

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Ohio



West Virginia



Michigan

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Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional News



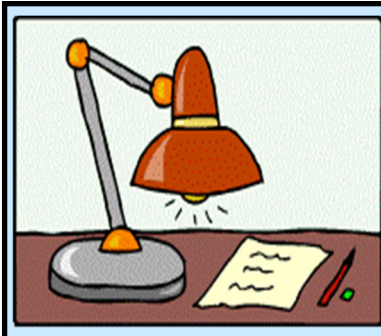
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From the desk of the Regional Overseer *James T. Smith*



If We This Day Be Examined

In Acts 3 we find the account of the man “*lame from his mother’s womb*” being divinely healed at the words of faith and action shown him by Peter and John. Not only was the man completely, totally healed and able to enter the temple “*..walking, and leaping, and praising God*” but Peter and John had the opportunity to preach to a crowd that had gathered as witnesses of the mighty miracle. As a result of this divine healing, and the divinely anointed preaching that followed, “*many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.*” (Acts 4:4)

Not everyone was so pleased with what the Lord had done. Specifically, we find in Acts 4:1-3 “*And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, (2) Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. (3) And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.*”

The priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees (who did not believe in the resurrection) were “*grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.*” They could not allow this victory for Jesus Christ to stand!

What was to be done about this matter? Why, they would have to lockup these followers of Christ, until they could deal with them with firmness. Peter and John would be cross examined for what they had done and were now preaching.

Acts 4:3,5-7 “*And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. ... (5) And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, (6) And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. (7) And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?*”

What would be the response of Peter and John? Would they seek mercy and leniency from the Sanhedran? Could they throw themselves prostrate before their judges? We can say most assuredly that they did NOT!

Acts 4:8-10 “*Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, (9) If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; (10) Be it known*

unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.”

This “examination” of Peter and John provided them with the opportunity to “turn their examination on its head”—by bringing into question the recent decision of the Sanhedrin to reject Christ. They also declared that the Sanhedrin have no other choice than Christ, if they are to be saved.

Acts 4:11-12 *“This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. (12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*

With this rebuke from Peter, the Sanhedrin was not left with much of an option in how they might deal with Peter and John. (13) *“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. (14) And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it”* (Acts 4:13-14).

After *“they conferred among themselves,”* they had to admit that *“a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.”*

Acts 4:15-16 *“But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, (16) Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.”*

What were the Sanhedrin to do? How might they suppress the further spreading of this wonderful miracle? Acts 4:17-18 *“But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. (18) And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.”*

They thought that they could threaten Peter and John to not speak any more in the name of Jesus. Their plan was greatly flawed, as the response of Peter to their warning quickly revealed: Acts 4:19-20 *“But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. (20) For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”*

Peter had previously turned their examination upside down. Now Peter trashed the plans and schemes of the Sanhedrin to shutdown the preaching of Christ. Peter again turned the judgement of Peter and John back on them: *“Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. (20) For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”*

How many times are we “examined” by the world, as it seeks every occasion to silence the glorious news we have to share? Today we are living in what has

become a “cancel culture.” According to Wikipedia, **cancel culture** (or **call-out culture**) is a modern form of ostracism in which someone is thrust out of social or professional circles—whether it be online, on social media, or in person. We have seen this behavior of rejection applied to people for a variety of reasons. In particular, Christians for their beliefs and practices are increasingly subjected to this cancel culture. Not only are they ostracized, many have lost friends, and even their employment.

We must have the courage of Peter and John to take a stand for the Word of God. We must likewise turn the world’s examination of Christianity on its head. Rather than slinking off into a corner, or otherwise hiding, we must follow the example of Peter and John’s actions following their “examination.”

Acts 4:23-31 *“And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. (24) And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: (25) Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? (26) The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. (27) For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, (28) For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. (29) And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, (30) By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. (31) And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”*

Seth, West Virginia

Sister Paula was inspired to teach the younger Sunday School class about Missions by having them plan and to serve a breakfast to the congregation to raise funds for Missions. We had fun watching the kids serve by assisting in preparing food, taking orders and bringing breakfast plates to the table. Afterward. we shared mission testimonies.





Sue Hutton

WMB REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Basking In The Power of Light

“And God said, let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness” (Genesis 1:3-4).

