

**“Together We Strive In 2025”**



**FEBRUARY 2025**

**FROM THE DESK OF:**

**GERALD B. COLLINGSWORTH, PASTOR**



**Pastor & Mrs. C**



## *No Greater Love*



**Introduction:** In the Gospel of John, chapter 15 and verse 13, Jesus said, *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”*

One of my favorite songs is by Philip P. Bliss, *Jesus Loves Even Me*.  
*I am so glad that our Father in Heaven  
Tells of His love in the Book He has given.  
Wonderful things in the Bible I see.  
This is the dearest, that Jesus loves me.*

It is said that the origination of Valentine’s Day came from the true story of a Christian by the name of Valentine, who later was titled St. Valentine. If I understand what I have read about him, Valentine risked his life time and time again to save people from death and persecution. Valentine was captured by the Roman authorities. While in prison, he led the Roman officer to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ followed by the man’s wife and children. For the horrible crime of sharing the gospel, he was beheaded and buried on the “Flaminian Way” on February 14th, 270 AD.

The man Valentine literally laid down his life for others, but no sacrifice can approach that of the love of Christ. Men like Valentine may do grand and marvelous deeds, and sacrifice themselves for a great cause, but none compare to Jesus Christ.

### **FIRST: EXAMINE THE PURITY OF HIS LIFE.**

**JOHN 8:46**

*“Which of you convinceth me of sin?”* Jesus could challenge like no other. He lived on this earth as a man with the same temptations as other men, *“yet without sin.”* No one could say that they had seen Him commit a sin. Everyone who knew Him, including Judas Iscariot, declared Him to be innocent of sin.

### **SECOND: ENLIST THE POWER OF HIS WORDS.**

**JEREMIAH 15:16**

*“Thy words were found and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart; for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.”*

Repeatedly throughout the Gospels, you will find people, “astonished” at Jesus words. “No man ever spake like this man,” can be found. While I was a student at Hyles-Anderson College, I loved the Chapel Services because of the preaching of God’s Word, but I loved preaching about God’s Word more than my other subjects. I can still hear Dr. Jack Hyles, Lester Roloff, Lee Roberson, John R. Rice, and a host of others preaching out of and about the precious Word of God.

### **THIRD: EXPERIENCE THE PERMANENCE OF HIS SALVATION.**

**JOHN 6:37**

*“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”*

*Continued*



Dr. Tom Neal

### Be A Contender

*Jude 3*

In verse 3, the Bible says, *“that ye should earnestly contend for the faith...”* “Earnestly means with some effort or working with diligence. In the context of this little book, Jude is speaking to you, to me, and to every Christian. He is speaking to those who have experienced the common salvation. He is not saying that salvation is just a common thing, but he is saying that everybody that has ever been saved has been saved the same way. It ought to stir you to think that when Peter said like precious faith, he was talking about the faith you and I have. Hence, Jude says to those who have been saved, you are supposed to be contending for the faith. You should not just contend, but earnestly contend for the faith. Contending should be a priority at the top

of the list. I am afraid that many people do not understand what the Bible is saying when it says contend for the faith.

If the Bible tells us that we ought to do something earnestly, we should find out what God expects from us. As I began to study what the word contend means, it became a word that I love. I realized the word contend means “to strive, to judge, or to enter into judgment.” People should strive and learn to judge regarding the faith. I am told by God to enter into judgment about the faith and to judge differently. We are to judge our faith differently than we would judge the color of a carpet, the color of a building, or anything else that really does not amount to anything with eternal value. I discovered that this is the same word that is used in *Nehemiah Chapter 13*. Nehemiah said, *“I contended with them and cursed them.”* I have never cursed people publicly, but I have contended for issues of the faith. God wants us to earnestly contend for the faith. Contending is not only my responsibility but also the responsibility of everyone who is saved. Every preacher, layman, soul winner, and child of God is responsible to earnestly contend for the faith.



