



OLD PATHS PUBLICATION

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"Let us choose the *Old Paths* once again for the Light to shine upon the faces of men."

THE IRON PEN

Idleness

By Dr. Frank J. Townsend III



Today man is doing the best to get away from this — WORK. Men fought for a five day week, then four. Today people are wanting welfare, unemployment, and their lack of work ethics to supersede making an income by the sweat of thy face. {Bible reference: **GENESIS 3:19**}.

Work is almost considered a curse by some and it's to be avoided. What happened to times past when a man worked to put bread and butter on the table, paid the utility bills, and provided shelter and clothing for their family?

What has happened to the backbone of America? It's supposed to be God first, then the spouse and family. Dads didn't wait on the mailman or direct deposit to put funds into their hands. Men got pay checks for working hard, laboring to give provisions to their wives and children.

Things have really changed in 2020. The pandemic caused financial woes for Americans. The unemployed had to stand in lines or go online to file for unemployment benefits. Some folks ended up on welfare; not by choice, but by necessity. Families lost their homes, and vehicles; having to move out, displaced by circumstances.

I am talking to the men who can work, but don't want to. These men, according to the scriptures, are worse than infidels. Children watch their parents. Are they being taught good work ethics? Do they know it's good to work with their hands?

ECCLESIASTES 10:18 "By much slothfulness the buildings decayeth; and through the idleness of the hands the house droppeth through."

Idleness is a sin! Man seeks pleasure and recreation, and leisurely walks through life. Idleness is always finding ways to please the flesh. The flesh seeks trouble!

EXODUS 20: 9-10 "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: (10) But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates."

Concord Baptist Church WEBSITE:

concordindependentbaptistchurch.com

It has been not only exciting but encouraging to get the publications back in print. Please take a look at our Website. Inside you will find the *Old Paths Publication* & the *Women In The Harvest* on page 3.



The inscription cast onto the Liberty Bell, August 1752, read: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." (Leviticus XXV.10).

The Liberty Bell got its name from being rung July 8, 1776, at the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. It cracked as it rang at the funeral for Chief Justice Marshall in 1835.

AMERICA'S GOD and COUNTRY

Book by William J. Federer

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), was one of the best-known poets. He was known as the "Quaker Poet," as his faith was exhibited in his life and poetry. He wrote *Panorama*, in 1856, which included the favorites *Lays of My Home* and other poems. He also got involved in the political field.

He was the Editor of the *American Manufacturer*, the *Essex Gazette*, the *Pennsylvania Freeman*, and the *National Era*. He bitterly opposed slavery, to the extent that once he was mobbed and severely beaten during a speaking tour.

The popular hymn, *Higher Ground*, by John Greenleaf Whittier: *I'm pressing on the upward way, New heights I'm gaining every day — Still pray as I'm onward bound, My prayer, my aim is higher ground.*

Chorus: *Lord, lift me up and let me stand By faith on heaven's table land, A higher plan than I have found- Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

Later, his office in Philadelphia was burned. Mr. Whittier, one of the first to suggest the creation of a Republican Party, wrote:

I believe the Scriptures because they repeat the warnings and promises in the indwelling Light and Truth; I find in them eternal precepts of the Divine Spirit declared and repeated. They testify of Christ within... My ground of hope for myself and for humanity is in that Divine fulness which was manifested in the life, teachings, and self-sacrifice of Christ. In the infinite mercy of God so revealed, and not in any work or merit of my own nature, I humbly, yet very hopefully, trust.

In 1876, one hundred years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence and shortly after the Civil War had ended, John Greenleaf Whittier wrote his famous *Centennial Hymn*. *We meet today, united free, And loyal to our land and Thee. To thank Thee for the era done, And trust for the opening one.*

"You cannot study the Bible diligently and earnestly without being struck by an obvious fact—the whole matter of personal holiness is highly important to God!"

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**WHAT'S MISSING
IN THE PREACHING?**
By Pastor Frank J. Townsend III

Looking back to the issue of the Old Paths Publication in July of 2001, I found this article. Nineteen years later, this message still applies today.

