the above stated understanding. So without them we cannot think the above doctrine. Then certainly they should be found in the scriptures.

But note that the above words are not found in the scriptures. The reader is invited to check the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.

The above words are not found/used in scripture. Yet it is significant to note that they are **crucial thought concepts** in the doctrine they espouse. In fact, without them the doctrine could not exist! Yet...they are not in the...scriptures? **It means that those who wrote the scriptures did not think with these thought concepts.**

In order that we arrive to truth

and not presupposed understanding, we need to carefully examine our comprehension/thought. One principle that should be an early warning sign is if we use vocabulary that is not in the scripture. Sometimes the expression may be a summary of many ideas. Then we must examine whether the contents of these ideas are consistent with the bible.

The beginning of the **crucial thought concept** is in the idea of 'Penalty'. It stems from the presupposed understanding of Genesis 2:17. *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it; for in the day of your eating from it you shall surely die.* The supposition is that this meant that God would kill Adam as a penalty for disobedience; that the law has such penalties for making wrongs right. Let us stop and consider these two fundamental principles of what is considered to be God's righteousness.

- That God has made a law for the purpose that it's transgressors would then be found guilty of transgression and sentenced to death.

- That the law has such penalties for making wrongs right.

Is this what God's righteousness is about?

Do the scriptures ever tell us that death was a penalty? Obviously not, since it does not use the word even once from Genesis to Revelation.

Let us consider. Is this the kind of relationship that God had created with Adam? Was God arbitrarily issuing a command and then vigilantly enforcing "the immutable law"? Is this the way of life in the kingdom of heaven? Is this God's righteousness? Is God's righteousness a legal-istic righteousness? Is his righteousness a righteousness of the law?

The fundamental problem lies even in this erroneous view and under-

(Continued on page 14)

Why did Jesus have to die?

(Continued from page 13)

standing of God's righteousness.

Is this God's righteousness? If it is, then God's righteousness would be of the law, and he would be under the curse. But this is not God's righteousness! That very concept is from a sinner's mind: one that is devoid of the knowledge of God's way, his life, and his righteousness. *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse* (Galatians 3:10). God tells us: *"for my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither your ways my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts"* (Isaiah 55:8,9).

Now ***the righteousness of God, without the law, is manifested ... even the righteousness of God by faith of Jesus Christ ... For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*** (Romans 3:21-23) God's righteousness is not a 'righteousness of the law' but it is a 'righteousness of faith'.

The kind of relationship that God established when he created man is a benevolent one. Faith was the default relationship in creation. God counseled and instructed Adam even as a Father his son. The nature of the instruction can easily be seen in the following example: 'If you touch that stove you will surely be burned', as opposed to 'if you touch that stove I will surely burn you'. He gave Adam good knowledge.

The instruction: *of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat; for in the day of your eating from it you shall surely die* did not mean that God would have to kill him to satisfy his righteousness. **But it meant that Adam would pass from life to death. That he would pass from faith (living by God's word) to the domain of 'evil knowledge', which separates man from God and establishes self as the source, and produces a 'legal-istic righteousness' (Sin) that uses the**

instruction of God, which was unto life, to produce death. *For sin taking occasion by the commandment deceived me and by it slew me ... Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid (not by God). But sin that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.* (Romans 7:11-13)

The extension of the **crucial thought concept** of penalty is 'substitute'. How else can one be saved from the penalty? And, as noted this word does not exist in the scriptures either.

In the substitute penalty payment doctrine man is saved from the penalty for sin, *rather than from sin itself*. This means that man is saved from God's righteousness, which means from God himself. This is why so many feel that they have to hide 'behind' Christ, and that Christ represents their case before God. In this manner Christ is their Advocate before the father. They have a saviour **for** sin, and not a saviour **from** sin.

Please give special attention to the prepositions. They are of most vital importance.

Many see themselves only saved from the results of committed sinful deeds (Past, present, future). Many think that a 'sinner' is one who simply is 'not perfect'. One, who is perhaps 'prone to err', and therefore needs a Saviour who is 'perfect'. They look forward to the day when they will receive a new body that is not prone to err and offers no temptation, and to live in surroundings where there is no temptation.

