

BIBLICAL MUSINGS

by Garry L. Barton

"For God so loved the world He gave His Only Begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

horts us to 'have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed...and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore, I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.'"

Now, this is reason enough for one to have faith; with faith we can move mountains, or have whatever we desire by merely believing that it will come to pass when we pray.

So, indeed, faith in God is an immeasurable, and more times than not, a wasted asset children of God possess. Most saints' faith in God is so minute that they would rather worry about a problem than pray for the problem to be eradicated (and, of course, believing while they pray that it will be solved).

We need to realize the powerful asset we possess if only we have faith. I dare say that a lot of the problem of today is a result of the fact that a child of God professes to believe in God; but, in fact, they believe with their minds, not with their hearts and minds. In essence, many professed-to-be saints are only playing a game. But, God knows who is His, and who is not.

You might wonder why it is so essential that we please God. The best answer to this mind-boggling question can be found in the case of Enoch.

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God."

Now, according to Genesis 5:24 "Enoch walked with God." And God translated him. In other words, one minute Enoch was here on this

wicked earth; the next thing he, or anyone else knew, he was in the holy presence of God. Now, to one day stand in the holy presence of God should be all saints' main objective in this life. So, we see that pleasing God is very essential.

But, sad to say, there were only about four (if I am not badly mistaken) people throughout the whole Bible who were translated without tasting the bitter sting of death.

Needless to say, the likelihood of the average man having a testimony that we pleased God is remote, to say the least. Indeed, God's Word tells us that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God.

But, thank God, He has presented us a plan of salvation that enables us to one day humbly stand in His glorious presence.

"For by grace are ye saved

through faith; and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."

So, here again, we see that the only way we will ever stand before God will be through faith in Him and as a result of His grace.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Now we have discovered yet another important link in God's plan of salvation. We must have faith in God, then through God's grace, and through Jesus Christ we inherit the gift of God which is eternal life.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. In short, Jesus Christ died on the cross for the remission of our sins, as well as your's. We could never hope

to stand before God with these sin-drenched bodies. So, Jesus died for us. And, according to Romans 6:6 our old sin-drenched bodies died with Him on the cross. And, as a result, we become new creatures in Christ. It is not really as complicated as some would have you believe.

Therefore, we should all walk with God. But, don't be deceived, "Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it," Matthew 7:14.

Many of us, once we begin walking with God, turn back the first time we encounter stumbling blocks in our path. But, as God's Word tells us: if a fleshly father chastises or corrects his son he is honored and respected. Why then, should we turn our backs on God when He chastises or corrects us? Surely our spiritual life is more important than our fleshly life.

But, it need not be so. It is not too late to get right with God today. The Bible tells us that we need only believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and we will be saved. Also, Romans 10:9 tells us to confess the Lord with our mouths and believe that He was raised from the dead and we will be saved. But you need do it today. We know not what tomorrow may bring. God doesn't promise us tomorrow. And, He certainly doesn't owe us anything.

Continue to pray for and to love one another.

New position at LREMC



Randall Jones

Red Springs-Robeson County native Randall (Randy) Jones of Pembroke has accepted the position of Assistant Office Manager with Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, effective Monday, Feb. 16.

Jones is a 1972 graduate of Pembroke State University. Upon graduation, Jones taught at Rowland High School and then moved to Libbey-Owens-Ford glass plant near Laurinburg where he became Assistant Plant Manager. Most recently, Jones has been Personnel Manager at L-O-F's Thermopane Plant in Clinton.

Married and the father of one child, Jones will continue to make his home near Pembroke. At Lumbee River EMC, he will work directly with Ronnie Hunt, the Manager of Office and Staff Services.

Jones has a wide assortment of special training in the field of personnel and employee relations including supervision, labor relations and safety. He has participated in nine specialized training programs since 1973 to further his expertise.

Active in many civic and professional organizations, Jones has held offices with the Pembroke chapter of the Jaycees and the Personnel and Plant Managers Association. He is also a member of the Southeastern Personnel Managers Association, the Pembroke Recreation Commission and the Chairman of Stewards and Ushers at Harper's Ferry Baptist Church.

Jones' wife, Diane, is the Director of Human Services at Pembroke State University. His father, Dr. English E. Jones, is Chancellor Emeritus of that University.

UNC Grads

CHAPEL HILL-The following students from Robeson County are among 1980 December graduates at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dwight Lowry, B.S.I.R. degree, Rt. 1, Box 100, Pembroke, N.C.; Kenneth James Morton, B.S.B.A. degree, P.O. Box 638, Proctorville, N.C.; and Liza Burney Townsend, A.B. degree, 509 W. 32nd St., Lumberton.

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