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Keystone **BAPTIST**

Official Paper of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches



The Demand for “Selfless Service”

By Mark Strangman
Swissvale Baptist Church,
Pittsburgh, PA

Recently, a document published by the “Secular Democrats of America” was delivered to the Biden/Harris administration. This document has been the subject of a news update in the magazine Israel My Glory found on page 40 of the May/June 2021 issue. You can find the document in it’s entirety at tinyurl.com/SDmanifesto-1. Here are 4 excerpts from the publication:

We urge you not to underestimate the institutional strength of what we refer to (interchangeably) in this document as the “Christian nationalist movement” or the “religious right.”…… Its political ideology is anti-democratic and anti-scientific. It provides constant cover for white supremacy. And it advances a reactionary economic policy, tax policy, and dominionist view of the environment that undermines our capacity and will to address the climate crisis. Its agenda rests on a pinched interpretation of biblical principles preached by Christian nationalist leadership

Continued page 3

“I Can’t Use You”

By Pastor Dale Mooney
Mountain Top Baptist Church
Mountain Top, Pennsylvania



“I can’t use you if you won’t trust me.” This not the first message from God concerning the ministry, but certainly the most challenging. Allow me to explain.

When I left the US Navy behind, it was with the intent of answering God’s call to the ministry of preaching. It would take some time, and some detours before I settled down to preparing myself for the work, I was called to. My circumstances by this time were very favorable. My family and I were members of a wonderful church where we worked with the youth. I was blessed with a well -paid position as a service tech; traveling around much of the country. To top it off, I was within nine months of having our mortgage paid off. Did I mention that I had a well -paid position and was close to having no mortgage?

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EDITOR
Rev. Paul J. Connor

LAYOUT & DESIGN
Anita L. Fordyce

State Representative's Comments
Rev. Paul J. Connor



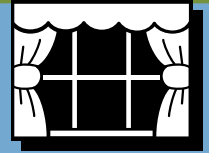
Some Choices Lose Out _

Whether you want to admit it or not, we make choices every day and throughout each day. In fact, the earlier choices made in a day may well affect the later choices that follow hours later. For instance, if one chooses to take an umbrella that can have a good effect on a rainy day. And, if one decides to get up early in the morning can definitely allow for more to be accomplished – thus, more choices. The choice to have or not to have a cup of coffee can influence your alertness in making choices later on – so, choices can make a big difference in our life.

The absolutely most important choice in life is accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior – *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* Jn. 3:16. (also Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23) Once saved from damnation and hell we are to make choices to walk a righteous and holy life. (*“For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy.”* Leviticus 11:44). And again, major choices will affect minor choices, very day.

I’ve been thinking lately about our churches in the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches (PARBC). It is a blessed fellowship as we stand together in the fundamentals of the faith in Christ and

From the Parsonage Window



STILL THERE . . .

The third Thursday of August is very special to me because that's the day I asked Jesus into my heart. I was 11 years old and was at a church camp called Jumonville. It's located on the highest mountain in Western PA. Not only is it historic to me, but also to America. Here, a young French officer named Jumonville was the first casualty of the French and Indian war. He was killed by Lt. Col. George Washington's troops in a nighttime ambush.

Atop of this mountain campground is a huge cross. It is 50 feet tall and its cross arms are 30 feet wide. Its foundation reaches 30 feet into the ground, It can be seen for miles. It is lit by huge light and is a beacon and hope for many. For me it is a reminder of the moments where I was when I first accepted Jesus. I stood right beneath it, accepted Him and dedicated my life to serve Him.

A few years ago, we stopped by there. I must confess I was a little apprehensive as we approached the camp. I was fearful that, like many things in Christian circles, the care and upkeep of the camp and the cross might have fallen in disrepair. The 11 year old girl in me wanted it to be exactly like it was. The drive up to the camp's location is on a heavily wooded road and the cross is not in sight until you

and thought leaders. With their political agenda sanctioned by a higher power, their base of support is disciplined, motivated, and deeply committed to a vision that does not align with our basic constitutional values and democratic principles.