Such an understanding of the sin problem does not even begin to realize the issues. Satan was in heaven, next to Christ, living in the presence of God where there was no sin, in a glorious body; yet, he fell from grace. Think about that, he fell from grace, he fell from God's glory. (Ezekiel 28:14-18)

*Do we need to be saved from the penalty for sin? Do we need to be saved from God's righteousness? Do we need to be saved from the righteous requirements of God's Law? No! We certainly **do not** need to be saved from God and his righteousness. But **we need to be saved from Sin and Satan, to God and his righteousness. We need to be saved back to grace, and to God's glory.** May God give us mercy and grace to understand this great difference.*

Let us think for a moment. A righteousness which is based upon the law (a written set of rules) can only be enacted if someone transgresses, and then it can only find fault and condemn. And before it can do that it or someone has to accuse? It is the curse of the law.

Salvation is not legalistic. Salvation is not from penalty of God's law. Salvation is from sin and its wages.

Salvation is benevolent. Salvation is from sin. Sin is whatever is not of faith. Faith is, trusting God in so that I receive his judgment as mine. In this manner his righteousness is mine. God's righteousness is based on faith. God's righteousness is full of grace, mercy, goodwill, and longsuffering. God's righteousness is life giving. His judgments are enlightening. It ennobles, nurtures, and lifts ever higher and higher. It is everlasting as the life he gives is. God's righteousness delights to forgive transgression and sin and iniquity (those who oppose themselves against God) and to save them from their folly, sin, their righteousness, death. It is the gift of God. It is his glory. It is the glory of God - to forgive.

'For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God'.

It is for this cause that Jesus spoke, "*go ye and learn what this means, **I will have mercy and not sacrifice***"

The sin problem is not a problem

of what God should do with imperfect or evil works, nor the record of them. **It is the problem of God seeking how to save us, his enemy, from ourselves, from our perverted idea of righteousness** so that we may have life. How to cut through the prison of sin and our blindness and our projection of our fallen righteousness and judgment upon God, and reveal unto us the truth of his nature and character, which is unlike ours in thought and spirit. This for the purpose so that we may be saved (become new bottles holding the new wine, receive the altogether new garment) and pass from death unto life.

When Moses asked God: "Show me thy glory", what did he see?

Exodus 34:5-8 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, **merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...** 8 And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

It is God's glory to forgive, and he is merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in goodness and truth. What a wonderful revelation!

Why then would Christ have to die?

So that God could forgive?

No!. It is the glory of God to forgive. And there is great joy in heaven when one sinner repents!

So if Jesus did not have to die, why did he die?

(to be continued in the next issue)

By John Boskovic
Mount Elgin, ON.

Step by Step

“Child of my love, fear not the unknown morrow,
Dread not the new demand life makes of thee;
Thy ignorance doth hold not cause for sorrow
Since what thou knowest not is known to Me.

“Thou canst not see today the hidden meaning
Of my command, but thou the light shalt gain;
Walk on in faith, upon my promise leaning,
And as thou goest all shall be made plain.

“One step thou seest — then go forward boldly,
One step is far enough for faith to see;
Take that, and thy next duty shall be told thee,
For step by step thy Lord is leading thee.”

Author unknown

Submitted by:

Margaret Gabor

Bright, Ontario



From our Readers:



Dear Boys Bugle,

In answer to the question that Mrs. Dunlap asked in the Fall 2004 issue, “Where in the Bible are men told to shave their beards off?”

In Leviticus 14:9 it says a leper is to “...shave all his hair off his head and his beard and his eye-

brows...” after he is healed from the leprosy. And in Numbers 8:7 the priests were to shave “all their flesh,” when they were cleansed.

From a dedicated reader.



Dear Readers,

One person responded to the question on beards and asked, “Why all the fuss?” He wrote a long letter in which he disagreed with much that was printed in TBB on beards. We feel it would not be edifying to print the letter, but I would like to consider the question, “Why all the fuss?”

