



The Herald

God
is our refuge
and strength,
an ever-present
help
in trouble.

Psalms 46:1

Thoughts from a Pastor...

We just started to get into the book of 1 Timothy and it's bringing me to the feet of Jesus. As a pastor I am always concerned with presenting the Word of God accurately and faithfully. The warnings of false teachers and of those failing to teach a sound doctrine have me seeking God more to work through me and with me as I desire to lead the church into a place of maturity in their understanding and walk with God.

The phrase "good conscience" shows up twice in chapter one of 1 Timothy. The first time is in verse 5 at the heart of a Chiasm. According to Websters 1828 Dictionary "Conscience" is defined as *"Internal or self-knowledge, or judgment of right and wrong; or the faculty, power or principle within us, which decides on the lawfulness or unlawfulness of our own actions and affections, and instantly approves or condemns them."* Now just add the word "good" before this. Not the "good" the world defines, but the "good" that can only come from God.

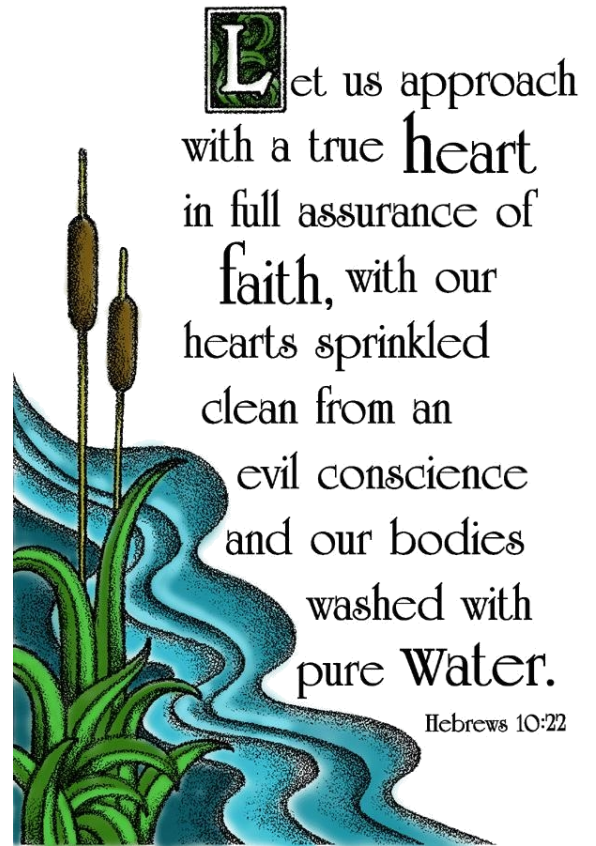
A shortened understanding of a "good conscience" would be a heart and mind free from guilt based upon us being right with God and living out His righteousness in our lives. How are we to maintain a good conscience when we are beings who fail and at times deny the leading of the Holy Spirit? How do we get back to a state of a "good conscience?" The answer is we can't without the working of the Holy Spirit.

Here are three steps I can see that make maintaining a "good conscience" possible. You will see why this is not possible without the Holy Spirit.

Step 1: Confess Wrongs: We need to seek God in humility and acknowledge when sin has been allowed to work in our lives and repent of those sins.

Step 2: Seek Reconciliation: We need to attempt to make things right, by apologizing to anyone we have hurt or offended.

Step 3: Walk in Christ: Let the Holy Spirit lead you in your life through prayer and His word. Do not ignore His direction and try to do things your way.



Thoughts from a Pastor...

Here is where I was stuck for a while. What about people who believe they have a good/clear conscience in their words, actions, and/or deeds? People who believe the Holy Spirit has spoken to them and declared them innocent in a dispute or altercation? It can be quite difficult to bring such people to a place of humility before the Lord if they don't believe they have any wrong to put before the Lord. How are we to determine if we are of a "good conscience" or not? I see the answer to this in the steps to maintain a "good conscience." If we refuse to confess any wrong on our part or are unable to humble ourselves before God. If we refuse to seek or work towards reconciliation with an offending party. If we refuse to Agape(love) our brothers and sisters in Christ as God commands us to do, that is a good sign that our conscience is seared.

1 Timothy 1:5 says, **"The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."** Christianity is a life in action. These steps will not need to be only taken by us one time in our lives, but 70x7 as it says in Matthew 18:21-22 **"Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."**

Seek to walk in this life with a "good conscience" by confessing wrongs, seeking reconciliation, and walking in Christ. May God give you His grace, mercy and peace to accomplish this great feat that is put before us.