**I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENETH ME.**

**PHILIPPIANS 4:13-KJV**



***“SOME GUY BROKE INTO OUR HOUSE LAST WEEK. HE DIDN'T EVEN TAKE THE TV. HE JUST TOOK THE REMOTE CONTROL. NOW HE DRIVES BY AND CHANGES CHANNELS ON US.”***



**“You’ve exceeded the amount of wood a woodchuck can chuck in this part of the woods.”**



Odette Sansom

### The Most Decorated Spy of WWII

“Be regular and orderly in your life,” Flaubert had said, “that you may be violent and original in your work” Such is the prescription for spies. Odette Sansom didn’t drink smoke, or swear, and to the casual observer she was quite ordinary, perhaps even boring. Yet she was a trained killer. She feared neither danger nor dagger, interrogation nor torture. She didn’t think twice about confronting German generals or commandants, and often placed principle before prudence.

Like her colleagues in the Special Operations Executive, she signed up for the war knowing that arrest (and execution) was a very real possibility—almost one in two for F Section couriers. But what her grandfather had told her as a child was set in stone:

she was to do her duty when the time came.

And so she did.

The year is 1942 when Odette Sansom makes the painful decision to leave her entire life behind and become an SOE agent to aid Britain and her beloved homeland, France. After grueling training and five failed landing attempts, she finally arrives in occupied France to begin her mission. It is here that she meets her commanding officer, Captain Peter Churchill.

As they complete mission after mission, their forged bond of trust gives way to love. All the while, they are hunted by Germany top spy-catcher, the relentless Hugo Bleicher. Bleicher finally succeeds in catching them and they are sent to Paris’s Fresnes Prison, and then to concentration camps. In captivity, Peter and Odette are starved, beaten, and tortured, but never give up the whereabouts of their colleagues, their hope, or their love for each other.

By the way, because of the extreme training including hand-to-hand combat, weaponry, and parachute school, 80% of all male and females that tried to join SOE, were disqualified.

There are those that teach that if you sin once you have received Christ as your Saviour, then you must be saved again. The Bible teaches that we can do nothing to earn our salvation, and nothing to keep it once we are saved. The promise of Christ is clear, ***“I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish...”***

The most famous verse in the Bible is, ***“For God so loved the world that he gave...”*** You cannot earn a gift. It is given by the One Who has the authority to give it to you.

**CONCLUSION:** If you are reading these words and are not sure you have experienced the love of Jesus Christ, may I encourage you to receive Christ? Would you consider bowing your head and asking Him to come into your heart and forgive you of your sins?

### 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)*

### Precious Memories of Sweethearts



### Be Not Dismayed

#### *Joshua 1:9*

Recently, I have spoken to several pastors who are going through a difficult time in their ministries. In every case, these men have seen some of their preacher boys, and in some cases, their own sons wander from the fundamentals of the faith. However, these strays have changed and become critical for the strong positions these pastors have taken over the years. I think of *Joshua 1:9* as I think of what these men are facing. Four commands are given in this passage. The first three do not worry me about these men. However, the fourth one is the one I want to focus on the most.

*Dr. Bob Gray*

**Be Strong.** There is no question in my mind that these pastors are strong men. They have proven their mettle and fought many battles.

**Be of a Good Courage.** I have seen these men courageously take a stand for what they believe. No doubt, they have good courage.

**Be Not Afraid.** These are not cowardly men. On the contrary, they know how to face the struggles and trials and put aside their fears to continue the fight.

However, the fourth command is not so easy.

**Be Not Dismayed.** It is hard sometimes not to be dismayed. We stay strong, fight the good fight, and overcome our fears; but then we become weary when we see others who do not want to fight anymore. It is here where my worries come.

I have fought not to be dismayed when former church members turn against me because they are tired of fighting and no longer remember the victories but only the struggles. Likewise, I have fought not to be dismayed when preacher friends quit fighting and change, becoming more pacifist in their positions.

To not be dismayed means to not be weary in well doing. When the battle is raging and we see no victory, we must not be dismayed. When soldiers who once fought by our sides turn and retreat, it is hard not to be dismayed. I do not fight the first three commands as much as I do the fourth. The years of ministry have made me strong, given me the courage, and taken away my fears; but sometimes, it is hard not to feel dismayed.

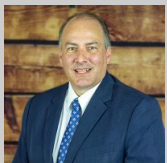
Brethren, my challenge to you is to keep being strong, keep having good courage, and continue putting aside your fears. However, my greatest challenge to you is that when others flee and forsake you, be not dismayed, for God is with you, whithersoever thou goest.