Whenever possible, we urge you to reference and quote the original United States national motto, E Pluribus Unum—out of many, one. The current motto, “In God We Trust,” is a relic of McCarthyism and the anti-atheist hysteria of the 1950s, and it has been invoked by Christian nationalists to reinforce their historically revisionist narrative of our nation’s founding. They characterize the United States’ founding as a “Christian nation” based in biblical principles, rather than as a secularist nation based in revolutionary democratic ideas. The original motto, which we hope to see restored by Congress, is inclusive of all faiths and none, while “In God We Trust” excludes nontheists and polytheists.

Recognize that nonreligious Americans celebrate their own holidays and traditions just like people of faith, and many also celebrate Christmas which, by nature of being a federal holiday, is a secular holiday Americans of all faiths and none can take part in. The secular community has a rich tradition of humanist and nontheistic clergy serving nontheistic congregations, as well as humanist and secular celebrants who facilitate life cycle ceremonies for the nonreligious.

The rise of white Christian nationalism is a national security threat. We recommend you: encourage the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice to dedicate resources to deradicalization programs aimed at hate groups, including, but not limited to, white nationalists; increase monitoring of such groups, including the online environment, and take action to address increased hate crimes toward minority faith communities; and shift rhetoric to label violent white nationalist extremists as terrorists.

These are just some highlights (or low-lights?!) and there is so much more included in this document that is truly appalling (it took me about 30 minutes to read the entire 28 page document and I suggest you do the same). My dear brothers and sisters, we are witnessing the tailspin of the world away from God as it spirals downward at an ever increasing pace. This “Secular Democrat Manifesto” is merely the beginning of the world rejecting the Savior and setting itself up for the end times. So what are we to do? Their claim that our country was not founded upon Biblical principles is simply untrue. Just study the influence of the Pilgrims and their principles of civil liberty based upon religious liberty upon our founding fathers and the documents we hold dear as Americans. To the honest and rational historian, our origin is clear.

After spending time with the Lord in prayer and searching the Scriptures for answers I realize that as a child of God, and especially an under-shepherd of the Lord Jesus, the call to His service is more demanding than ever before. There is a line being drawn in this country and we must be determined to serve the Lord no matter the cost. As we search the Book of Philippians, Paul reveals the true nature of his call to the service of the Lord. In verse one he declares that he and Timothy were “servants of Christ”. As you know, the greek word used here is *doulos*, meaning bond-slave. Strong’s define this word as a slave (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary; frequently, therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subserviency). In so stating, Paul admits that he has surrendered himself over to the Lord and is fully submissive to Him.

But what does this mean practically for Paul, and essentially for us? As we consider Paul’s condition of incarceration we meditate upon what it must have been like for him. We ponder how it must have affected his relationship with his dear brothers and sisters in Philippi. So much is Paul burdened by this that He begins verse 12 by telling them he desires them to understand what his imprisonment means and what it’s results have been. In understanding the true heart of the Apostle, we came to a startling realization that is truly life changing. Paul understood

that he didn't matter! What happened to him was not the concern. If the great evangelist of the missionary journeys was not the main point, what does that say about you and me?

You see, we must come to the understanding that our safety and our rights are not the issue. I urged people in my church to consider this idea by asking themselves the following questions: What is most important in my life? What is my overall motivation in my life? What do I live for? What would I die for? Whom do I serve? Why do I serve? If we answer anything else than the Lord Jesus Christ to any of these questions we do not understand what being a *doulos* truly means! In verses 13-18 Paul shows them that his imprisonment had resulted in the Gospel reaching where it could not have otherwise. Even the Praetorian Guard had received the Gospel. Imagine the guard who had to bring Paul his meals. After receiving his food the Apostle may have asked the guard if he could pray for him. And in praying for him he would have spoke plainly of the Gospel! Now I realize this is conjecture, but of it's probability I'm certain. Paul had spread the Lord Jesus all throughout the Palace. And though, as he states in verses 15-16 there were those who were against him even within the brethren, his outcome was unimportant, even to the point of martyrdom. His true understanding of selfless service to the Lord Jesus Christ is manifested in his bold declaration - "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain!"

There you have it – That is true servant-hood. Make no mistake. What we are witnessing all around us is just going to get worse as we get closer to the Savior's return. Just a few months ago in my beloved city of Pittsburgh there is a protest against the University of Pittsburgh Medical School for live tissue experimentation involving aborted babies and lab rodents. This is stuff right out of a cheesy, 50's horror movie and it's happening in my own backyard!