In Christ, Pastor Ben Larsen



LOVE GOD • WALK TOGETHER • CHANGE LIVES

Missions Moment—Cornerstone Rescue Mission

Cornerstone Rescue Mission is a Christ-centered ministry serving men, women, children, veterans, and individuals experiencing homelessness or difficult seasons in life. Our heart is to meet people where they are, help with immediate needs, and remind them that they are seen, valued, and loved by God.

Our programs include the Men's Mission, Emergency Kitchen and Shelter, Women & Children's Home, Respite Care Center, Veterans Program, Apartments, and Cornerstone Thrift Store. Through these programs, we provide meals, shelter, practical support, encouragement, and a safe place for people who may not have anywhere else to turn.

We are very thankful for Little White Church and the way you already serve by cooking and serving a monthly meal at the Men's Mission. That kind of consistent support means a lot to us and to the people we serve.

There are many other ways to get involved, too. Groups can provide a meal at the Women & Children's Home or Respite Care Center, spend time visiting or playing games with residents at the Respite Center, or help with occasional cleaning and organizing projects at our locations.

We are also always grateful for food donations. Some of our current kitchen needs include rice, mashed potato flakes, ketchup, baked beans, and cream of mushroom soup, along with other basic food staples we use regularly. As we get closer to Thanksgiving and Christmas, we also appreciate donations of turkeys, hams, and other holiday meal items that help us make the season special for our guests and families.

The Cornerstone Thrift Store is another great way to help. Donations of clothing, furniture, household goods, kitchen items, and other usable items can be sold in the store, and proceeds help support our Women & Children's Home. As we head into the fall and Christmas season, there are also many simple and creative ways to bless the people at Cornerstone. We love when individuals, families, or church groups bake treats for our guests and staff, put together care packages, create small holiday projects or handmade gifts, or find another thoughtful way to bring encouragement. We are especially interested in volunteers who would like to help put together care packages for our veterans during the holiday season.

Missions Moment—Cornerstone Rescue Mission

We are also beginning to collect new toys and \$10 gift cards to bless the children and families in our programs. Even something small can make Christmas feel a little more special for someone going through a hard season.

Financial giving is one of the most helpful ways to support Cornerstone because it gives us the ability to respond to whatever need is most pressing. Some days that may mean food or clothing. Other times it may mean helping someone with a bus ticket, transportation, identification documents, basic necessities, or an unexpected need.

Financial gifts also help us care for the buildings our guests call home while they are with us. Right now, for example, the kitchen at our Women & Children's Home needs significant work. It is difficult to serve families well when basic parts of a home are worn down or no longer working the way they should. Gifts toward Cornerstone help us take care of needs like these so we can continue providing a safe and welcoming place for the people who come through our doors.

Whether you pray, volunteer, provide a meal, donate food or household items, bake something, create a care package, give toys or \$10 gift cards, support the Thrift Store, or give financially, every act of generosity helps us continue caring for people in our community and sharing the love of Christ.

To learn more about Cornerstone Rescue Mission, current needs, volunteer opportunities, or ways to give, visit cornerstonemission.org.



Rescue Mission

Ministry Moment—Kidzlife

KidzLife: Our Wednesday After-School Ministry to Elementary Kids

This fall we are heading into our 19th year of an after-school ministry program for elementary students.

We have changed curriculum a few times over the years, but continued to focus on teaching the children about Jesus and his love for them.

On Wednesday afternoons we walk the kids up from school and continue with snacks, worship music, Bible stories, crafts, Bible activities and games. Average attendance is between 35 and 40 kids.



If you love Jesus and love kids we would love to have you join our KidzLife team. We need several people to help with our two groups: kindergarten through third grade and fourth and fifth grade. If you are interested in helping please contact Cindy Dusing.

KidzLife is scheduled to go from October 2026 to April 2027. Go to: **www.thelittlewhitechurch.net/kidzlife** to register your kids online or pick up a registration form in the entryway.

Thank you for supporting this ministry through your prayers for the kids and leaders.

KidzLife

Missionaries and Bible Studies

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will direct your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

I've added ten new books by Janet and Geoff Benge in the junior section under the series name ***Christian Heroes: Then & Now***. I've read them all! What awesome books and easy to read about missionaries around the world with such a variety of gifts and callings to share the gospel through orphanages, radio, gospel sharing, church starting, ships, airplanes and more.

Here is just a sample about John Newton. We know him as a slave trader and the author of ***Amazing Grace*** who lived from 1725-1807 in England during our Revolutionary War period. But what about his before and after slave trading life? He crossed paths with famous pastors of that time who impacted his life. His growing up years were quite a trial but God had a plan for his life.

"Each wave stressed the damaged ship, and John wondered how long she could last. He had often imagined how he might die. Perhaps it would be from some tropical disease in Africa or from some wounds he received in a brawl with another seaman. He was about to drown in the North Atlantic Ocean, gone with no trace.

