

"Vision 2020"



DECEMBER 2020

FROM THE DESK OF:

GERALD B. COLLINGSWORTH, PASTOR



Pastor & Mrs. C
"Old-Fashioned Sunday"

What Is Lacking In Your Christmas?

INTRODUCTION: In *Mark 10:21*, when the rich young ruler came to Jesus wanting to know what to do to inherit eternal life, he gave a list of things he had done. Jesus then said, **"One thing thou lackest."** Jesus was saying "There's still something lacking."

Even though we may be unaware of certain things lacking in our life, we know that God sees us as we are. So, what we need to do is see those things that are lacking.

FIRST: PRIORITIES ARE LACKING IN MOST.

MATTHEW 16:26

"For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Our Lord Jesus Christ urges all of us to realize how important it is to settle our eternity.

The soul is lost when we reject Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. Jesus is the only way for us to receive eternal life. (*John 10:28*).

The sad truth is, that most prefer to win the world even if it drowns them in self-destruction.

SECOND: PERCEPTION IS LACKING IN SOME.

MATTHEW 16:3

"...ye can discern the face of the sky; but ye cannot discern the signs of the times?"

The weather is used more than any other item to strike up a conversation, but try to bring up the Bible in conversation, even if it reveals current events and watch how quickly the subject is changed.

The unsaved person is missing everything that is spiritual. That's why the unsaved need to be born-again to understand truth. (*1 Corinthians 2:14*)

On the other hand, the person who is saved should be responsive to the Bible, and if he is not, there are clear reasons:

- Hindering the Holy Spirit.
- Resisting the Holy Spirit.
- Sin in their life.
- Just plain lazy.

One clear sign of the God of the Bible is the unbelievable changes in the lives of those that have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. It is obvious that Jesus Christ has transformed them.

In spite of all the evidence, man is missing the discernment to see the hand of God at work.

THIRD: PLAIN COMMON-SENSE IS LACKING IN MANY.

MATTHEW 16:9-12

There is such a lack of understanding today even among other Christians. Here in these verses, even disciples did not appear to grasp clear teachings from Christ Himself.

The average Christian today is so ignorant of the Bible it is ridiculous. It is a shame.

There are some professed Christians today that believe more of what a newspaper teaches than accept the clear-taught teachings of Scripture.

FOURTH: PREPARATION IS CERTAINLY LACKING.

AMOS 4:12

"Prepare to Meet thy God"

If you were to die today, what would you be lacking in preparation?

Continued



**Pastor Jerry
Ross**

A Young Man Should Not Hesitate To Draw His Sword Against Evil.

1 Samuel 1:14-15, “And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD’S anointed? And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died.”

The latter part of King Saul’s reign was marked by jealousy and insecurity against David. King Saul hated him, haunted him, and hunted him. Twice, while Saul sought for David, God allowed David opportunity to kill Saul. Twice, David could have taken Saul’s life. But David understood a principle — you do not lift up your hand against divinely appointed authority.

When the news came of Saul and Jonathan’s death, from David’s lips is delivered a tender and gracious epitaph (***II Samuel 1:17-27***). He also delivered swift justice to the

Amalekite who claimed to have slain Saul. David called to one of his young men to “***fall upon***” this messenger with a sword. The Amalekite died that day because he had dared to lift up his sword against God’s anointed leader of Israel.

Young man, there are times to draw your sword against evil.

God’s appointed leader for every home is the father. A young man who stands passively by while someone mocks, disobeys or ridicules his father is not a man, but a boy. God’s anointed leader for your church is your pastor. A boy stands mute mouth while others seek to slay his pastor with their tongues, but a man draws his sword! Never lift up your hand against God’s appointed authority (whether it be a Sunday School teacher, your youth pastor, your boss, etc.), and never let any other man stand in your presence and do it unchallenged.

2 Samuel 18:15, “And ten young men that bare Joab’s armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.”

Absalom’s name is synonymous with rebellion. In a premeditated fashion, he stood outside a gate of Jerusalem and subtly criticized and steadily undermined his father’s authority. He turned the hearts of men away from God’s appointed leader and towards himself.

Joab, David’s captain of the host, sought out this rebel in battle and found him hanging in a tree by the symbol of his rebellious heart - his long flowing hair. Joab thrust three darts into the heart of Absalom, and then encouraged his young men to finish the job. Young men drew their swords and slew a rebel.