The first statement God uttered in the Bible was **“let there be light.”** The first thing He created was light. The Hebrew word translated in this context shows light as illumination, something that clarifies, brightens and brings happiness. The Bible says God saw that the light was good. Darkness is the opposite of light. Darkness depicts evil, something not good, chaos, confusion, ignorance, etc. Below are some of the qualities of light:

Light shines: The believer in Christ is commanded to shine because he has light. The Bible says the gospel of Jesus Christ is the light of the glory of God. It is this light that believers in Christ receive when they give their hearts to Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). The gospel makes its recipient to shine in this dark world, because it is the light of God’s glory. Light reigns because it shines and overcomes darkness. However, the extent of the shining and reigning of the believer is determined by the amount of light (revelation knowledge) he or she possesses and walks in. True believers radiate the glory and brilliance of God in this dark world.

Light heals: It is reportedly known that a good number of babies are born jaundiced. Jaundice is a liver disorder that causes the white part of the eyes and skin to turn yellow. Though potentially dangerous, it has an easy cure. The baby is put under a special light. The skin absorbs this light and stimulates the liver to start functioning well. Human beings are morally and spiritually sick because of sin. The truth of the Scriptures is the light that heals us of spiritual sickness.

Light dispels darkness: Satan is called the prince of darkness. His agents and demonic spirits are called the rulers of the darkness of this world (Ephesians 6:12). His kingdom is called the kingdom of darkness. He majorly rules his dark kingdom with fear, ignorance, hatred, division and deception. The Bible says light shined in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not. It didn't overpower or extinguish it. Light wins over darkness without a fight. Faith in God, the love of God and the truth of the Scriptures are embodiment of the light of God. These qualities when possessed by the believer make him or her to overcome the darkness of this world.

Light rules: The Bible says God created two great lights on the fourth day of creation. The greater light He created was to rule over the day, and the lesser light to rule over the night (Genesis 1:16-19). To rule is to exercise authority or dominion over something. The believer in Christ rules over sin, sickness

—continued on next page

and death because of the understanding which the light of God's Word provides him or her. What one understands he gains mastery over. Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life"* (John 8:12). Our understanding of redemption, forgiveness, sanctification and justification gives us mastery over the deception of darkness.

Light quickens: It enlivens and produces life. For most living organisms, life ebbs or ceases to be when light is no more. Plants live by photosynthesis. They convert sunlight energy into food and produce oxygen for mankind. Life and light are mysteriously inseparably linked. Jesus said those who follow Him will have the light that produces and leads to life. Life means being present with God both in this world and in eternity. Darkness is the absence of God.

CONCLUSION: Light organizes and creates order (Genesis 1:2-5), light exposes (Ephesians 5:13) and shields (Romans 13:12). We are enjoined, as children of light, to walk in the light and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them (Ephesians 5:8-11).

News From Chillicothe

Chillicothe is alive and well. We are praising and thanking God for providing a beautiful place to have service in and placing us in a community that is thankful that there is a church in their community. Continue to uphold Chillicothe in prayer.

We had a wonderful dedication service, March 20th 2021, of the new building that God has blessed us to have church in. God was there and blessed us all in a tremendous way with His sweet Spirit.

Below are some photos of our new facility.





Kandy Saunders
Regional CPMA Coordinator

I partially watched a supposedly Christian program on TV, but oh was it far from it. It reminded me of the doctrine of Baalam, but then again if there could be anything worse, it was worse. Very disturbing.

I could not even try to tell you the name of it, but I know who was starring— Satan himself.

What concerns me most, is how so many people (and even our very own families) will get on a band wagon, a movement of deception and claim boldly they have the Holy Ghost in them when it is so obvious they are being deceived. How do we know this and why do they not? Because we know and have experienced the real working of the Holy Ghost and we see—we recognize the imposter.

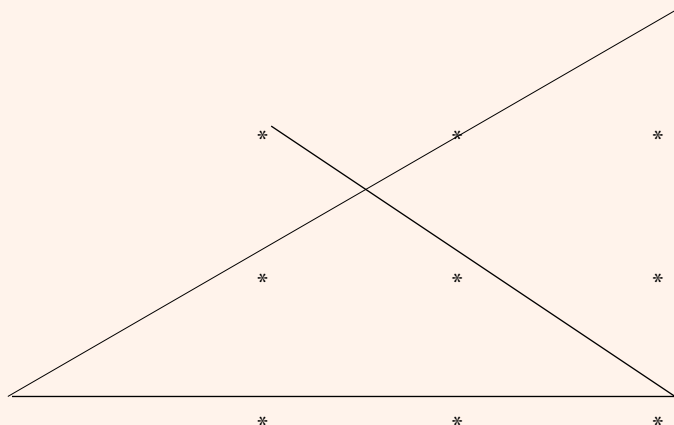
“Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (9) Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. (10) But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you” (1 Peter 5: 8-10).

