

GOOD NEWS GLEANINGS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2011

WILL AMERICA LOOK BACK ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001? - TERRY CONGER

It has already been ten years since America was attacked by a foreign land. Not since the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, has America been attacked like this from foreign soil.

Most of us know where we were and what we were doing when the World Trade Center was attacked, and some of us remember Pearl Harbor. The attack on the Twin Towers, also known as the World Trade Center, will be remembered by most of us for the rest of our lives.

The attack on America on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, was a well planned and almost per-

fectly executed attack. Four airplanes carried out the assault. Flights 11 and 175, from Boston and Los Angeles, crashed into the World Trade Center. Flight 77, from Washington-Dulles to Los Angeles, crashed into the Pentagon. The fourth, Flight 93, from Newark to San Francisco, crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The terrorists that carried out this travesty on America were very determined individuals. They were soldiers who were fighting for a cause in which they believed. In their own minds, they were very brave. Proverbs 21:2 says, **“Every way a man is right in his own**

eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.”

As I look at it, they were very foolish and cowardly. A brave man shoots when shot at or shoots to save the lives of others, not to intentionally kill innocent people, especially people who were of no threat to them.

When it was over and as the death toll mounted, 2,753 precious souls, including women and children, died in the Twin Towers. Of those trying to save them, 343 firefighters, 60 policemen, and 8 paramedics lost their lives. Another 184 precious souls died in the attack on the Pentagon. On the...*Continued on page 3.*

ARE WE USEFUL? - PAUL NEWLOVE

Many Christians have prayed the prayer, “Lord, us me.” Most believers want to be used by the Lord. We ought to pray, however, “Lord, make me usable” or Lord, make me worth using.”

The truth is, many professing Christians are spiritually unable to be used

much by God. Believers who lack faithfulness, a proper testimony for our Savior, or are spiritually weak will not be used much by Jesus Christ.

So how can we be used by the Lord? Psalm 34:18 says, “The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart and saveth such as be

of a contrite spirit.” The more our heart is broken, the more our spirit is under the Holy Spirit, the more we are made usable.

Much of the time, the Lord must afflict us in order for us to be brought closer to Him. It is our fleshly nature to fight and struggle...*Continued on Page 3.*

ON THE CALENDAR AT GOOD NEWS:

- September 4th—Assembly Sunday
- September 4th—The Lord’s Table
- September 11th—Friend Sunday
- September 17th—Youth Activity at 5:00pm
- September 18th—Highways and Hedges Sunday

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSES

"Thou art my portion, O Lord: I have said that I would keep my words."
- Psalm 119:57

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."
- John 1:29

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."
- Galatians 5:22-23

Hide God's Word in
your heart!



He Is Coming in the Clouds!

HOLDING BIBLICAL STANDARDS

There is a great deal of confusion today about why we do what we do. Why should we hold to a high standard? When so many churches have dropped their standards to "reach" the world, why shouldn't we?

Many Christians, when confronted by the world, don't have an answer for the way that we live, but there is a reason. That reason is the Word of God. The Word of God is where we find our convictions and standards.

Let us first discuss convictions. A conviction is something that we believe in our heart of hearts about God and His Word. An example would be the virgin birth of Christ or the Trinity.

Convictions ought to be something that we should be willing to stand on without question even when our life is threatened. Many Christians have gone to their deaths because they would not recant on their Biblical convictions.

Convictions are being

tossed aside today as easily as the garbage. We cannot afford to lose our biblical convictions. Without them, we have a watered-down Gospel and nothing on which our faith can rest. Let your faith rest on the authority of God's Word.

Let us move now to standards. A Standard is something that we believe is pleasing and honoring to the Lord. It may not be something that is written specifically...Continued on Page 4.