I had the opportunity to preach at a family reunion for a member in our church. Most of the folks attending were just plain honest sinners. By honest, I mean they did not hide behind religion like some of the others.

I was asked to preach. I began to tell them about the love of God for lost souls. All was going well until I began to get on the subject of sin. I gave a few illustrations. For instance I asked a question. "If you were in the privacy of your own home (you and your wife); and you were sitting around lounging in your undergarments and I knocked on your door, would you let me in?"

Naturally they said, "No."

I asked, "Why not?" They answered, "Because we are not dressed properly."

I thanked them for answering the question and then said, "But you will take those same undergarments, cut some more cloth off (to make it more revealing), change the color, and call it a bathing suit and march down to the beach, lake, or local pool and let everyone take a look. Now things started going down hill.

I said, "If I was to come running through your living room in my fruit of the looms cussing, you would wrestle me down and have me arrested. Yet you'll pay money to pipe it into your home through the television set for the whole family. What, pray tell me, is the difference? There is none!

Now most of the good "godly" people began to get upset. Has it been missing in the preaching they've been getting? In the average church today you can live any way you want, watch whatever you want, and still feel holy. Even the preachers are doing the same. What's missing in the preaching is the Law of God which causes men to see how ungodly they are. They've been told how God loves them (and He does); but they never reason with them about righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come.

ACTS 24:25 "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." When Paul preached, Felix trembled. He said Paul was mad and Agrippa was almost persuaded.

Most people in church today have a self righteous religion that will damn them to a Christ-less HELL because the pastors won't preach the law. **PSALM 19:7** "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."

ROMANS 3:19 "Now we know that what things soever the law know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."

GALATIANS 3:22, 24 "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe." Verse 24: "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

No law, no conviction! No conviction, no repentance! No repentance, no salvation! **ST. LUKE 13:3:** "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Sinners must come under Holy Ghost conviction, and the Holy Ghost uses the Law of God.

Well, anyway, after the preaching, a young girl dressed very skimpy got all tore up. Her mama, sister, and step-daddy all got in the attack. What was wrong? She saw what God saw and she didn't like it. Personally I never noticed how she was dressed (because of where she was sitting) until after the preaching. But she wasn't the only one mad. The law and righteousness showed them their nakedness. Rather than repent, they attacked the messenger. (No ye not the Pharisees were offended)? But the good part was that the husband of one of the women came up and told me how he liked the preaching, and told me he wasn't saved. Before the day was over I prayed God would help him to understand his part in the plan of salvation. (His wife was one of the attackers).

I marvel that people get upset when you preach the truth. Then, again, some hearing the truth get under Holy Ghost conviction. They have a repentant heart and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

How about you preacher? Have you exposed the SIN in your church today? Or are you in on it? Is anything missing in your preaching?

They've got to get lost before they get saved. They must know the wrath of God and His hatred for sin before they can experience his love. Love the sinner preacher. Tell the sinner the truth about sin.



HYMN

*Written by Johnson Oatman Jr.
(April 21, 1856 — 1922)*

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

**When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessing—name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.**

**Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings every doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.**

**When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you his wealth untold.
Count your many blessings money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven nor your home on high.**

**So amid the conflict whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged God is over all;
Count your many blessings angels will attend,
Holy and comfort give you to your journey's end.**

CHORUS

**Count your blessings name them one by one,
Count your blessings see what God hath done;
Count your blessings —**

The story behind the song: Count Your Blessings ...

Johnson Oatman Jr., was born April 21, 1856. He was a citizen of Lumberton, New Jersey. His dad was a local merchant and the best singer in town. Although he couldn't sing as well as his dad, he grew up wanting to make musical contributions.

For a time, he began to study for the ministry. After finishing school and ministering in the Methodist Episcopal churches for a time, Johnson continued to hope that life surely held some other plans for him.

At the age of 36 he knew he was contributing his talent of writing Christian hymns, penning over 200 per year. His own favorites were No, Not One and Higher Ground.

However, Count Your Blessings, written in 1897, was a favorite amongst many. All too often, in this great land of America we can become unthankful at times. Count Your Blessings was a gentle reminder to be thankful.

