



Nutrioso Bible Church STREAMS IN THE WILDERNESS

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SERVE OTHERS



When is the last time you took a good long look at yourself in the mirror? Self reflection is a good thing. It helps us correct some problems and keeps us going in the right direction. There are extremes that we can go to in this process that are not healthy. If upon reflection, you see nothing good then you probably have some problems that you need to get help in resolving. The flip

side to that coin is looking and seeing nothing wrong. This is a serious problem as well.

In reality that look in the mirror is as subjective as having a favorite color or a favorite flavor of ice cream.

Notice the picture to the left. Hopefully, you can see that I and the camera are in focus and the rest of the image is not. It is when we focus on particular actions in our life that we can judge the quality of those action. Focusing on action helps give a

better picture of the true quality of our life, much more so than how we feel about ourselves at any given moment. It is almost time for spring cleaning so include yourself in the process. Focus on yourself just long enough to make sure all the rooms in your life are in order (get help if needed) and then go to work helping others. It is in the action of serving others that we will begin to find the value of our lives. As John Wesley said, we are saved for good works, not by them.



FRONT PAGE NEWS

- ◆ Serve Others
- ◆ Book Review: The Universe Next Door

“Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:6

The Universe Next Door

As you may recall, last month’s newsletter contained several items on developing a worldview. Many of the thoughts contained in that letter were generated from reading James Sire’s, *The Universe Next Door*. In this book, Sire attempts to discuss many of the worldviews held by people today. He begins with Christianity in that it is the root cause of much of

Western Civilizations thought processes. Do you understand eastern Hinduism, Buddhism, or Muslim thought? They are all very different from each other. Are they important? Have you ever wondered why the Iraqi people didn’t respond to liberation from a tyrant in the same way we would in America? Does the term Eastern Pantheistic Monism mean anything to you?

Closer to home, what is there in New Age thought that draws people to it? What is modernism and post-modernism? All these questions and many more are answered in this book. It answered so many questions I had about why people come up with the strangest of ideas. It’s all closer than you think. The reading is a bit heavy but it is well worth the effort.

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Acorns into Oaks by Woody Brohm

GOD'S WORD EXPLAINS TO US IN VERY CLEAR TERMS THAT OUR SALVATION IS NOT GIVEN TO US AS SOMETHING WE'RE DUE BECAUSE OF OUR EFFORT. WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE, WHICH MEANS GOD DID SOMETHING FOR US...

SIN SHOWS UP IN SOME OBVIOUS WAYS SUCH AS AN IMMORAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY OR THEFT OF ITEMS OR SERVICES, BUT ALSO IN MORE SUBTLE WAYS SUCH AS WORRY, COVETING OR PRIDE.

Springtime is in full swing and the weather is great! What a perfect season to get out and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. Signs of new life are all around with budding flowers and blossoms where there used to be dormant deathlike brush and nothingness. It's common for Christians to make use of this season to appreciate our new life in Christ and to use this time of year to find a teachable moment to teach our children that through Jesus, we can experience death and new life in much the same way.

The state of our own spiritual condition is an intangible but that doesn't mean it's invisible. For some, their spiritual condition would be best represented by a large oak tree standing out in its surroundings as a picture of experienced faithfulness with deep roots and healthy limbs providing shade and protection. There would also be evidence of an acorn that has started growing into young tree nearby symbolizing a healthy new believer who is being molded as a disciple to look like his teacher.

Another person may be a born-again believer which would indicate that they are a very special useful plant, yet because they aren't bearing any fruit, they would blend into the field

of weeds, representing the world. A casual observer of such a field wouldn't notice the difference.