Oh, my Christian brothers and sisters, let us not be caught up in any form of deception. Let's be on our toes, let our feet be planted four square on the box as you see in the CPMA logo. STILL STANDING! NO COMPROMISE!

Recently, I read a sermon, a Church of God sermon, (hey, we are safe reading and watching our own, The Church of God material and media) about being a servant to Christ. It was a sermon that compared being a servant with being a friend. A servant will follow instructions, do what has been commanded, but a friend will do it all gladly and so much more. Can you see the difference? A servant is right to a certain point, but lacking. A friend is a servant-plus because a friend wants to please the Lord with all that is within him and will gladly serve Him. A friend is closer and will go that extra mile. Friends love one another! Let's be friends with Jesus and with each other, love like Jesus and draw closer to HIM everyday. Hallelujah!

CPMA Membership: We are still attempting to meet 100% in our region. We are getting close. Thank you to all CPMA leaders for boosting and working in this auxiliary. May God continue to inspire and bless you.

Mind Trap



ANSWER to puzzle from last issue.

News From Fairmont

Fairmont has begun sharing its services via Zoom over the Internet! This has proven a blessing for my sister, Carolyn Floyd, who lives in Louisiana hundreds of miles from any of our local churches. It also has been a blessing for some locally who cannot always get out to attend services.

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

From the book, MUSE WITH ME by R. O. Covey

Must God Apologize?

It has been suggested, *“If God doesn’t bring the sins of this age to judgment, He will have to apologize to the people of other ages who were laid low because of their sins.”*

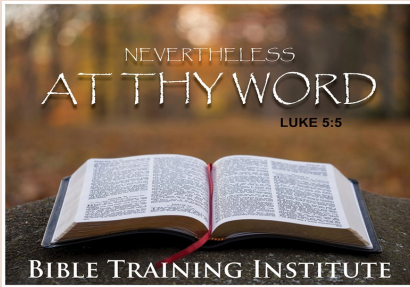
God doesn’t have to do anything, of course, just because we think He must. But we do have faith in His Word, and we know He is no respecter of persons.

The sinners of Noah’s day did not escape; therefore those who sin in like manner today will not escape.

The abominable practices of Sodom did not go unpunished; neither will God wink at like abominations in this day.

Israel and Judah, God’s chosen, did not escape, though He suffered long with them. And the Church, His chosen, was not spared the rebuke of the Dark Ages when it departed from theocracy. Why should any member of the Body of Christ today think himself privileged to wallow in presumption without the judgment of God apprehending him?

God will have a spotless Church for His Son to present unto Himself—no apologies required!



Don Bolyard
BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Theme:
“Nevertheless At Thy Word”

IT IS TIME TO TRUST THE LORD

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceive you” (Matt.24:4). “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake” (Luke 21:17). “And upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring” (Luke 21:25). “...men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth” (Luke 21:26). Perplexity means: confusion, complication, difficulty, lack of comprehension.

There’s so much hatred and deception all around us today, and it’s causing so much fear in people’s hearts. They don’t know what to do. Men’s hearts are failing them and they are taking their lives because of losing their businesses caused by the lockdowns brought on by the leaders of our country. Our government is at each other’s throats and hating one another and lying about each other, and they expect you and I to trust in them. Acts 5:2 tell us *“...we ought to obey God rather than men.”* I believe as things wax worse and worse, we will have to put all our trust in God. He alone will carry us through. God is everything we need and he hears our prayers. Psalms 18: 1–6 says: *“I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised : so shall I be saved from mine enemies. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.”* This is a song that David spake unto the Lord after the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. I believe we have more enemies than we realize. The world is full of the enemies of the children of God. But we can still trust God, He is faithful and true!!!

West Coast Spanish/English BTI. April 30-May 7, 2021 in Nampa, Idaho.

East Coast English BTI. May 30-June 12 , 2021 in Cleveland, Tennessee.

A happy child was gazing with wonder at tiny bluebirds flying around a small nest in a tree which foamed with soft pink blossoms.

“Look what God made!” he cried out to an infidel neighbor, who was watching him with a smirk on his lips.

“If you’ll tell me where God is, I’ll give you a dime,” the infidel said.

The child flashed a bright smile. “I’ll give you a dollar, Mister, if you’ll tell me where God ain’t.”



