

John 1:1-5 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Jesus from the very beginning of the world was there, what better example do we have, how He handled things is the way we should handle things.

(2) "The same was in the beginning with God.

(3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

(4) In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

(5) And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

Read the rest of John find out that how the Lord worked. Are you ready to change, to be more like Him , or are you going to be like the Pharisees and Sadducees?

Psa. 23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

An old preacher one time told me the difference between a rod and staff. A rod seems to be used to scare away the enemy, like a wolf trying to attack a sheep, where a staff

is used to too rescue, or gently guide a sheep away from a cliff. Are we willing to be guided, led away from the cliff, changed and be more like Him? Reach for the star. We all have family that need to be saved. Help us Jesus to be an example.

Remember: C. P. M. A. is \$15.00 and anyone can join.

God bless , Brother Robe



It's not a painting or a photograph.

It's a recently discovered waterfall in Peru, named Bride waterfall. See the beauty of nature! More details/video

<http://bit.ly/3WS1Gg5>

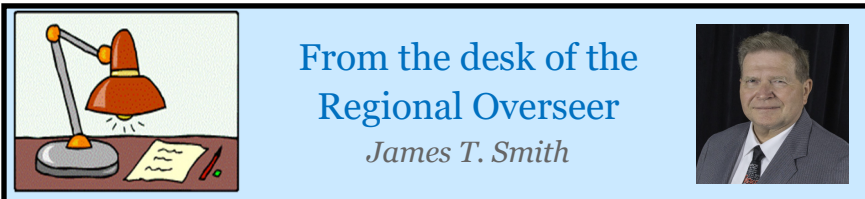
...The Church of God.....Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



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In The Last Days Perilous Times Shall Come PREACH THE WORD!

The book of II Timothy was the last letter written by the Apostle Paul. He wrote it to Timothy from his cell in a Roman prison. Paul knew that the time was near at hand when he would pay with his life for his stand taken for the Lord Jesus Christ. *“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand”* (2 Timothy 4:6).

The last two chapters of this letter to Timothy are also very relevant to the day in which we are now living. What Paul said of that day and time can be applied directly to our day and to what is happening now—worldwide. Four major points were made in those two chapters:

2 Timothy 3:1-9—Godliness in the Last Days will be extremely perilous.

2 Timothy 3:10-13—Persecutions would intensify against God’s people.

2 Timothy 3:14-17—Our victory over such comes through God’s Word.

2 Timothy 4:1-5—What is expected of us? Preach the Word!

In 2 Timothy 3:1-9, Paul warned Timothy of the ungodliness and wickedness that would arise in the *“last days.”* The behaviors he describes are perilous to everyone—both to those who embrace and practice them, and to those who would resist. Civilization collapses before our eyes as every manner of evil is manifested, as it displaces the last sense of morality. The way of perversion becomes the new norm.

In 2 Timothy 3:10-13, Paul warned of the persecution that would come. Great pressure is exerted for everyone not only to accept (tolerate) but indeed to embrace and practice the new perverted life styles. In the days of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19), the wicked men came to the door of Lot’s home to demand the “participation” of his visitors in their evil practice. In living among these people, Lot had become so deluded that he thought he could offer his children as a substitute.

In particular, the child of God who would live godly in this present world is attacked from every direction—cultural, moral and financial. Franklin Graham recently gave a keynote address before the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) International Christian Media Convention.

Morning Star

Rev. 22:16 *“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.”*

Do you ever go out early in the morning and look toward East and see a bright shining star early in the morning? You can tell that a new day is about to Dawn.

Rev. 2:26 *“And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:”*

It’s very important we keep the works of the Lord until the very end. Although I don’t really want power, I just want to serve the Lord.

Rev> 2:27 *“And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.”*

You can see the importance of studying God’s word and knowing what it says, don’t really think that I’m worthy to do anything like this but it’s what the Lord says we are going to do.

Rev. 2:28 *“And I will give him the morning star.”*

Note: The Lord is going to give us the power to do all this, isn’t that wonderful.

Matt. 3:7 *“But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”*

Looks like we definitely need some change, Pharisees and Sadducees thought they had religion but it was no heartfelt change. It’s almost like being saved and returning to our old ways, the Bible says we become new Creatures.

Matt. 3:8 *“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:”*

We need to look and be real, looking toward that Bright and Morning Star which is Jesus.

John 1:17 *“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”*

You cannot pound things into people’s heads, you’ve got to pray it into their heads, help me to pray more Lord.