Boys tolerate and/or sadly idolize rebels. Men confront them with drawn swords. The Bible says that rebellion is “***as the sin of witch craft***” (***1 Samuel 15:23***). Rebellion is satanic and should never be tolerated by a real man.

Judges 8:20-21, “And he said unto Jether his firstborn, Up, and slay them. But the youth drew not his sword: for he feared, because he was yet a youth. Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, Rise thou, and fall upon us for as the man is, so is his strength. And Gideon arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunna, and took away the ornaments that were on their camels’ necks.”

Two heathen kings, Zebah and Zalmunna, reigned over Midian. The Midianites were the avowed enemies of Israel. They had oppressed and defiled the people of God. After God delivered them into the hand of Gideon and his three hundred warriors, Gideon instructed his son, Jether, to draw his sword and slay these wicked kings. Jether lacked the courage to do so. He was even taunted by these enemies of God who encouraged him to play the man, but because of his youthfulness, fear stayed his hand. Gideon steps up and slays them while his son, Jether, watches in fear—and we never again hear mentioned, in the Scriptures, the name of Jether.

Satan is the enemy of Christ. He is the original rebel and has vowed to destroy the church of the living God. Boys cower in fear, and refuse to fight his influences. Some even turn traitor, choosing to live their lives joining Satan in hurting the work of God.

Real men fight the enemy of Christ. Real men draw their swords.



Heritage Highlanders December 2020 Schedule

Saturday December 5

Christmas Craft

Saturday December 12

Christmas Cookies

Proverbs 31:13

Gen. 18:6

Saturday December 19

Giving

Saturday December 26

Christmas Party

II Cor. 9:7

Psalms 100:2

Sweet Potatoe Delight

4 pounds sweet potatoes
4 tablespoons butter,
melted

1/4 cup heavy cream
1/4 cup honey
1/3 cup orange juice

1 tsp. orange zest
1/4 cup firmly packed dark
brown sugar

1 tsp. sea salt
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
3/4 cup pecan halves

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Peel, wash, and quarter the sweet potatoes. Place them in a stockpot, add enough water to cover them by 2 inches, and bring them to a boil. Continue boiling them until they are fork-tender, about 15 minutes. Drain, and transfer them to a large bowl.

Add the butter, cream, honey, orange juice, orange zest, brown sugar, salt, and nutmeg, and mash everything together with a potato masher or an electric mixer. Spoon the sweet potato mixture into a casserole dish, and top it with pecan halves. Bake it for 30 minutes. *Makes 8-10 servings*

Would you awaken in the presence of God, or in an eternal Hell? The choice was always yours to make.

Conclusion: What would it take to get you to examine your relationship with God right now? This is Christmas time in America. What is lacking in your Christmas? Is it Jesus?

Prayer of Salvation

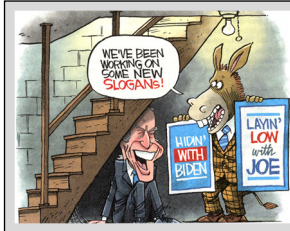
If you were to die today, are you 100% sure you would go to Heaven?

If not, would you be willing to pray this prayer with me?

'Dear Jesus, I'm asking you to come into my heart and forgive me of my sins. I'm trusting you, Jesus, as my Saviour. Thank you for saving me. Amen.' (Romans 10:9 and 10:13)

Prayer of Service

'Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?' (Acts 9:6)



WHAT WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO

SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR MONEY...

"I'm going to get rid of the bulk of Trump's \$2 trillion tax cut and a lot of you may not like that." - Joe Biden, 6/29/2020, making clear he wants more of your hard-earned money.

...AND TO AMERICAN ENERGY EXPANSION

"No more, no new fracking." - Joe Biden, 3/15/2020. Biden's plan to eliminate oil, gas and coal from the power grid would burden Americans with \$4.5 TRILLION in expenses and kill upwards of 10 million jobs.

Mary Had A Little Boy

Mary had a little boy, His soul seemed white as snow, He never went to Sunday School 'cause Mary wouldn't go. He never heard the stories of Christ that thrill the childish mind. While other children went to class, this child was left behind. And as he grew from babe to youth, she saw to her dismay; the soul that once seemed snowy white became a dingy gray. Realizing he was lost she tried to win him back. But now the soul that once seemed white had turned an ugly black. She even started back to church, and Sunday School too! She begged the preacher, "Isn't there a thing that we can do?" The preacher tried, and failed and said, "We're just too far behind, I tried to tell you years ago, but you would pay no mind." And so, another soul is lost that once seemed white as snow. Sunday School would have helped ... but Mary wouldn't go!