We have been criticized for having beards and also by others for not requiring beards in our fellowship. It is an issue to some because they have been taught that it is wrong to have a beard and it is a dirty thing, while others have been taught it is wrong to shave, or it is right to have a beard but wrong to have a mustache. The custom of the forefathers became the rule of their church and they have been taught that to disobey their church is to disobey God. All these factions claim to serve the same God and follow the same Bible.

I’ve heard of lots of reasons why men shave or do not shave.

Some men have beards to please people, or God, to be in style, because of pride, or laziness, or rebellion, for warmth in winter and coolness in summer, or simply because it grows.

Some men shave to please people, or God, to be in style, because of pride, or laziness, or rebellion, to keep cool, so that safety masks fit better (on rescue divers, painters, and others who work in hazardous fumes) or they do not have one simply because it does not grow.

Let us show respect for our fellow man, for each one’s conscience, and for where each one is. It is important that each of us thoroughly studies the Bible to find out what is an issue to God. We had better not disregard any of His issues. Let us examine our hearts. Our motives are a big issue to Him.

Rachel Martin



The key to holiness
is faith in God.



It's "Just" Entertainment

(Continued from page 5)

There is a vast difference between reading or hearing the news and watching it happen before your eyes in color video. What we see has a far greater callusing effect on our mind and spirit than simply to read the basic facts in a newspaper or on the internet, and this is especially true when we see the same suffering over and over again on television news. (Aren't you glad we only gave you the basic facts in the above news story and did not show it to you like TV does?) **How do you know that you are not harder in heart toward suffering people than you would have been had you not passively watched so much suffering on the news each night?**

There is very little that really touches Americans any more, moving us to compassionate action for our Lord, as His partner in His great work of love on this earth. He wants to use us as lights in the darkness, **but we want to leave all the work of compassion to Him alone,** whom the world does not see. **They can only see His love through us,** his people, still in bodily form here on this dark planet.

All television networks and shows, even many that are Christian in name, present to Americans day after day, a completely different worldview and mental framework than what we read in the Bible. Therefore, even the most innocent seeming programs are training our minds to think differently than God wants us to think. Each show brings us farther from the mind of Christ. Each show sends us in the opposite direction to what God requires in Romans 12:1, 2. We are to be transformed in our thinking by the Word of God, not conformed to the world's thinking through its godless shows.

TV makes us feel so good and generous as we corporately pat ourselves on the back, **when there is so much work to be done which we haven't even begun! Our rich nation has one twentieth of the world's population, yet we consume one third of the world's resources.** (And then we complain, "If only the Third World people wouldn't have so many babies, then there would be enough for us all!") It is our excessive entertainments and pleasures that are depleting the world of what it needs to live on.

There are many more reasons why we made the decision on our wedding day 20 years ago not to watch television in our home ever again. We had previously found television to be depressing, to wear us down, to derail our focus on what the Lord was trying to teach us and where He was leading us, to dominate the family schedule in our parents' homes, and to deplete us of creative energy. It also violates the Scriptural principles in Psalm 101 "I will set no worthless thing before my eyes... It will not fasten its grip on me." And few TV shows pass the test of Philippians 4:8 which tells us what kinds of things our WHOLE MIND is to dwell on.

Joy Marie grew up without television, and never missed it. She found so many creative things to do in the absence of the tube of folly. She spent her teen years writing, drawing, baking, sewing all her own clothing, doing community service, babysitting, teaching Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Junior Church, being a teacher's aid, and starting her own Bible club for pre-adolescent girls. She found that the lack of TV greatly spurred her creativity.

Our kids lives have equally benefited from the absence of TV in our home. We filled the time together with singing and crafts, nature walks, and gardening, enjoyable and edifying

conversation, getting to know one another really well, coming to understand one another in ever new ways. The children also spent their own individual free time with drawing and writing, the study of plants, birds, animals, and the night sky. Some of our boys have learned computer programming, one at a very early age. And there is no doubt in our minds that the fact that every one of our children was reading at a very early age stemmed partly from the lack of television in our home. We read books instead, and our children gained an early desire to learn to read for themselves.