Tabernacle Fundraising Coordinator Update



Interior view of our former Assembly Tabernacle.

What will our next Assembly Tabernacle look like?

Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work. (Nehemiah 2:18)

Tabernacle Zeal!!!

From the General Assembly last year through the second week of June, our region has raised **\$23,385.38**. Each Church and member is to be commended for this nice Tabernacle offering.

The month of June has been designated as **Heritage Month** for the purpose of raising much needed funds for the purchase of property and construction of a much needed Assembly Tabernacle. But let's not stop there. Let us keep on working through the year and until such a time as to see this worthy goal achieved.

Some ideas for raising funds from other regions and churches are as follows:

- *One dollar per day per member for the whole month of June.
- *One dollar for each year you have been a member of the Church. Do this every year until the goal is reached.
- *One special offering one Sunday of each month.
- *Sales such as Yard sales, Hot Dog sales, Bake sales, etc.

If you have an additional fund-raising idea please share it with me so I can pass it on the region.

We plan to take a special Tabernacle Offering at our Regional Convention. Please come prepared to give! God takes special notice of every cent given in His Name and for His glory. One day in the future we will be able to look back upon our efforts with grateful hearts as we enjoy the fruits of our labor of love.

Thanks!

Walter Lofton, Regional Tabernacle Coordinator

https://renewedright.com/franklin-graham-sounded-the-alarm-on-this-bone-chilling-scheme-against-americans/?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=rr_1813863280&utm_term=&utm_content=221103

"I believe there's a coming storm that we're all going to [have to] be ready for," Graham said. "It's not going to be good. The world is deteriorating so quickly. It seems like every demon in Hell has been turned loose."

He urged Christian groups to prepare to defend themselves from being canceled by the banking and technology sectors for trying to spread their beliefs.

"We're living in a cancel culture, and [big corporations] want to destroy Christian organizations," Graham explained. "They want us to shut our mouths. They don't want to hear from us."

He said that any Christian group could be faced with cancellation for sharing the Gospel. He even gave personal examples, e.g., Samaritan's Purse.

"Now, if you don't preach the Gospel, you don't have anything to worry about," Graham continued. "If you're not going to talk about sin, you don't have anything to worry about. But if you're going to try to preach and proclaim the Gospel, they're going to try to shut you up."

The banking industry, indeed all sectors of the economy and society, are being weaponized against Christians and conservatives as the Left captures more institutions. He urged the audience to prepare themselves for what is coming.

"Just don't sit there on your hands and let the storm hit and then have this look on your face like I didn't know that was coming," Graham said. "I didn't see that coming. You'd better see it coming."

While I appreciate the warning and advise that Franklin Graham gave, he seemed to be taking an how to "hunker-down and survive" approach for our response to Satan's wicked attack on all of mankind, and the children of God, in particular.

Paul's view of this confrontation with wickedness was quite different in how we ought to prepare for what's coming. Whatever Satan may have in store for us as he seeks to become ruler and master of this world and to force our total submission to him, he is no match for what God has already given us!

Paul's admonition to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:14-17 was to cleave to what he already had from a child—the Word of God.

(14) But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

(15) *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

In this passage, Paul admonished Timothy to continue in the solid foundation that had already been laid in his life. It will provide everything he needs to secure his salvation and the perfect walk before God that he needs to make Heaven his home.

But Paul doesn't stop with Timothy securing his own salvation. He proceeds to describe in 2 Timothy 4:1-5 the means by which we can effectively do battle with our adversary, the Devil: **PREACH THE WORD!** Yes, Paul warned (verses 3, 4) that there would be those who *"will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."* They are simply another part of the enemy's works that we must overcome.

In contrast to succumbing to this world's pressures, our admonition is to obey 2 Timothy 4:1, 2, & 5:

(1) "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; (2) Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (5) But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

Now is the time! If you are ever to make a difference in this world, make it now! Our Lord is counting on you! All that you will need to be victorious, He has and will continue to provide.



Wanda Sutherland
Regional ABM Coordinator

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

The ABM is still working today to bring this light to others. How blessed we are to have the Living Word of God in our lives. The inspiration of God flowed to Holy men of God and they penned it down on paper. Sharing with others brings blessing, not only in our lives, but also to them that hear and believe.

Let us go on to perfection.

Jude 1:23: *"And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."*

God bless and keep you.

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, {careful to consider all circumstances} not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16). { Col.4:5 }.