Is Repentance for Today?



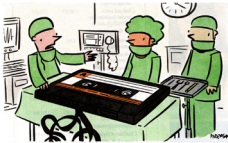
John the Baptist said, ***"Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"*** (Matt. 3:2). Some have foolishly supposed that repentance was for Jews only. But that is not true. Jesus preached the same, exactly, when He came, saying, ***"Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"*** (Matt. 4:17). The same word repent is emphasized just as strongly in the gospel of Luke is in the gospel of Matthew. Jesus said there twice, ***"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"*** (Luke 13:3, 5). To the disciples waiting before Pentecost, Jesus commanded, ***"that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem"*** (Luke 24:47). So the teaching of repentance is a part of the Gospel for all nations, and not merely for Jews. Paul, preaching to the Gentiles on Mars' hill at Athens, said that God ***"now commandeth all men every where to repent"*** (Acts 17:30). Repentance is commanded of ***"all men every where."*** In II Peter 3:9 we are told that, ***"God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*** Paul's preaching in the great Gentile city of Ephesus was ***"repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ"*** (Acts 20:21).

Dr. H. A. Ironside has done us a great service in his book, *Except Ye Repent*, in which he urges that everywhere gospel preachers should stress the fact today, as gospel preachers did in Bible times, that turning to God means a heart-turning away from sin, repentance. Faith in Christ is impossible without a revulsion against sin and a turning of the heart to God, that is, a change of mind, or repentance. All the great preachers who have won thousands of souls have preached that men need to repent of their sins, that there ought to be a godly sorrow which leads to a genuine turning of heart to hate sin and love God. And at the same time the heart puts its trust in Jesus Christ, depending on Christ to forgive the sins that the poor sinner now hates and turns from. Repentance is a part of God's plan of salvation, or rather, is one facet of the single plan of salvation. It is the gospel in one of its simple statements. The gospel that Christ died for our sins and rose again according to the Scriptures is not apprehended nor received honestly by any heart that does not turn away from sin, that does not repent.

So the preaching of John the Baptist was gospel preaching. It was not any different in its dispensation from that of Paul.



Wishing You a Merry Christmas. —Pastor



"PENCIL"

TWO MEN WERE HOTLY DISCUSSING THE MERITS OF A BOOK. FINALLY, ONE OF THEM - HIMSELF AN AUTHOR - SAID TO THE OTHER, "YOU CAN'T APPRECIATE IT BECAUSE YOU NEVER WROTE A BOOK YOURSELF."

"NO," THE OTHER MAN RETORTED, "AND I NEVER LAID AN EGG, BUT I'M STILL A BETTER JUDGE OF AN OMELET THAN ANY HEN."



"Why am I on your counter? Why are you on my floor?"

They call it a family tree because if you look hard enough, you'll always find some sap in it.

No Enemies?

He has no enemies, you say?
My friend, your boast is poor:
He who hath mingled in the fray
Of duty, that the brave endure,
Must have made foes. If he has none
A small is the work that he has done.
He has hit no traitor on the hip;
He has cast no cup from tempted lip;
He has never turned the wrong to right,
He has been a coward in the fight.



"This business of entering people's houses through the chimney has got to stop."

Education can get you the only thing that matters in today's world: an assigned parking space.

Your Clothes Say It For You



Mrs.
Francie

Now I know the Bible is the very Word of God, beyond any doubt. It is written by God, the Creator who made us. So when He tells a young man to be wary of harlots. I'd better pay attention, rather than arguing with the Lord about it. Thinking about it long and hard, I came to see that a woman does have a terrible responsibility for what happens in the man-woman relationship. How she dresses, how she conducts herself, will determine the character of their acts.

The harlot in *Proverbs 7* met a young man "*void of understanding.*" She was dressed in the "*attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart*" (vs. 10). This woman deliberately prepared herself to have an affair. She prepared the bed, the refreshments. (She blasphemously used her offering to God for an enticement to the young man!) But notice especially verse 10: she attired herself in the clothing of an harlot. Any woman who dresses in seductive clothing stands guilty before God for what happens.

What is a harlot's attire? Any clothing that accents the physical features, the secret parts of the body, the reproductive organs.

Does a man have a right to expect a woman will sell what she advertises? Absolutely. If she doesn't want to be propositioned, then she should not advertise it.

How does she advertise? The Bible tells us it is not simply by what she wears, but also by body language. *Proverbs 6:12-13* describe the "*naughty person*" who "*walketh with a froward mouth. He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers; Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually.*" The way a woman moves, what she does with her hands and, eyes, these give a clear message without a word being spoken.