God's Word explains to us in very clear terms that our salvation is not given to us as something we're due because of our effort. We are saved by grace, which means God did something for us and offers the benefit of that to us even though we don't deserve it. However, the apostolic teaching recorded in the bible speaks frequently of the change that happens once we possess the faith that Christ's sacrifice was adequate to God for the forgiveness of our sin. This change is something that can be observed and measured much like we observe plant life. Perhaps this season will serve as a good time to examine ourselves. Are we growing with healthy leaves and buds as evidence or are we stuck in a dormant state? Can others tell we are Christians by our distinctive characteristics or do we blend in with the world around us? Are there any other plants that look like us as the result of the seeds we've inevitably produced? Think of God as an experienced landscape architect with an unlimited budget. He is putting together an incredible masterpiece that we could call the

Church, followers of Christ. Many various types of trees, bushes and plants would be masterfully blended together to increase the collective beauty to be more beautiful than any one would be alone. This is what God is doing with his church! So, how can we examine our own spiritual condition? For starters, write down and prayerfully consider aspects of who you are and what direction you are moving. If you find that the sin in your life is controlling or limiting you from doing what you know you should be, that would be an unhealthy symptom. Sin shows up in some obvious ways such as an immoral sexual activity or theft of items or services, but also in more subtle ways such as worry, coveting or pride. This process, if done honestly, will take some time, if not meditation, and it may be useful to work with someone close to you like a spouse, family member, or trusted life-long friend. On the other hand, the desire of Christ would be that you reveal a sincere appreciation and understanding of your new standing in Christ with God as your Father. Regular prayer and an increased comprehension of Scripture followed by conviction of sin are all great indicators. These things

Funny Email Problem

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. The plan was to stay at the hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel. So, the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day. The husband checked

into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an email to his wife. He left out one letter in her email address, and without realizing his error, sent the email. Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who was called home to glory following a heart attack. The widow

checked her email expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the message, she screamed and fainted. Her son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife
Subject: I've Arrived
I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers

here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have checked in. I've seen that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then!!!! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was. P.S. Sure is hot down here!!!!

Heaven: Reservations Required

God is Crazy About YOU! (Psalm 23)

- The Lord is my shepherd- That's relationship!
- I shall not want- That's supply!
- He maketh me to lie down in green pastures-That's rest!
- He leadeth me beside the still waters- That's refreshment
- He restoreth my soul – that's healing!
- He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness- That's guidance!
- For His name sake – That's purpose!
- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death – That's testing!
- I will fear no evil – That's protection!
- For thou art with me – That's faithfulness!
- They rod and thy staff they comfort me – That's discipline!
- Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies – That's hope!
- Thou annointest my head with oil - That's consecration!
- My cup runneth over – that's abundance!
- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life – That's blessing!
- And I will dwell in the house of the Lord – That's security!
- Forever – That's eternity!

My Response to God's Love
 Lord you are the nourishment I desperately want. You replenish me and mold me so that I may serve you; and for this I'm am so thankful. Lord you represent quiet, calm, and joy in my life; which is the only place where I can find restful haven from the clamor of each day. You lead me to restful places. In

Acorns into Oaks (continued)

will call for action on your part, so watch and analyze the decisions you make and the motivation for those decisions. A new love for others will emerge with a desire to share this experience of salvation with the lost as well as a special kind of love for those who possess the same type of saving faith you have been given. Along with this love for fellow believers will come a miraculous new ability to use your talents to minister to them, aka spiritual gift(s). In a nutshell – or in an acorn, you will

become more Christ-like in various and eventually all aspects of your life.

The fact is, we are all bearing fruit of one kind or another. Either our sinful nature is producing sin and strife, or our Christ-like nature is producing the fruit of the Spirit. The Apostle Paul spoke of this in his letter to the Galatians.

"When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleas-

ures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy,

peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives." Galatians 5:19-26 (NLT)

The Bumper Sticker..