# Something to "CROW" about!

1. Heritage Baptist Church had someone saved every week for 35 years.
2. Heritage Baptist Church has not closed our Sunday School, Sunday Morning, Sunday Night, or mid-week service in 35 years—including two years of COVID.
3. Heritage Baptist Church will be hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual "Old-Time Religion" Conference on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



## 4. Scheduled Meetings in 2025.



Dr. Greg Neal



Dr. Tom Neal



Joseph Collingsworth



August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Dr. Bob Gray

## Heart Sunday February 16th, 2025

### Prepare for Open Heart Surgery



## WHAT'S YOUR IMPRESSION OF A CHRISTIAN WHO ...

- Doesn't read his Bible,
- Doesn't tithe his income,
- Doesn't witness to others,
- Doesn't say grace at meals,
- Doesn't attend Sunday School,
- Doesn't attend prayer meeting,
- Doesn't invite his friends to church,
- Doesn't attend Sunday evening services,
- Doesn't have private and family devotions,
- Doesn't regularly observe the Lord's Supper,
- Doesn't wish to follow the Lord in Baptism,
- DOESN'T DO ANYTHING?????



## From our Pastor's Wife ... Mrs. Vida Collingsworth How Will You Spend 2025?

It is said that as we get older our body's metabolism begins to slow down. Perhaps that is why time seems to fly by so quickly. We still, however, have the same twenty-four hours in a day and the same seven days in a week. What we do with them is entirely up to us! God has given us a free will to decide how we use our time.

In this new year of 2025 how will you spend your time?

- Will you faithfully spend time in prayer?
- Will you faithfully spend time reading your Bible?
- Will you faithfully attend the house of God ?
- Will you faithfully witness for Christ?
- Will you faithfully love and care for your family?

This list could go on and on. I have only listed five important ways to spend our time. In doing these five things you will find that all the other areas of life will be spent much wiser. *Ephesians 5:15-17*



Dr. Greg Neal

## The Fall Of Greatness

*Psalms 9:17*

If we study American history—not the history that the government schools tells us exists—if we were to study the actual events that took place in our country, we would know that our nation was founded as a Christian nation.

We would know that our nation was founded not just by good men, but by godly men. We would know that the hand of God was in the founding of this nation and that this nation has become a mighty nation because of the plan of God. Just read about the Revolutionary War period. There is no way that thirteen colonies should have ever won that war and won their independence except for the hand of God. God has had a plan for this nation; but every nation, if it forgets God, will

face that same God.

I want to bring some things to our attention. I hope it serves as a shock. I know we all have our problems. I know we all have our areas in which we need to be encouraged; but if something does not change, the time will come in this nation where no one will be able to stand behind a pulpit and speak and preach freely. We will not be able to rear our children out of conviction. Someone may say, "That will never happen in America." That statement is an example of an "haughty spirit before a fall." Did we ever think that we would have a president trained by communist, socialized medicine, and a Congress that ignores the Constitution? Did we ever think we would have a nation that legalized abortion on demand, or legalized what used to be illegal drugs?

*ASKED ABOUT HIS SELF-MADE FORTUNE, A MULTIMILLIONAIRE GAVE FULL CREDIT TO HIS WIFE.*

*"IN WHAT WAYS DID SHE HELP IN YOUR SUCCESS?" THE INTERVIEWER PRESSED.*

*"IF YOU WANT THE WHOLE TRUTH," THE MOGUL REPLIED, "I WAS CURIOUS TO FIND OUT IF THERE WAS ANY INCOME SHE COULDN'T LIVE BEYOND."*

*IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, LOOK IN THE TRASH FOR THE INSTRUCTIONS.*



### Heritage Highlanders January 2025 Schedule

*Saturday February 1*  
Soulwinning

*Romans 3:23*

*Saturday February 15*  
Presidents' Day

*Genesis 27:8*

*Saturday February 8*  
Lessons on Love

*Ephesians 2:4*

*Saturday February 22*  
Having the Right Spirit

*Proverbs 15:13*



## Worthy of Honor

Harriet Tubman, legendary leader of the abolitionist movement during the Civil War, has been posthumously commissioned a brigadier general in the Maryland National Guard. As Military.com reports, the honor is a "recognition for her service to the Union during the Civil War as an operational leader and spy."