It is dismaying to see how far our nation has fallen since the advent of television watching became widespread. Teen pregnancy out of wedlock, drug use, juvenile delinquency and adult crime, teen suicide, vandalism, and every kind of vice rose sharply at the time that television first became a national preoccupation, and has continued to rise dramatically ever since that time. Before that, these problems were microscopic in this nation. Since then, the prisons and mental hospitals cannot hold them all. Moral standards have dropped so low that nothing is considered real sin unless it reaches these chilling depths in character. So to simply live a normal selfish life is seen as actually quite virtuous in comparison. We need a brand new standard of comparison, but that will not happen with the flood of moral baseness coming into your home through the TV. It is the Trojan horse of American Christianity today. And also spreads desperately low moral standards throughout the whole earth.

The effects of, not the technology, but man's sinful and godless use of it, go beyond just the spiritual realm. It affects family life by portraying selfish, complaining, bickering, and discourteous behavior as normal and to

be expected in any family. People have ceased to believe that a positive, even beautiful family life is even possible anymore, but the only thing that stands in the way of it is the behavior and attitudes we learn from this mouthpiece of Satan in our living rooms.

Let's stop kidding ourselves that watching evil, whether it be sensual, violent, mocking, or just unfaithful to the truth of God, is okay and won't hurt us. Let's get out of the "I have to have my entertainment for the day" trap, and get **back to God's Word, God's will, and God's way.** If you continue to let entertainment be your preoccupation, your god, **what are you teaching your children?**



Holy Living... God's Plan

What did God mean when he said that we were to live 'holy'? One of the first things that we come to is, How do we live holy? 1 Peter 1:13-16 states: **“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought to you by the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”** One of the things that we can be holy in is our conversation. How do we be holy in our conversation? In Psalms 141:3 and 4 it reads: **“Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men that work iniquity, and let me not eat of their dainties.”** There are several ways that we slip into the unholy way of conversation, even if we don't take God's name in vain and use improper terms. One of those ways is to gossip. Not only is it very bad character but also we are told not to speak evil of each other in the bible (called busybodies 1 Timothy 5:13). Often Christians are guilty of gossiping. Gossiping is not a holy way of talking, nor is it nice to hear. When you gossip, do you ever think of that the person or people that you are gossiping about might hear the things that you are saying about them? Even if they don't hear you, do you realize that you will stand before God one day to give an account about every mean

and hurtful word that you say? In the holy life that God wants us to live no gossiping is a rule.

Holy living also takes courage. In Proverbs 28:1 we are told **“The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.”** If we are holy and righteous we should have the courage to be as bold as a lion. In other words, we shouldn't worry... not only because the Bible says not to worry, but worrying brings your courage down.

Ephesians 1:4, **“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”** We are supposed to be without blame before the Lord. How do we be without blame? Holy living is the only way you can be without blame before the Lord... that brings us back to the question, “How do we live holy?” We already know that our words and everything that we say is supposed to be clean in the sight of the Lord and that we are supposed to have courage if we are to live holy lives... how do we have the power to do this? How can we be without blame before Christ and live a holy life in his sight? We could never have the power to live a holy life unless we have the Lord. God is the example that we must follow to live a holy life, he is the only one that had a holy life here on earth. We can only follow his lead... God has given us the directions in the Bible so we can follow them and live a holy life. Righteousness comes from being holy. Our right-

Proverbs

2:10-22

When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you:

To deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; whose ways are crooked, and who are deviating in their paths;

To deliver you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words, who

forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God. For her house leads down to death, and her paths to the dead; none who go to her return, nor do they regain the paths of life—

So you may walk in the way of goodness, and keep to the paths of righteousness. For the upright will dwell in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.



eousness and holy living are a testimony of the Lord to everyone that sees us. In the old proverb, ‘Your words may whisper but your actions shout’ shows that in our actions we need to be holy... The way you dress, the way you talk, the way you act around other people, the way you work, all these point to what is in our hearts. The holy life that we are supposed to be living has to start in the heart; the only way it can start is to accept Christ as your personal Saviour. If we follow the Lord’s example, we live a holy life because, once accepting Christ into our hearts, we have the holy life that he gave us when he sent his son to die on the tree.