John Newton's life was in a downward spiral. Impressed into the Royal Navy, John clashed with his fellow seamen and even became a servant alongside slaves in West Africa. When he found himself on a sinking ship, he called out to God for help.

John began his conversion to Christianity while he captained a slave ship. Eventually he gave up his former life completely and became a minister with a deep passion for the gospel. A living witness to God's ability to change hearts, John joined the movement to set slaves free and penned hymns of hope, such as "Amazing Grace," sung by millions around the world today."

Many of these names I had never heard of but what amazing ways God used the gifts He had given them and the journeys and trials God called them to live. I would encourage old and young to check out these books!

Listed are a few of the books on the shelf with some more on order:

Amy Carmichael: Rescuer of Precious Gems

Brother Andrew: God's Secret Agent

Clarence Jones: Mr. Radio

Count Zinzendorf: Fruitful

D.L. Moody: Bringing Souls to Christ

George Mueller: The Guardian of Bristol's Orphans

Hudson Taylor: Deep in the Heart of China

John Newton: Change of Heart

John Williams: Messenger of Peace

Lillian Trasher: The Greatest Wonder of Egypt

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This is the time of year when many of us are thinking about joining a Bible study or life group, setting up a Bible study or just wanting to do an individual study. I would like to invite you to visit our library and browse through our Small Group/Individual Bible Studies area. We have a variety of study formats. Some have leader/participant guides, books, CDs and/or DVDs. Listed below are just a few of the titles available.

Small Group & Individual Bible Studies

(selected studies from the SGBS shelf)

The Bait of Satan by John Bevere

Extraordinary by John Bevere

Experiencing God by Henry and Richard Blackaby

Strength Based Marriage by Jimmy Evans

Family Life Homebuilders Couples Series

Family Life Homebuilders Parenting Series

One Race, One Blood by Ken Ham

Isaiah, the Servant of the Lord by Dr. John Oswalt

Passport to Purity by Dennis & Barbara Rainey

Financial Peace University by Dave Ramsey

The Truth Project by Focus on the Family

That the World May Know (DVDs) by Ray Vander Laan (5 new DVDs added to SGBS shelf)

The commentary section (200) also has many possibilities for Bible studies.

Books new to our library:

Nothing Is Wasted by Davey Blackburn

Landmines in the Path of the Believer by Charles Stanley

God of the Way by Kathie Lee Gifford & Rabbi Jason Sobel

When the Hurt Runs Deep by Kay Arthur

Jr books: blue label

Christian Heroes: Then and Now series (10 books) by Janet & Geoff Benge

Wingfeather Saga (set of 4) by Andrew Peterson

Easy Reader books: red label

Jesus, Our True Friend by Sally Lloyd-Jones & Jago

And many more! Thank you for the donations!

I have cleaned all of the Adventure in Odyssey CDs again and some DVDs due to scratches and food causing them to skip or stick. Not all were fixable. Some of the broken cases have also been replaced. If you should run across any extra Odyssey CDs, I have three Adventure in Odyssey sets with missing CDs (#10 and #40 are missing disk 1 and #25 is missing disk 2).

Just a reminder to check your shelves for overdue books. When checking out and returning DVDs and CDs please make sure all disks are in the case! Leave a note on the item if a disk is missing or not working. If you can note the disk number and track number that's not working, it also helps me find the problem easier.

Most of all, delight in His Word!

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night. *Psalms 1:2*

September Librarians: Georgie Neff and Bonnie McCaskell



Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

"You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book."

~ Psalms 56:8 (NLT)

I'm a crier . . . I cry easily. At the drop of a hat — ANY hat. It's not, necessarily, that my feelings are easily hurt. Odds are, I will cry more readily in a moment of joy or gratitude than in anger or sorrow. Usually, it is my husband who recognizes that I might be crying tears of joy.

To me, however, they just feel like . . . tears. And human logic — in my beady, little mind — dictates that tears mean sadness over something. They mean that something must be wrong. Consequently, I've been puzzled over my tears for a long time.

Because I find it most puzzling when I don't know **WHY** I'm crying. When I cannot identify the **reason** for those tears. You see, I'm pretty self-aware. And, I'm a problem solver. I can usually noodle around in my mind and figure out what's causing me to feel a certain way. So, when I cannot identify the **cause** for the tears, frustration rises . . . and brings more tears to the puzzle.

This morning, as I cried my way through 'thank-you' prayers, during my quiet time with God, I asked Him about it.

"Why can't I tell the difference? Why do all of the tears just feel like . . . tears?"

Then, I read through the devotionals I use, and talked to Him some more afterward. I discovered that He had tucked the answer to my question INTO today's devotional messages. While we were talking afterward, He revealed the answer I needed . . .