See Colossians 4:5 on redeeming every opportunity for the glory of God, and being diligent about the work be before us. *"This is a faithful saying and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men"* (Titus 3:8).



George Atha
REGIONAL BTI
COORDINATOR

Every morning I thank the Lord for the Divine Institution and know that it is the only one. The theme for BTI is "Walking in the Light of Thy Word" (Psalm 119:105) I thank God for the Lamp and Light. It takes this Lamp and Light to feed our soul.

Our Sunday School teachers and our pastors can feed the local church, but if you want a seven-course feed, in the BTI two weeks of school you will be so full of the Lamp and Light your cup will run over. When you get back home your cup will still be running over and could be a blessing to the local church and outside in your neighborhood. Your zeal will be like Isaiah 60:1 *"Arise, shine for thy light is come."* What great zeal A. J. Tomlinson had when he came off Burger Mountain after the Lord gave him a divine revelation of the Church after being in the Dark Ages for 1578 years.

Every member of The Church of God should have a divine revelation. I know this will give you that zeal and joy to keep you on the old path that will get you to Heaven. The ones that leave the Church can't have a divine revelation The covenant is a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten.

The General Assembly will convene August 7-12, 2023.

Special Assembly Prayer Day is Sunday, July 30.

Let us all pray earnestly for the Assembly and all who can plan to attend.



Sunday School, Bible study and any kind of learning excites me. A teacher and a student needs to have a passion for it. I would like at this time to encourage our teachers to spend time in preparation for your class each week through study and prayer. Also, as a teacher, encourage your class to do the same.

There will always be something you have experienced the days before each class that you can apply to the lesson if you allow the Spirit to teach you, a parable so to speak which will benefit you and your class.

Everything we experience in life should be a lesson. Taking care of children, cleaning your house, traveling, paying off debt, preparing a meal, checking the oil in your car, planting seeds, building a house and I could go on forever. There is a spiritual lesson in everything if we allow the Holy Ghost to apply it to our understanding.

Your class will always know if you have prepared or not, just as God does. *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (11 Tim. 2:15).

If you are blessed to have children in your Sunday school, please prepare age appropriate lessons and crafts and activities. Remember, the attention span of a 3 year old is about 3 minutes and a 5 year old about 5 minutes and a 8 year old about 8 minutes and so on. This is not as difficult as it may seem. You teach for 3 minutes then do craft for 3 minutes, then go back to teaching, then maybe an activity that goes along with the lesson, a song or the key Bible verse put to a tune then a snack that goes along with the lesson and so on to keep their attention on what you are trying to teach them.

Start your class with them repeating a key bible verse and when they craft or snack have them repeat it several times. It has been my experience that by the time the Sunday School class is over most of the children have memorized the verse. For some reason it is easy to memorize things that are put to a tune.

Children’s church should be carried out as much like adult church as possible. Have someone lead in prayer and do prayer requests. Children have things to pray about also. Do special songs. Take offerings and pray over offerings. If you as a leader have a special request ask the children to pray about it and watch God work because the children have faith and expect God to move. Always give opportunity to testify about the goodness of our Lord.

We have a 3-year-old who always wants to be a part of our adult services. He helps our song leader in song service. When people are asked to read scriptures on Wednesday night service, he wants to read so we write something on paper that we know he has memorized and have him say it so he is part of the service. He yells out “praise the Lord” which is what he has been taught at home by his grandma. See, we are all teachers in some ways. Let’s be sure to teach them right.

We need to become dedicated to the task by realizing the seriousness and urgency of our calling.



In Memorial

and loving remembrance of

Edna Elizabeth Lofton

Affectionately known by her family and friends as “Susie”

Born into Time—May 14, 1951

Born into Eternity—April 25, 2023

Sister Susie Lofton was a member of the Seth, West Virginia Church and was faithful in her role as a pastor’s wife. Before her incapacities she was piano player, Sunday School Superintendent and WMB Leader. She is greatly missed by her husband and family members and the Church members at Seth.

Her past services to the Church included working for the White Wing Publishing House where she met her husband, doing typesetting and publication layout work for the Church after the reorganization, and serving as Tennessee State ABM and Sunday School Coordinator.

When she took her flight to her heavenly home, she left behind her husband of 53 years, two daughters, four grandchildren and several other relatives and many friends, both inside and outside the Church.