Featuring highlights from the ministry of

C. J. Cunningham

Former State Overseer in the
Church of God of Prophecy

SUGGESTIONS TO YOUNG MINISTERS

- 1—When you feel the Divine call to the ministry and you accept it; begin then to train yourself for a minister.
- 2—Dress as near like a minister as possible, and especially when filling the pulpit or in charge of service.
- 3—Act like a minister in or out of service. Remember the impression you make upon your hearers will have much to do with your success.
- 4—Do your courting like a YOUNG MINISTER should. You must remember Holiness in conduct is necessary for everyone.
- 5—Be clean inside and out if you want to be strong in the Lord. Job (17:9)
- 6—Go no place that a minister should not go. unless, however, your duties take you there.
- 7—Toughen yourself and don't be easily offended. This is required in the ministry.
- 8—Do not seek positions. Let the positions seek you. You should only seek to be worthy.
- 9—Drive your car as a minister should. No minister should hot-rod or race a car unnecessarily. Be a minister to others and not a menace or a threat to the public.
- 10—Do not preach or teach anything that will not stand the inspection of the General Assembly and those over you.
- 11—Be punctual for your appointments and start your announcements when scheduled. (Eccl. 3:1)

Thank You, Brother Cunningham!



EASTER SUNDAY

April 4, 2021

Happy Easter to All

Too many people today are like the chemist who takes a bottle of liquor and analyzes it and can glibly explain its composition, its nature, and give its properties of material substances it contains. But without a drink of it he never feels the effect it produces. Thousands of people today take the Bible and analyze it and put its subjects together and can explain it well who have never felt its power. They take it up, look at it, declare it is the best Book in the world, deliver a beautiful discourse in its eulogy and praise it in the very highest terms. They tell of its power to save, its storehouse of knowledge as history, its poetry, its songs, its prophecies and how true they are—how they have never failed and never will fail—and many other good things too numerous to mention. They do all of this and never experience its power and effect any more than a chemist that analyzes his bottle of liquor and never experiences its thrilling effect if he never gets it into himself deeper than the intellect. (*Excerpt of Annual Address of A. J. Tomlinson to the 20th Assembly in 1925.*)

2021 Convention Schedule

Southern District—Seth, WV—April, 17

Northern District—Niles, MI—May 1

Regional Convention—Castalia, OH—

August, 16-18

Sunday School Average Attendance for January

Castalia, OH—16
 Chillicothe, OH—5
 Niles, MI—6
 Fairmont, WV—6
 Page, WV—11
 Seth, WV—9



Sunday School Average Attendance for February

Castalia, OH—16
 Chillicothe, OH—3
 Niles, MI—6
 Fairmont, WV—7
 Page, V—9
 Seth, WV—11

Fanning the

Fires of



Evangelism

Walter Lofton, Regional Evangelism Director

REVIVAL

REVIVAL means re-awakening of interest, restoration to life, a series of evangelistic services for the purpose of religious awakening, etc.

REVIVE—to take up again, renew, to bring back into motion, restore to life, etc.

TRUE REVIVAL is a work of the Spirit in our midst. It is born on the wings of the Spirit as a result of our seeking God for revival. To see revival, we must become hungry and want it more than our necessary food.

True Revival cannot be streamlined around us to fit our schedule. To have revival we must be willing to pay the price.

True revival is not a few days of meetings to include on our reports so we can be counted faithful. The historical records reveal that real revival comes only after a protracted period of prayer, usually with fasting and travail before God.

Most revivals in the past lasted for many weeks, the first week or two being spent to get the saints into their proper relationship with God so He could use them to win sinners to God.

Most revivals included many miracles, gifts of the Spirit and signs and wonders being displayed for the glory of God.

In all of these old-time Holy Ghost revivals, people didn't stop until God was finished with the work He desired to do in their community.

Most old-time revivals resulted in many converts with the membership roll of the Church increasing.

Baptism services nearly always followed real revivals.

MOST OF ALL true revival is not the commercializing of religion by individuals having such business operating in the flesh such as "Revival Inc." etc.

Revival comes from God, and God alone. We cannot manipulate God to give revival on our terms.

From all apparent reasonings, the Church is destined to have another period of great Holy Ghost revival before we are taken out of here. That means that we, as its members, will have to get to the place where we will lay aside all self and yield to God for this final great outpouring upon us and upon the world of ungodly sinners.

Are we ready for revival? Do we truly want revival? If so, we must pay the cost.

Then and only then will God honor us with real Holy Ghost revival and bless us spiritually and increase our churches.