Where do we go from here? Paul told the brethren at Philippi that "many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." Without Fear! Paul declared from his prison cell that it didn't matter whether he lived or died, as long as the Gospel was spread to as many as possible. With this God given confidence he urged the Philippians to press on for Christ in three ways.

1. *He urged them to be true to the Gospel with their lives.* He told them that their conversation must become the Gospel – their testimony and reputation must support what they preached. As bondslaves of the Lord they had to be completely committed to Him and His message of the good news of salvation. Their lives must speak as loud, if not louder than their words,
2. *He urged them to be strong in the Gospel in their stand.* He told them to "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel". This is a similar plea to what he said to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." They must stand fast!
3. *He urged them to be fearless with the Gospel in the world.* He encouraged them to never fear what men might do to them. Never compromise their preaching and their testimony. The world's opposition to them only proves it's depravity and the brethren's security. They may even come to a time of suffering for the Lord. Paul assures them that to do so would be an honor.

As we read the words of Paul to his beloved Philippian Church, we are edified in our own walk and stand. It truly does not matter what may happen to us, as long as the Lord is magnified and glorified and the Gospel is spread to the salvation of souls. We are inconsequential! As Paul so confidently proclaimed, "*for to me (us) to live is Christ, and to die is gain*"!

Churches Searching for Pastor

As of August 2021

First Baptist Church – Corry
 Springside Baptist Church – Distant (New Bethlehem)
 Grace Baptist Church – Hazleton
 First Baptist Church – Roulette
 Carmel Baptist Church – Saegertown
 Tidioute Baptist Church – Tidioute
 Faith Baptist Church - Waynesburg
 Calvary Baptist Church – Union City



Next Town Evangelism – Faith Baptist Church, Bradford

Pray for Pastor Gary Smith as he is in need of PARBC Churches supporting him and thus be able to receive matching funds from the PARBC for his support in his effort to rescue/build back up FBC, especially with the difficulties of the pandemic.

Coming Activities for Our Fellowship

Fall Conference – September 13-15, 2021

Hope Baptist Church, Hanover

Hosts: Pastor Allen G. Harris & Congregation
(Schedule included on page 6)

Youth Retreat and Talents for Christ - April 1-2, 2022

Calvary Baptist Church, Bloomsburg

Special speaker: Rev. Rand Hummel

The Wilds of New England

See www.parbc.org (Teen Activities)

Spring Conference – April 25 & 26, 2022

Grace Baptist Church, Kittanning

Hosts: Pastor Nathan S. Bramlet & Congregation

[Future Dates for Conferences are on our website](http://www.parbc.org)

www.parbc.org

PARBC Fall Conference

September 13-15, 2021

Hope Baptist Church, Hanover, PA
“But We Will Preach Christ”

Monday – 09/13

- 3p.m. Keynote Address – **“The Divine Prophet”** - Pastor Allen Harris
 Deuteronomy 18:15 Hope Baptist Church, Hanover
- 4p.m. **“The Divine Promise”** – Pastor Earl Shawley
 Genesis 3:15 / II Samuel 7:12-17 messiah Baptist Church, Kylertown
- 5p.m. Dinner and Fellowship Time
- 7p.m. **“The Incarnate Substitute”** - Pastor Steve Lyon
 John 1:14 / Phil. 2:5-8 Bible Baptist Church, Upper Darby

Tuesday – 09/14

- 9a.m. **“The Perfect Example”** – Pastor Keith Williams
 Matt. 4:18 / John 14:6 Marsh Creek Fellowship Baptist Church, Wellsboro
- 10a.m. Prayer and Fellowship Time – Pastor Jeff Kistler
 Middletown Road Baptist Church, Pittsburgh
- 11a.m. **“The Great Physician”** - Pastor Mark Strangman
 Isaiah 35:5-6 / John 3 Swissvale Baptist Church, Pittsburgh
- 12 p.m. Lunch and Fellowship Time
- 1:30p.m. Annual Business Meeting
- 2:30p.m. Work shop -- Brother Ian Thompson
- 4p.m. **“The Eternal Savior”** - Pastor Joshua Franklin
 Lev. 17:11 / Luke 23:34 / Isaiah 43:3, 11, 14-15, 25 Open Door Baptist Church, Greensburg
- 5p.m. Dinner and Fellowship Time
- 7p.m **“The Comforter In Christ”** - Pastor Lloyd Penberthy
 Isaiah 40:1 / John 14:18 First Baptist Church, Hallstead