POETRY CORNER

- JO ANN NEWLOVE

Commit

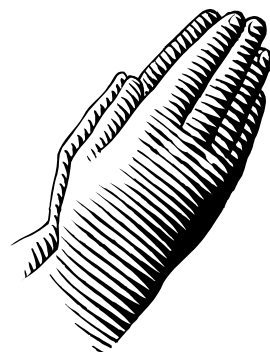
These days you seem to find
Folks are of a different mind.
When to do a task
They are by someone asked,
Excuses seem to flow—
"Why, if you could only know...
My vacation has been planned.
The kids might get out of hand.
The relatives may come, and
Then the job would be undone.
No, no, I'd better not.
Someone else should be got."
But your answer should be "Yes!"
"I'll surely give it my best.
I'll clean the church floor.
I'll hold open the church door.
If I'm called on for babies to care,
Or the Gospel truth to share,
His work must willingly be
done."
So follow through; carry on.
For this one thing I do recall,
I owe the Savior my best, my all.
And if I would to Him submit,
To His service I must commit.
Put your hand to what must be
done,
And follow through, carry on.

Clouds

Overwhelmed by clouds of
despair?
Surrounded by clouds of
gloom?
Storm clouds fill your
mind's air?
Overshadowed by clouding
doom?
When disheartening clouds
hold you at bay,
Remember, a cloud can be a
wonderful thing.
With a cloud God led His
people on their way.
Clouds, the latter rain will
bring.
The clouds of glory filled
the temple round about.
A cloud will bring our king
with a shout!
When clouds overshadow,
there is One Who cares.
Look for Jesus in the
clouds,
For He is there.

For Such a Time as This

For such a time as this,
God calls His own to stand.
He reaches forth and picks
Each one to lend his hands.
Esther was called to save a nation,
To face the king was bidden.
Daniel was called to pray,
To pray boldly and unhidden.
We're called to share His Word.
Fear not, nor be remiss.
Go boldly 'til all have heard.
We're here for such a time as this.



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to be in the place of usefulness. However, we cannot hear our Savior until we are in the place to listen and to pay attention to His Words. We must lean toward God or have a "bent" toward Him before we can be brought nigh to God. Hosea 5:15 says, "...In their affliction they will seek me early."

In our church, we have a wonderful Christian couple who, over all the time I have known them, have suffered great health troubles. Over

this past year, neither husband nor wife have been able to stay free of the hospital more than a few weeks at a time. Yet their love for Christ has never faltered. Their desire to be in the House of God has never changed, and their desire to be useful to the Lord has never been surrendered.

The more we know God, the more we can be used. The more we are made in the image of Jesus Christ, the greater use we have in the

service of the Lord. Jesus Christ wants unselfish, surrendered, prayer-loving, Bible-studying Christians as His workers. Do you want to be useful? Get to know God and what is important to God!

Paul Newlove is the Associate Pastor at Harvest Baptist Church in Acworth, Georgia under Pastor Dan Reed. He has served God faithfully in the ministry for the last four decades.

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jetliners, 227 passengers and crew were killed. All of the 19 hijackers died as well.

The world looked on in horror as the great landmarks, the Twin Towers, crumbled to the ground killing thousands of innocent men, women, and children. President George W. Bush was at a grade school in Sarasota, Florida doing a book reading when he heard of the attack. President Bush led the Teachers and students in a moment of silence after hearing the news.

When the towers fell, many heroes came to the aid of people they didn't even know. Color, race, and religious preference didn't matter. Rescue workers from New York City, surrounding counties, and states came to the aid of those who were injured or still in the towers. What happened next?

On September 12, 2001, people started buying American flags to show their patriotism. Stores were sold out in a

matter of days. I'm glad people want to fly the American flag, but we still have a big problem. Instead of trying to buy American flags, our churches should have been filled to capacity with the prayers for our country and the people who were grieving over a lost loved one. People should have been praying for God's Hand of protection on this country. Instead, our churches didn't see much increase at all, just a lot of flags that soon went by the wayside. Will America look back?

This country will not see God's great protection until we, as One Nation Under God, turn our hearts back to Him. Why can we not believe what the Bible says in 1 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear

from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will hear their land." Will America look back?