Dr. Jack Hyles

Soul-Winning Experiences

Some of the cutest and funniest experiences that ever happen, happen to soul winners; and some of the most clever statements ever made are made by those getting converted or just recently converted.

Just the other day I heard a soul winner say that he had explained the plan of salvation to a man in his eighties. The old man immediately looked at the soul winner and said, "Well, when can we get with it?"

A soul-winning friend of mine was leading a sinner to Christ. As the soul winner prayed, he said, "Dear Lord, I think this sinner is sincere," whereupon the sinner said, "Lord, don't think nothin' about it. I know he's sincere!"

One time I was leading a mechanic to the Lord, and his prayer was, "Lord, I am coming for a general overhauling."

A young fellow came down the aisle in our church recently with hands tucked in his pockets and asked, "Where is the 'gettin' saved place'?"

A lady came down the aisle in First Baptist Church about five years ago wearing a fur coat. She grabbed me on each side of my face, squeezed my cheeks with her hands, and said, "Guess what, Preacher! I am about to get saved!"

Many years ago when I was a kid preacher a young lady came down the aisle to receive Christ. I wanted to know if she were coming by letter, by statement, or by transfer, so I asked, "Young lady, how are you coming?" With much emotion and many tears, she replied, "Pretty good, How are you getting along?"

An alcoholic got saved in our church in Texas. He asked me what a new Christian should do. I said that a new Christian ought to start giving a tenth to the Lord, whereupon he replied, "I don't know much about this tenth business, but I got two fifths in the car I will give up."

A lady who was won to Christ in a previous pastorate was told to come forward when the others came forward. Hence, she walked the aisle with the ushers and stood at the altar as if to help them take the offering.

These are just a few of the many humorous statements and experiences that come to one who obeys the commission of our Lord to go into all the world.



CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA



"It's my social-distancing support animal."

How to Decorate a Christmas Tree When You Have Children

1. Unpack ornaments.
2. Drop ornament so that it shatters into a million pieces.
3. Repeat.

Me: I hate putting up the Christmas tree every year.

Seven-year-old: So why do you take it down?



From our Pastor's Wife ... Mrs. Vida Collingsworth CHRISTMAS IN 2020

This certainly has been a most unusual year for most people across the world. The Covid-19 Pandemic has brought some changes to our normal routines of life. Most people know of someone who has had this Covid virus either mildly or severely, some even resulting in death.

This Christmas, in spite of trials and heartaches, we should take extra time to focus on the blessings that God gives us each and every day, and then share those blessings with others. Sharing those blessings is a gift of hope and reminder to those around us.

So this Christmas be sure and share the blessings of the Gospel so that others can receive the gift of salvation that only Jesus can give! Share the blessings of answers to prayer—no matter how little or big the answer is! Share the blessings of attending a fundamental Bible believing Baptist Church where you can learn and grow spiritually! Share the blessings of having a Bible where the Word of God comforts, instructs, corrects, directs and teaches us! Share the blessings of family! Rejoice with those living and rejoice with those who are now in Heaven! And this list will go on and on! If you stop to reflect and count all the blessings that the Lord has given you (even through heartaches and trials) you will find these blessings to be priceless treasures. This Christmas of 2020—and every day of the year—let us share the many "gifts of blessings" the Lord gives us each and every day!

Some food for thought ...or... Seed From The Silo!

President Announces Patriotic Education Project

The right-wing cheers and left-wing jeers are continuing over President Trump's announcement of a 1776 commission to promote patriotic education...

Some far-left critics are predictably comparing that announcement to Hitler and Nazi Germany, comparing learning U.S. history to indoctrination. But the president says he is pushing back after generations of U.S. students have been indoctrinated to hate their own country...

Speaking at the National Archives Museum on Constitution Day, Trump warned of "toxic propaganda" that threatens to tear the country apart if it is allowed to continue to create future generations who oppose their own country...

"Critical race theory, the 1619 Project and the crusade against American history," Trump warned... "are toxic propaganda, ideological poison, that if not removed, will dissolve the civic bonds that tie us together."

-onenewsnow.com

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: Although this is a step in the right direction, it will take years to effect the changes that are needed. The liberals in the deep state will fight back.