Wednesday – 09/15

- 9a.m. **“The Resurrection of the Lord”** - Pastor Dan Hicks
 Gospels / I Cor. 15:3-3 / Acts 1:8, 11 First Bapt. Church of Ogden, Boothwyn
- 10a.m. Prayer and Fellowship Time – Pastor Drew Fenstermacher
 Faith Baptist Church, State College
- 11a.m. **“The Ruler of Heaven and Earth”** - Pastor Tom Harris
 John 14:1-6 / Matt. 28:18/ Revelation 1:9-18 Bible Baptist Church, Quakertown



Making Bible College happen while holding on to the blessings I was enjoying became my challenge. After consulting my Pastor, the decision was made to work with an extension course through a respected school, and remain where we were. Then the real challenge arrived.

I was called out on a service trip three hours away, to be followed by another the next day. My plan was to complete the first call, and then spend the night at a hotel before driving on to the next appointment. I had determined to read through the Book of Hebrews while in the hotel that night.

Upon arriving at the first appointment, I discovered that they had closed early without informing anyone. I phoned my boss, only to find that the second appointment had canceled as well. I was directed to spend the night as planned, and head home the next morning. I was excited to have the entire evening to spend in Hebrews.

Little did I know, God had set me up. Alone, with no distractions, I began my time in Hebrews unaware of God's plan. Can one read the Book of Hebrews and not come face to face with the issue of "Faith"? Let me answer it for you. No; not if you read what God declared.

God declared that it was impossible for one to please Him, aside from "Faith". Did I mention that I had a nice salary, and was soon to have no mortgage, as well as a ministry in a wonderful church? God did, that very night.

My Heavenly Father reminded me that I had many things, but "Faith" wasn't one of them. Had I enquired of God concerning Bible College, I would have found that he desired my attending Bible College in person' requiring me to let go of everything I had come to love and trust in.

Then came the challenging message..." I can't use you if you won't trust me." I wish I could tell you that it was a simple thing to let go, and trust God; but it was not. For hours alone in the hotel room, I wrestled with letting go; no, I wrestled with trusting God.

What ministry could I or anyone have that was not dependent upon God? That night, I surrendered to God's will for my life. After hours of struggling with trusting God Almighty, I knew a peace unlike anything since being saved from sin. Within minutes I was at peace with God, and sound asleep.

I could not please God, and certainly I could not serve Him as a Pastor without "Faith".

Over the years, the following passage of Scripture has been my frame work for where and how to apply faith.

Luke 17:6 *And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.*

Luke 17:7 *But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?*

Luke 17:8 *And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?*

Luke 17:9 *Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.*

Luke 17:10 *So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*

I have yet to find the need to cast a tree into the ocean; but one never knows what awaits them. I have certainly found the need to move obstacles which hindered my ministry. I do not for a moment believe I am alone in facing hindrances to the ministry of the Gospel. I have met many committed Pastors, Missionaries, Evangelists, and Teachers that have seen walls constructed for the purpose of separating the Minister from his field. Faith can not only cast trees, it can tear down walls.

Faith is vital to the ministry one is called to, but where would God have this faith exercised? There are three areas to consider.

First, we are to serve God in our daily lives by faith. **Luke 17:7** *But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?*

We see the servant has a field in which he serves the Master. Day in and day out, the servant works on behalf of the Master. Every day finds the minister in the world. Every day the minister finds himself in the midst of people; saved as well as lost. Are you aware that the servant of the Lord is subject to worldly circumstances just like everyone else?

I knew a barber who gave free haircuts to preachers; I have saved a few dollars because of this blessing. It has been my experience, aside from the free haircuts, that God's workers in the field experience the same circumstances as everyone else. I have not discovered a gas pump that a preacher could fill up at no cost. I pay the same as others. There is one menu at Cracker Barrel which is handed to ministers and lay people alike. Unemployment impacts the saved and the lost.

We as servants of the Lord face many of the same obstacles as others, and yet we do not need to confront them without hope. By faith, a tank of gas, or a meal, or even a lost job becomes God's opportunity to glorify Himself in the midst of a world that desperately needs to know Him.

We are not to be conformed to this world, but certainly we are to be a light in this world. By faith we address the same issues facing the world, but with hope.

Secondly, we are to serve the Lord personally by faith.