Let us look back, America, and not forget our past. Let us remember where and when we failed. But let us remember to turn to an Almighty God for our strength and protection. Thousands of precious souls went out into eternity on September 11th. How many of them were lost with no hope of eternity of God? We as Christian people have a job to do; we must reach the lost before it is too late. The tragedy of September 11th could happen anywhere, even here in Albuquerque or Rio Rancho. We must win the lost at any cost. Flags and memorials are wonderful to look at, but they are only temporal. The grace and power of a loving God is the only thing that is ever lasting.

Love in Christ,
Terry Conger

GOOD MEALS FROM GOOD NEWS

CORN SALSA

- 1 can black eye peas
- 2 cans shoe peg corn
- 1 can Rotel tomatoes
- 1 jar minced garlic
- 1 bunch fresh cilantro
- 1 bunch green onions
- 1 8 oz. bottle Italian dressing

Drain all canned & jarred ingredients. Chop cilantro and onions. Mix all ingredients together in bowl. Salt & pepper to taste.

"A MERRY HEART DOETH GOOD LIKE A MEDICINE."

The Sunday school teacher was describing when Lot's wife looked back on Sodom and turned into a pillar of salt. Bobby interrupted, "My mommy looked back once when she was driving. She turned into a telephone pole."

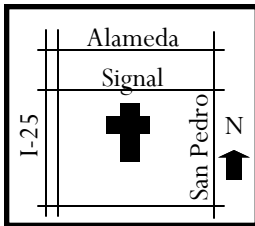
The Sunday school teacher dismissed her students to church and asked, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" A little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Good News Gleanings

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"NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS; BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER: AND SO MUCH THE MORE AS WE SEE THE DAY APPROACHING."

- HEBREWS 10:25

Who has sinned?

Romans 3:10 "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one:"

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

What is the eternal cost of sin?

Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death;..."

Who can pay this cost?

Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 6:23 "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Will Jesus pay this cost for you?

Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Can you be sure?

Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Will you turn to Jesus Christ today?

Pray something like this: "Dear Lord, I turn from my sins, for I have truly sinned against a holy God in many ways. I believe that You, Jesus, died for my sins, paying the price I owe and that You are truly alive now, to help me live for You. Thank You, Lord, for you told me to come to you and You will save me."

in the Bible, but are derived from Biblical principles. It has to do with sanctification, morality, and the desire not to offend a brother or give a confusing testimony to the lost. Standards are sometimes confused with legalism.

That is completely incorrect. Legalism is adding works to faith. Standards simply ask the Christian to go to the next level. An example of a standard would be "not smoking". Why are standards necessary to the church? Standards are necessary to anything you do. A ruler or a yardstick is a standard to draw a straight line. Possessing a certain body of knowledge is a

standard for advancing to the next grade. Ability to perform certain physical tasks is one standard to graduate boot camp. Should we not have standards in our homes and in our church? Standards are necessary for a church to please the Lord and to be an effective witness to the lost. How can we say, "You should be a Christian" when we are no different from them? How do we define our standards? We define our standards by Biblical principles. The Bible does not say, "Don't smoke." It does say that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:19) Standards are part of the sacrifice of service some-

times. It may not be something that is considered "that bad." But if it hurts our personal testimony or the testimony of the church, then we ought to be willing to give it up.

Sometimes it's easy to get upset over a church standard just as our children might get upset with us over our rules and standards. But we have to ask ourselves if it's really work getting upset over. How much is that particular issue worth to us? If it can help someone if we don't do that thing, isn't that worth something? It takes real maturity to hold high standards in the church.

Standards are important for holding worker positions

in the church. Whether it is on the platform, in the classroom, or on the van it is important that we hold to certain standards. Workers are examples. Workers are subject to criticism. Workers need to have the respect of others.

Workers are standard setters. Most of the time, whatever level the worker's standard is, those he serves will have their standards somewhere below his. If we desire good standards for those we minister to, we must have high standards for ourselves.

Let your convictions and standards come from the wonderful Word of God, and you'll never go wrong!