Supermodel Emily Ratajowski Says She and Her Husband "Won't Know" Baby's Gender "Until Our Child Is Eighteen" and "They'll Let Us Know Then"

It's become standard fare for leftist celebrities to proclaim they're letting their children choose their genders. And pregnant supermodel Emily Ratajowski is the latest writing in Vogue that she and her husband "won't know the gender" of their baby until our child is 18" and "they'll let us know then."

Ratajowski added... "I like the idea of forcing as few gender stereotypes on my child as possible" but that she doesn't like that we force gender-based preconceptions onto people, let alone babies. I want to be a parent who allows my child to show himself to me."

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: This is the nonsensical bloviating of the so-called "woke culture." When children spend their developmental years with parents like this, there is a good chance they too will be totally mixed up at age 18.

Schumer Claims "Generations of Unborn" Will Suffer Under Pro-Life Justice Barrett

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer claimed to care for "generations yet unborn"...as he railed against the confirmation of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett because she is pro-life.

The pro-abortion [senator's] hypocrisy was blatant as he expressed compassion for unborn babies in one sentence and then supported abortion on demand in the next.

"...Generations yet unborn will suffer the consequences of this nomination," Schumer said.

-onenewsnow.com *EDITOR'S COMMENTS: When senators like Mr. Schumer*

get their way, millions of the generations of unborn" are prohibited from ever being born.

What Kind Of Seed Are You Sowing?

Lest We Forget

The Tester Brothers

What the Tester family enjoyed more than anything else was making music. On the front porch of their two-story clapboard home - what came to be known as "the Old Home Place" - Millard and Eliza Tester, along with their seven boys and two girls, would assemble a variety of fiddles, banjos, and other instruments and play the music they learned growing up in the hills and valleys of northeast Tennessee.

In December 1943, a note arrived at the Old Home Place, informing the Testers that a telegram awaited them at the post office in nearby Telford. It fell to Carroll Tester, the youngest and only child still living at home, to walk the 2 1/2 miles to town, retrieve the telegram and bring the news back to his mother, who had lost her husband to cancer the year before. Three times Carroll made the journey, each time bringing back the sad news that one of his older brothers had been killed in the war.

The last telegram arrived in January 1945, and it was that day that the music died. Carroll's sons, Mike and Pat, remember a closet in the Old Home Place where the musical instruments were stored: a banjo, a guitar, a fiddle. They were never strummed or played again, the memories too painful of a time and a group of great brothers gone by.



Our Statement of Faith

We accept the Holy Scriptures contained in the Old and New Testaments as being the verbally inspired Word of God and being perfectly preserved in the King James 1611 Bible. We do not believe it can be corrected or improved upon in any way. It is the final rule of faith and practice. **Psalm 12:6-7, 1 Peter 1:23**

We believe in the triune God, who is eternally in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Matt. 28:19-20**
We believe in the deity of Christ— His virgin birth, His sinless life, His death for the sins of the world, His bodily Resurrection, His exaltation at God's right hand, His personal, imminent, and premillennial return.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 1 Timothy 3:16, Acts 1:11

We believe that all men are sinners and are guilty before God; in need of a Saviour. **Romans 3:23**

We believe that men are born again through faith in Jesus Christ; that they become the children of God, eternally saved; that the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer to guide and help him in his testimony and service.

Acts 16:30-31, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 1:13, John 10:28

We believe in the bodily Resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in Glory, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost in hell. We believe that all believers have a responsibility to get the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ into all the world. **John 5:28-29, Luke 16:22-23, Rev. 20:11-15**

We believe that Baptist churches were the first churches of Christianity and that Jesus founded a Baptist church. **John 1:35-37, Acts 1:22**

Baptist Beliefs

Biblical Authority

Autonomy of the Local Church

Priesthood of ALL Believers

Two ordinances - Baptism & Communion

Immersed Church Membership

Soul-liberty

Two officers - Pastors and Deacons

Baptist Heritage

- **John the Baptist**, Exalter of Christ
- **Meno Simons** (1496-1561), Dutch Anabaptist leader
- **Roger Williams** (1603-1683), Founded the first Baptist church in America in Providence, Rhode Island in 1638.
- **John Clarke** (1609-1676) was a Baptist preacher, medical doctor, and co-founder of the colony of Rhode Island. He was a driving force to get religious freedom into the charter of Rhode Island.
- **John Bunyan** (1628-1688), Baptist preacher who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*
- **Charles Spurgeon** (1834-1892), might be the greatest Baptist pastor
- **John Franklyn Norris** (1877-1952), founder of World Baptist Fellowship
- **Jack Frasure Hyles** (1926-2001), 10,000

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