Every sorrow houses an element of joy. Every pain hides a gratitude. Every fear carries an element of peace with it. For every negative thing that this Earthly life brings with it, God offers us the '*flip side of the coin*' . . . another way for us to look at it. Therefore, it is all — in my own words — tangled up together. God's way of explaining it is much more picturesque.

The bottom line, of what I'm learning, is simple: God **cares** about my tears. He **notices** them.

Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

God takes all the sorrow and all the joy. All the fear and all the peace. All the pain and all the gratitude . . . and He weaves them all together. The intricacy of the resulting image, and the contrasting colors, create something so strikingly beautiful that it takes our breath away.

The wonder of it all leaves us totally speechless. Unless you're like me.

For me, "speechless" always leads back to my "default setting". Whenever I can't find the words . . . I cry. And, because I know God counts them, I no longer try to hide them -- not from Him . . . and not from anyone else.

My friends, as our **Little White Church** family navigates these unfamiliar waters God is guiding us through, I offer you this bit of encouragement . . . it is not just MY tears that God cares about. He counts *yours*, too.

AND, I am not the only one of us that is offered two different ways to look at something. We ALL have that choice. I remind us all to pause a few beats when those negative thoughts and reactions pop up. Is there a kinder, more positive & loving way to see that particular situation? I'll bet there is. **Look** for it! You'll be surprised at how much better it makes you feel!

To His Glory . . . BJ



Echoes of God's Glory in Creation

Roseanne Hilton

Reflections from Psalm 92:1-2, 12-15

The psalm begins, “It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to the Most High. It is good to proclaim Your unfailing love in the morning, and Your faithfulness in the evening.”

Verse 12, “The godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon.

For they are transplanted into the LORD's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green. They will declare, “The LORD is just! He is my rock! There is nothing but goodness in Him.”

[New Living Translation 1997]

Do you find that respect for the older generation of humanity has diminished in the culture of today? Perhaps you or others think that “old” equals “outdated,” or that “elderly” means “obsolete.” Consider changing your vocabulary and use the word “experienced,” which refers to knowledge or skill gained over a period of time.

Thank the LORD that His people are still producing fruit and are vital and green.



Announcements



Grief Share Support Group will be held on Tuesdays (begins Sept. 1st) from 5:45-8 pm. Supper provided. Scan QR code to sign up or contact church office. Need help dealing with grief? Find help at Grief Share.

Middle/High School Youth Group “school season” will begin on Wednesday, September 2nd from 5:30-8 pm. Supper provided!

If you would like to help with Youth Group, please see Pastor Ben!

Kid’s Church & 4th/5th Grade Sunday School Fall Kickoff will be on Sunday, September 6th during 10:15 am service! Lots of fun things planned for the kids!!

Office/Food Pantry will be closed on Monday, September 7th.

**Black Granite Retreat – FREE Annual Event
September 4-7 – Black Granite Road in Custer**

For more information and itinerary, go to: www.blackgraniteretreat.com

BSF (Bible Study Fellowship) for women and children (0-5 yrs) will be held on Thursdays at 8:30 am. Begins Sept. 10th. Register at bsfinternational.org

Adult Sunday Night Bible Study will begin on Sept. 13th at 6 pm.

Men’s Wednesday Breakfast/Study will begin meeting on **September 9th at 7:30 am.** Study will be in the book of Acts. All men welcome to come!

Life Group Fair will be held **Sunday, September 27th in-between services.** This will be an event to help the entire church body learn more about our groups and ministry offerings in this area!

Newcomers Lunch will be held Sunday, October 4th at Noon.

Connections Class for New Attendees and those interested in learning more about LWC, will be held Sundays October 11, 18 & 25 at 10:15 am in the Library.

Women's Retreat - Hospitality: An Overlooked Ministry, Nov. 6-8 at Camp Judson.

If you signed up to help with meal trains (Our Daily Bread), please make sure to check your spam/junk mail to make sure you don’t miss an email from Taylor Robison! Thank you!

CONNECT

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sept
23

7:30 am

Hill City Elementary Flag Pole

come to
me

matthew 11:28

SEE YOU AT THE POLE™

GLOBAL DAY OF STUDENT PRAYER

When a teenager earned his driving permit, he approached his father, a minister, to discuss using the car. His dad replied, "I'll make you a deal. Raise your grades, spend some time in your Bible and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk."



A month later, the young man came back. "Son, I'm proud of you," his father said. "Your grades are up, and you've been faithful in your Bible study. But you didn't get your hair cut."

The teenager paused. "Well, Dad, I've been thinking. Samson had long hair. Moses had long hair. Noah had long hair. Even Jesus had long hair."

His father nodded. "That's true.
And they walked everywhere they went."



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Sunday Service Times at 8:30 am & 10:15 am—Fellowship In-Between

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