She had been in poor health for several years with severe health problems beginning about four years ago when she fell while hospitalized and broke a hip in August, 2019. She fell again at home in January, 2020 and broke the other hip. She was in and out of nursing home therapy and hospital care several times during this period of time. She was admitted to a nursing home facility permanently in August of last year where she spent her last days before passing away on April 25, 2023.

Though the home she left behind is sad and lonely, Heaven is sweeter with her presence there. As Israel’s King David said many centuries ago when he lost a son in death, *“...can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”* That is the consolation we as Christians have in the loss of our loved ones. They cannot come back to us but we can go to them. By the grace of God that is what we will do.

The following article was written by Sister Susie Lofton in 2004. It is being included here in honor of her work for Christ and the Church.

Blame

Being Objective to A Conclusion

What is being objective? For one thing, it is not placing blame or pointing the finger. Using some old-fashioned cooking terms, it is forming a pinch of unbiased opinion, a smidgen of having all the facts and a dash of wisdom.

I heard a cute but partially true joke recently, it goes like this: “Ever since the beginning of time, man has sought to place blame or fault on someone other than himself whenever something went wrong. Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent, and the serpent didn’t have a leg to stand on.”

According to the Bible, Adam took placing blame one step further. When God asked Adam if he had eaten of the tree which he had been commanded not to eat of Adam’s response was; “The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree.” In other words, he was saying, “Hey, God, if you hadn’t given that woman to me this would have never happened, So, God, I guess it’s your fault.”

That’s one way of looking at it, I suppose, but there is more than meets the eye here. Eve “the woman” had not yet been created when God gave Adam instructions concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So, it could be deduced that Adam did not instruct— teach or inform “the woman” in regards to the tree. He did not even try blaming her, nor she him. However, Adam was let off the hook, so to speak when she told the serpent that they could eat of every tree except the one in the midst of the garden. Alas, ladies, she knew better.

Placing blame on another is nothing new, it started a long time ago. One has to consider several things when accusations of blame are being implied against another. Being objective to a conclusion require details, diplomacy and wisdom. First of all, do you know all the details as opposed to a few scattered self-serving innuendoes? It is easy and often convenient to draw conclusions when one has heard only one side of a story, or when one is already biased in favor of one side over the other. It is far easier to unquestionably take one side in a matter than to scrutinize all possible aspects in any given situation. No one likes being on the wrong or losing side. Having a clear and true understanding will help save face in the end.



The mission team was forbidden to go to Bithynia (Asia) by the Holy Ghost, but look what the Lord did after the gospel was preached in Philippi, Macedonia.

Let us always follow the leading and unction of the Holy Ghost and confirmation will come when we obey.

Acts 16:6 -15

(6) *Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,*

(7) *After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.*

(8) *And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.*

(9) *And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.*

(10) *And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.*

(11) *Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;*

(12) *And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.*

(13) *And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.*

(14) *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

(15) *And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*

An assessment of the work of A. J. Tomlinson in 1922-23

A. J. Tomlinson was a man of vision and was dedicated to the divine revelation of The Church of God. His life was wrapped up in the work of the Church and his love for the Word of God burned fervently in his soul. He trusted God zealously and was a beacon to all who looked to him for leadership. His vision was truly God-given and real. His knowledge and revelation of the Church would forbid him from purposely going against the Word of God or government of the Church. But A. J. Tomlinson was a man; he had his natural limitations just as all other men. He did not live in the perfecting age of the Church and was therefore subject to mistakes in his judgment and understanding of the will and purpose of God. He made his mistakes from time to time as we all have done. Many times, he confessed to an error in his understanding of the Word and made adjustments to get back on track. He was somewhat like King David in Old Testament times. David made his mistakes also, but when he became aware of them, he repented and got back into favor with God. Because of his desire to please God and his having a repentant heart he was called a man after God's own heart. It seems that A. J. Tomlinson was also a man after God's own heart inasmuch as he, too admitted to errors and turned to God for guidance and direction. In his early days he taught differently on some subjects such as the Church being the Bride of Christ for example. There were other incidents when he adjusted his viewpoints as he matured in wisdom and knowledge and became more enlightened in the Word of God. It seems that his suggestion of installing elders in the Church was near-sighted which resulted in chaos for the Church. In the Eighteenth Assembly in 1923 he corrected his stance on elders by recommending that the Assembly recognize all bishops and deacons as elders in the Church. The Assembly accepted this recommendation and that is the way the Church views elders to this day. He apologized to the Church in the Seventeenth Assembly in 1922 and asked the Church to forgive him for his part in connection with the constitution.