Please remember that no one can tell you how to live except the Bible. If we want to be like Christ and live a holy life then we need to read, love, and obey the Bible that

God gave us to follow. I’m praying for you as you live the holy life.

Hannah Holter

Melville, Saskatchewan

Editor’s note: The phrase, “in all manner of conversation,” in 1 Peter 1:15 would include everything that we do, as the amplified version brings out: “in all your conduct and manner of living.”



The Virgin Mary

(Continued from page 7)

away when marriage makes their relationship “respectable” and there is no need to conceal it. They no longer will share a secret and they will find they share little else of real meaning. Third, since they are not pleasing God, they cannot become closer to Him while out of communion with Him. Fourth, the feelings of guilt which their behavior may arouse will tend to interfere with the development of real intimacy after marriage. God will bless those couples who use dating and engagement periods for the development of spiritual and emotional unity and save physical intimacy for marriage. They will have not only spiritual intimacy but a truly joyous physical relationship as well.

Marriage is a type of the union between Christ and His Church. This “Church age” is actually the Church’s engagement period; the marriage ceremony will not take place until after the rapture (Revelation 19:7).*** The apostle Paul said of the Church at Corinth, **“I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ”** (2 Corinthians 11:2). How beautiful and pleasing to God when a Christian couple’s relations with each other before and after marriage truly typify the union of Christ and His Church.

By M. K. Canner
Used by permission from
Moments With The Book
P.O. Box 322
Bedford, PA. 15522

*** Editor’s Note: Yes, marriage

is a type of the union between Christ and His Church. However, my view of prophecy is different than that presented here. If you do a study of the book of Revelation, you will see that the things written in it had to be fulfilled within a short time after it was written, Revelation 1:3; 22:7, 12, and 20. Also you will see that those things would happen quickly, Revelation 1:1. Daniel was told in Daniel 12:4-13 that the time was not yet, but John was told that the time was at hand. So regardless of when you think the book of Revelation was written, whether before the destruction of Jerusalem or after, the book of Revelation was fulfilled a long time ago.



Don’t require more holiness, or make more rules than what God has made.

We do not have the strength to do more than what God wants, and we cannot afford to do less than what he says.

Parishville Christian Church

Services at 9:30 am Sunday

All are welcome

Enjoy fellowship, encouragement, and stimulation to follow Christ and his teachings.

We also have singings.

Please contact us to find out the time and location.

315-265-0026; or 265-1246

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

The Calling Of: Joseph Paul

(Continued from page 9)

never cared for performing, but it is fun to get together, just us, or with friends and play for hours on end.

9. Tell us about your plans (Lord willing) for the future. I've always wanted to continue farming, either part time or full time, preferably on the scale that we are doing now. I have never liked corporate agriculture or large farms and would like to help out the smaller sustainable food systems that focus on family and community rather than growth and high quantity. I'm not sure if I will keep farming here or not, but as long as people are still eating I'll probably be involved somehow in food production. I could see myself on a quarter section of land selling fresh foods, and perhaps have an oversized farm shop so I could work on cars or tractors on the off months. But so far that is just a dream, and I am open to the Lord's leading if he needs me elsewhere.

My sister Abigail (with the rest of the family) publishes Hidden Wisdom magazine. It features many articles and discussions on practical issues of everyday life. HW is a ministry funded by donations from readers. Suggested donations are \$1.25/sample or \$8/year (6 issues). Contact HW at: 2475-A 340th St. Laurel, IA 50141-9513

Abigail@hwmagazine.org
www.hwmagazine.org (many articles online!)



The Boys Bugle
156 Newton Rd.
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676

Address Service Requested

**“In imitation of the holy
One who has called you—
you also must be holy in all
your habits of life.”** 1 Peter 1:15

**“Be sure your sin will find
you out.”** Numbers 32:23