1. **Money is a great servant but a terrible master!**
2. **God gives every bird its food, but He does not throw it into its nest.**
3. **He who loses money, loses much; He who loses a friend, loses more; He who loses faith, loses all.**
4. **God made round faces; man makes 'em long.**
5. **Honesty is not only the**
6. **best policy, it is the will of GOD!**
7. **What does it take for God to get our attention?**
8. **There are many things in my life for which I am ashamed, but Jesus is not one of them.**
9. **You can't walk with God and hold hands with Satan at the same time.**
10. **Faith is a journey, not a destination.**
11. **Jesus never taught how to preach--- only how to pray.**
12. **Jesus declared the truth; He never gave opinions.**
13. **When was the last time you told God you love Him? He is still listening.**

Taken from:
<http://sblom.com/cbs/>

Quote:

A love for tradition has never weakened a nation, indeed it has strengthened nations in their hour of peril.

Winston Churchill

quotationspage.com

God is Crazy About You *(continued)*

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Church Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 11:00 AMWednesday
Prayer Time
3:00 PM

my heart. I desire to be in the comfort of your love. I am refreshed by the depth of your love. When I stumble around looking for a way out of the trouble I have encountered, you are with me. You heal my heart when it hurts; and you guide me back to the love that restores our fellowship. You are faithful to me in my time of need, and show me how I can help others who are hurting just like me. As struggles surround me, I do not worry for you have placed your promise of faithfulness both in your word and in my heart. You are steadfast and forgiving, and you enfold me in your love. Your assurances of who you are and what you stand for, strengthen me regardless of the storm that envelops me. I am no longer lost in the grips of the fear that used to control me daily. I now stand in your strength, because you are with me all the days of my life. I pray for my enemies, that they will come to know you, just as I do. Thank you for loving me and for caring for me each day of my life. Thank you for the peace that you have placed in my heart. I love each day that you have given me. I know you are preparing a “home” for me where I will be with you for forever. What a privilege it is to know you and love you. (modified from an email)

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.NUTRIOSOBIBLECHURCH.COM

COME CELEBRATE CHRIST!

Changing My View: Responsibility

In the Spring and early Summer of 1994, almost one million people were killed in a genocide that took place mostly in Rwanda, Africa. Just so you know, that is about 30,000 people killed per day. What did the U.S. do? Nothing! This was one of our more shameful moments as a nation.

Why do I bring this up now? First, I must confess that I chose not to watch TV and as such do not have much of an idea about what the “drive by media” is covering. I doubt seriously they are giving the kind of attention needed to the real problems of our world. I do not trust the media to give an unbiased presentation of world events. They have the responsibility to help us focus on the pressing issues of our times; and they, in my opinion, have failed us. Let us as the people of this nation, look for opportunities to make a difference in our world.

I made a comment about having shameful moments as a nation, and indeed we have had a few. If the truth were actually told, I am

sure that we still fall short of the mark given the propensity of politicians to lie and to cut “backroom” deals they hope never come to light. That being said, I still believe that we live in the greatest nation the world has ever known. Here’s the problem: We keep saying that we are great, but fewer and fewer people are doing what is required to make a great nation. You have long been told of our Civil Rights, our freedoms; but do you remember that behind each freedom is a responsibility? Many people live as though they have no responsibilities whatsoever. Let us, as a nation, turn back to our responsibilities to God, country and fellow man. Many of us know the opening words to the Gettysburg address, “Four score and seven years ago...” Do you know how that address ends? The last paragraph reads, “The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it [the land at Gettysburg], far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but

it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Our responsibility to God is to live under His direction (He did make the rules after all). Our responsibility to our country is to be informed and to vote the dictates of a clear conscience before God. Our responsibility to our fellow American is to love, honor, and protect each person no matter how insignificant others may think they are. Remember, God loved you first!!!!

The Options

If I Want My Dreams To Come True

- If I want my dreams to come true, I must not oversleep.
- Off all the things I wear, my expression is the most important.
- The best vitamin for making friends: B-1
- The quality of my life depends on the quality of my thoughts.
- I should keep my words soft and sweet in case I have to eat them.
- The heaviest thing I can carry is a grudge.
- One thing I can give and still keep: my word.
- Ideas won't work unless “I” do.
- My mind is like a parachute...it functions only when open.