The song is celebrated on Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November. It became an official Federal holiday in 1863, when Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our heavenly Father.

Johnson Oatman Jr., died in Norman, Oklahoma in 1922. Through his songs he continues to minister to millions. Count Your Blessings is an ongoing encouragement.

WOMEN IN THE HARVEST

The WOMEN IN THE HARVEST publication began back in October of 1998. I founded this publication, hoping to be a blessing and encouragement to women in the harvest. —*Sis. Linda.*

Wisdom for Women: We are living in an exciting time. Jesus is coming again! What better time than the present to be busy about God's business, that of winning souls. **"He that winneth souls is wise."**



PEN OF A READY WRITER By Mrs. Linda K. Townsend

THE CARNAL MIND

"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" ROMANS 7:24.

Born again Christians are not supposed to walk in the flesh, but in the Spirit **"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."** ROMANS 8:7.

Tempted and tried — that's just one fact of the believer's life. Don't think it odd or strange to be tested. Even so, **"we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh."** ROMAN 8:11b. We are to be conformed to the image of Christ.

Let's take a look at **ROMANS 12:1-2.** **"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."**

The child of God can mortify the deeds of the body through the Spirit. However, quite frequently he severs his relationship with Christ by walking in carnality; thereby going contrary to the Scriptures. Fellowship becomes broken with the Lord which in turn causes a spiritual breakdown. This, I believe, grieves the Holy Ghost of God.

It's wise to crucify the flesh and reckon it dead. Otherwise we tend to pamper and cater to its demands. Be mindful, the devil is a deceiver, wanting God's children to live a life of defeat instead of victory.

The clear-cut promise in **PHILIPPIANS 1:6** states, **"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."**

*We are tempted and tried,
But not beyond measure.
Set your affection above,
Not on earthly pleasures.*

Until next time...

PSALM 45:1

My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

DELIGHT IN THE SCRIPTURES

By Sushannah (Jasmine) Townsend

THE RICH MAN and LAZARUS

I have a biblical story to tell about the rich man and Lazarus. This story is one of my favorites. It's found in **ST. LUKE 16:19-31.** —*Sis. Jasmine.*

The rich man was a man who had everything and lived like a king and faired sumptuously every day. But one thing he didn't have was compassion for the poor.

On the other hand Lazarus was a poor and hungry man full of sores who laid at the rich man's gate. He desired to be fed crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Lazarus was a beggar!

In Verses 22-23 in **ST. LUKE 16** it says, **"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."**

To sum it up, the rich man didn't want his family to end up in hell like him and be in a place (hell) that you are forever tormented in.

The moral of this story tells us it's important not to look down on others, but esteem them higher than ourselves. Our loved ones need to know the Lord. Let us be concerned enough to be a soul winner. Time is short!

So I hope we let this story about the rich man and Lazarus make a big impact on us to serve God, and tell others the old story of Jesus and his love.

"For God so loved the world...."

MEGAN'S MUSINGS

By Megan E. Townsend



This month I mused about writing on Rejoicing, but I changed it to Count Your Blessings. Why? Because I thought of the old hymn with the same title.

Do you like to count your blessings and name them one by one? Or as brother Weaver said, "Name them two by two and see what the Lord can do?"

I am musing.... All the blessings cannot be counted because I don't remember them all. But I will name a few.

1. It's a blessing to be saved and know God.
2. I am blessed to have a family who loves me, and my church family.
3. I am blessed to have the Bible and to go to church.
4. Two of my biggest blessings to me is my sister, Jasmine, and my niece, Nancy.

Counting your blessings is a good thing. Have you counted your blessings lately? —*Sis. Megan.*



TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

By Mrs. Linda K. Townsend

"He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD." PROVERBS 27:15.

Do you ever feel that it's unfair when an individual condemns the righteous and condones the wicked? If we look closely in the Scriptures we will find helpful verses concerning this matter.