Regional Convention:
June 16-18, 2023—Fairmont, WV

Paul Harvey, a well-known commentator uses an intriguing format for his commentaries. He gives the details of a subject, highlighting the unusual details; then breaks for a commercial telling his listeners to stay tuned for the “rest of the story.” After the commercial, he concludes the story with a brief summary before he reveals the mystery character, then his famous quote, “Now you have the rest of the story.”

Secondly, while having an opinion or taking a firm stand on an issue is appreciative, but doing so does not mean one has to be abusive or rude. There is a radio program we listen to occasionally where callers can express their opinions on a subject. The commentator is quite knowledgeable, but if he doesn't share your opinions, he will belittle your views and cut you off before you can respond. Of course, he does it pretentiously of trying to answer as many calls as possible, which is hypocritical if not cowardly. Occasionally, he says something I agree with, but it is his demeanor the rest of the time that irks me to the point of turning off the radio. He would be far more persuasive if he used some old-fashioned decorum, but I doubt that word is in his vocabulary, and if it were, he would probably view it as a character weakness or flaw.

Thirdly, one has to be able to look beyond all the hype and view a matter from the beginning to the end, exploring all angles, motives, the whys, wherefores, etc. Then one has to project the end result, who it will or will not affect, who will gain and who will lose. What are the objectives or goals of the parties involved? Are their contrivances self-serving out of lucrative greed or an exorbitant thirst for power or control? Are they acting out of genuine concern for all or for a select few? What are the pros and cons of their views? From where do they procure their inner strength? Adding all these questions as well as others, are meted together what is the sum of it all? Even with all these ingredients, if one does not have wisdom, he cannot derive at a truly intelligent conclusion. Wisdom is a God-given trait. Many do not have wisdom either because they refuse to acknowledge the giver of wisdom or they simply have not asked for this virtue.

For many just as Adam, it isn't until things go wrong that they are ready to acknowledge God and then it is for the purpose of placing blame. Per chance they did not go to Him for guidance or direction in the first place or if they did, they opted to follow their own lead instead of His. Oftentimes He becomes a scapegoat for their own failures. Excuse the gesture here, but King Solomon had his ducks in a row. He could have asked God for wealth, power, longevity, etc., but no, he asked for wisdom. God granted his request, plus all the other things as well. He knew

where he stood in the scheme of things. Without God he was nothing. The same holds true today for all mankind.

I heard a story long ago about a proud mother who went to watch her pride and joy, her only son, graduate from basic training. She sat and watched as a large group of young soldiers proudly marched by, saluted and turned on command in precision timing. However, one lone soldier just could not keep the pace. He struggled and did the best he could, but he just could not keep up the rhythm with the others. Finally, she exclaimed, “Look at that, they’re all out of time except my son.” A mother’s love clouded her reasoning. She could not accept that her son was the one breaking formation. If we are not careful and to our own detriment, we, also can have clouded opinions based on blind faith.

We are all prone to blame others, situations or circumstances for our failures in life, but remember this; when you point a finger at someone else, there are three fingers pointing right back at you. We have made a mess of things because we have failed to objectively follow the three basis steps: (1) get ALL the details; (2) use diplomacy; (3) seek wisdom. This is not a perfect solution, but it would go a long way in making things better.

Don’t blame God or your mother and father, your husband or wife, the president, the boss, etc. Come to a rightful conclusion, place the blame where it belongs, recognize the culprit at hand—blAME.

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

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

The Bible Abused

“How wretched a spectacle is a garden into which cloven-footed beasts have entered! That which yesterday was fragrant, and shown all over with crowned beauty, is today uprooted, despoiled, trampled, and utterly devoured; and all over the ground you will find but the rejected cuds of flowers and leaves and forms that have been champed for their juices and then rejected. Such to me is the Bible, when the pragmatic prophecy-monger and the swinish utilitarian have toothed its fruits and crunched its blossoms.”—Beecher

And, we might add, pitiable is the Bible after some of the “translators” and versionists” have finished with it! The King James Version is good authority. Who of us can enjoy the “rejected cuds” after those deceitful handlers of the Word have mingled the truth with lies until little inspiration remains!

Shown below is a pictorial highlight of the evangelism Crusade in Dayton, Ohio in April, 2023. Blessings and healings were reported with one joining the Church. A mission was organized at the conclusion of the crusade. More information can be found in the June issue of The Evening Light.