Luke 17:8 *And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken;...*

Can we strive day after day with this world and not be wearied? We understand that we are to "Live by Faith". But we also understand how tiring it may become. But just because we exercise our faith in God while in the presence of our fellow humans, does not excuse us from serving God by faith personally. "Serve Me" commands our Lord.

There are times when I find that I have this ministry thing down fairly well. Prepared lessons, and sermons. Visit some of the folks. Answer some phone calls, and lead a business meeting. I got this. What I truly have is the tendency to go through the motions rather than seek God's desire, and trust in his grace to accomplish it.

Can I begin to serve God, without knowing His will, and His provision? By "Faith" I need

to seek His will, and trust He will work it out. When it is accomplished, He is glorified.

Thirdly, we are to wait for our rest by faith. **Luke 17:8... afterward thou shalt eat and drink?**

In all honesty, I find this most challenging. When will it be my time, when will it be your time to come from the field, and rest? I do not know, except to say that God has promised a rest... **Heb. 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. Heb 4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his. Heb 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.**

In waiting patiently for His rest, I find my resolve to live by faith strengthened. Living by Faith in God Almighty is rewarding, if one does not grow weary. We need, by faith, to wait for our time of rest, and not grow weary.

In fact, it is our duty... **Luke 17:9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.**

A servant of the Lord has a duty, a responsibility, to trust God. I could spend hours testifying to the great things God has done because I trusted Him to work things out for His glory.

Have I mastered "Faith", no. Many times I have relied upon my own strength, and wisdom. Many times I have failed, and denied God His opportunity to be glorified. I am a work in progress. But this I know...He cannot use me if I will not trust Him.

Still There—Continued

reach the entrance. Finally, though, in the clearing, there it was. It was still there and exactly how I remembered it. I almost gasped aloud.

Isn't that like our salvation? It is always there. It never changes. It is forever. No person or circumstance can take it away or change it. But, we can't stay where we were when we got saved nor remain at that day. Neither can we imagine what He has for us from that day forward.

It was wonderful to go back to Jumonville and find little had changed. As I stood gazing up at the foot of the cross, I told my husband I got saved right here. What he didn't hear was the song my mind was hearing, the song we sang that night...*"Be Though My Vision, thou Lord of my heart. Be thou not else to me, save that art. thou my best thought by night or by day. Waking or sleeping my Savior Thou art."* Surely, Jesus has been my vision all the years throughout my life. How marvelous that He has been my vision and that my vision of Him has not dimmed. He has been everything that He promised to be. I left the mountain after camp but He never left me. The cross atop Jumonville is still there, but even if it weren't, my salvation would still be intact.



by Anita Fordyce
Hope Baptist Church, Hanover
Mrs. Fordyce's husband is the Principal at
Hope Christian School

provide help and encouragement to one another. We have some churches that choose to be very active and involved in our association. You will find those churches participating in all or almost all events in the fellowship. I am sure that participation includes financial support for the PARBC and praying for all the fellowshiping churches. But there are some churches in the PARBC that choose not to be involved or participate in any way. That saddens my heart. That choice keeps them from the blessings of our precious fellowship. The pastor and congregation are both missing the help, encouragement and blessings. You see, it is like a family being called to dinner. The food has been prepared – the delicious aroma is in the air and the call is given “Come and get it – dinner is ready!”

Most of the family comes running anticipating another feast, the saliva glands already activated. When they arrive at their place around the table, it is then noticed that some of the family are not present. The choice to absent themselves had been made (for whatever reason). The family gathered about has a sense of loss – those absent members are missed.

But those who chose to not come to dinner there was a deeper loss realized or not. They had missed the precious fellowship, the time of sharing, the time of encouragement and yes, the food. Sadly, the more opportunities to fellowship are missed – the less and less the desire to do so. I have a deeper sense of the father’s loss with the choice of the prodigal son

Churches and pastors that once saw the urgency to identify with others standing firm for the faith in Christ uncompromisingly like the PARBC are now softening, drifting with no compelling need to be involved, active and identified with the PARBC. This is a very dangerous world that hates God and the Son of God. If ever there was a need to stand around the table **together** in *fellowship* and encouragement – Tis now! But ***some choices will lose out.***



**Set your GPS for
6450 Hope Way
Hanover, PA for the
PARBC Fall Conference
September 13-15, 2021
at Hope Baptist Church**