A common statement that I've heard since my youth is Turn the other cheek. I find that sometimes this is hard to do. Pride wants to step in and rule the situation. Right is right! Wrong is wrong! It brings to mind the verse **"Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord."**

There might be someone who is opposing you at this moment. Do NOT be fearful of what man can do to you even in these troublesome times. Allow the words in **PSALM 56:11** to comfort you. **"In God I have put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me."**

When you bear reproach, do it with joy. It's NOT a sign of weakness to turn the other cheek when you have been wronged. I believe it takes a stronger person to turn away from the wrath of man. In so doing, there will be a maturing process that only God can bring about.

CAPITOL UPDATE
Capitol Independent Baptist Ministries
By Dr. Franklin D. Raddish

“And David said, What have I now done” Is there not a cause?” I SAMUEL 17:29. Website: <http://www.chibm.us>

Our nation is in a state of turmoil as you already know. This is the result of our country going away from God. Since 1973, over 65,000,000 unborn babies have been murdered in their mothers' wombs; what they call “same-sex marriage” was legalized by the Supreme Court. Adolf Hitler murdered around 6,000,000 Jews during World War II, and unfortunately, this nation has killed over 10 times that number through abortion. They called what Hitler did a holocaust, and it was, but they call abortion a right. God is now judging America for its gross sins against Him. The Bible says in **Psalm 9:17, “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”**

Many of our political leaders of today have become so politically correct that they cannot stand against the rioting, looting, burning, and killing. The Bible says in **Isaiah 5:20-21, “20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!”**

According to these spiritually bankrupt politicians, it's okay to riot, but they don't want you to go to church and sing and praise God.

They believe if you attend church, sing, and preach, you are a super spreader of Coronavirus. At the same time according to them, if you riot, cuss, scream, and do all kinds of unseemly things, you're not a spreader of the Coronavirus.

We are under great persecution from the government. Mostly this persecution is coming from the Democrat governors and mayors in the various states. Pray for the churches in California, which are coming under great attack. Pastors are being fined for holding services and for leading congregational singing. Also, some of these pastors are being threatened with arrest for holding services. This sounds like living in the countries of China and Russia.

I have recently contacted a congressional office on Capital Hill in Washington D.C. for the work of my ministry and I was told that everything is still shut down to the public because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Also, I have talked to someone at the White House and my intentions for starting a Bible Study there are still at a standstill because of the virus.

We need to vote for President Trump and Vice-President Pence on November 3, 2020, to keep in control of the White House. If Joe Biden and Kalama Harris are elected this will bring much greater persecution to the church and God's people. Please pray for doors to open for the ministry at the state and national capitals. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

In Christ's love, Bro. Franklin Raddish.

AS MUCH LIKE GOD AS POSSIBLE

By A.W. Tozer

DEVOTIONAL

From these words we may properly conclude (and the context strongly supports the conclusion) that there is nothing wrong with the desire to be great provided (1) we seek the right kind of greatness; (2) we allow God to decide what is greatness; (3) we are willing to pay the full price that greatness demands; and (4) we are content to wait for the judgment of God to settle the whole matter of who is great at last...

No one whose heart has had a vision of God, however brief or imperfect that vision may have been, will ever consent to think of himself or anything else as being great. The sight of God, when He appears in awesome majesty to the wondering eyes of the soul, will bring the worshipper to his knees... and fill him with such an overwhelming sense of divine greatness that he must spontaneously cry “Only God is great!”

Obviously there are two kinds of greatness recognized in the Scriptures—an absolute, uncreated greatness belonging to God alone, and a relative and finite greatness achieved by or bestowed upon certain friends of God...who by obedience and self-denial sought to become as much like God as possible.

ST. MATTHEW 20:26-27 “But it shall not be so among you: but whoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:”

The above devotional was taken from the book “TOZER ON THE ALMIGHTY GOD” — A 366-DAY DEVOTIONAL

PRAYERS

By A. W. Tozer

May I know today that personal love experience with You, my God.

I will seek you early, for You are my God.

Lord, I praise You for the wonderful things that You have done for me and for the awesome God that you are.

We impatiently await Your coming, Lord, and we seek to be prepared for that glorious day. Even so, come Lord Jesus.



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PSALM 122:6

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:...”

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