Tubman, who has been called the "American Moses" for her courageous efforts in leading dozens of slaves to freedom via the Underground Railroad, made her own daring escape from slavery in 1849. When the war began, she volunteered to serve in the Union Army as a cook and field medic.

In June 1863, Tubman guided elements of the 3rd Rhode Island Heavy Artillery and the 2nd South Carolina Volunteer Infantry Regiment (a unit of Black soldiers) in gunboat operations along the Combahee River. "Thanks to the intelligence collected by Tubman, more than 750 men, women and children were liberated," the National Park Service recounts. "And U.S. troops destroyed several million dollars' worth of plantations, warehouses and rice fields along the river."

As Smithsonian points out, the Combahee operation "made Tubman the first American woman to oversee military action in a time of war."

Tubman's recognition and promotion to brigadier general came after the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation authorizing the governor "to posthumously promote, appoint or commission someone into the Maryland National Guard," Military.com reports.

During the ceremony, held near Tubman's birthplace in Maryland, Gov. Wes Moore described Tubman as "a soldier and a person who earned the title of veteran," calling her "one of the greatest authors of the American story." Moore added that Tubman "lived the values and virtues I was taught when I served in the United States Army... Live mission first, people always. Lead with honor, integrity, duty and courage. Leave no one behind. And with each act of courage, Harriet Tubman helped bring us together as a nation and a people.

She fought for a kind of unity that can only be earned through danger, risk and sacrifice.

And it is a unity we still benefit from to this day."

Maryland National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Janeen Birkhead said Tubman's "willingness to risk everything to help others to action - her moral conviction - inspired audacious actions."

Some food for thought ...or...

# Seed From The Silo!



H. M. Tabb

## E-Net And Cell Phones

### II Corinthians 2:11

In preparation for this article, the author sent out a survey to several thousand individuals. Only one survey came back indicating a disappointment in the survey itself. That person said the survey had “very clearly intended outcomes instead of seeking truth. Contrary to that opinion, we were seeking truth. We expected responders to answer the questions truthfully, regardless of any opinions we may have had. We made no effort to produce any intended outcome.

That man then went on to compare other potentially dangerous things we encounter in daily living which had nothing to do with the survey. His point was simply that we can find “boogers” under every rock if we look hard enough. He argued that tools are not the problem, but rather the character of those who use the tools. While we wholeheartedly agree with that, his arguments have no bearing on this study.

After hearing dozens of examples of problems arising in churches from internet gossip and internet porn, and of peoples lives being ruined and destroyed, a serious warning needs to be publicized. Many pastors have related their horror stories concerning their church members involving problems, many of which would never have developed before the birth of the internet and cell phones.

Many of the problems involving teenagers today are from parents allowing their teenagers use of the internet or smartphones when it is virtually impossible to police those things on a regular basis. The character of young people is in the process of developing, so it is easy to lead them astray when they are faced with wrong influences. We are dealing with a very serious problem that is destroying many of our young people (as well as many adults).

The man who took the survey mentioned above claims that if Christians deal with subjects such as this, it “hurts the cause of Christ and causes many people to have valid reasons not to trust us.” However, we believe the cause of Christ is strengthened when God’s people are warned about the wiles of the devil, including his latest tactics to move us away from our purpose for being here. Remember Paul’s warning: **“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:11)**. That is an interesting word, Paul—“*devices*.” Could that apply to iPads, iPhones, iPods, etc.?!

Suffice it to say, this article is in no way intended to be a blanket condemnation of modern electronic technology. We certainly realize that the internet, with all it involves, is a tool, and not everyone who uses it is using its dark side. But we believe everyone must admit that the internet has greatly increased the availability of evil. Statistics reveal 2,000+ new pornography sites from around the world are added to it daily. Surely, everyone realizes those sites are available even to children. (Yes, we are very aware of protective software and programs, but we are also aware of the fact that savvy computer kids can get past those programs.

What Kind Of Seed Are **You** Sowing?

*A TEACHER SAID TO HER STUDENT, "YOU HAVEN'T STUDIED YOUR GEOGRAPHY. WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?"  
"WELL," THE STUDENT REPLIED, "MY DAD SAYS THE WORLD IS CHANGING EVERY DAY. SO I DECIDED TO WAIT  
UNTIL IT SETTLES DOWN."*

*MY WIFE SAT ME DOWN AND TOLD ME HOW IMPORTANT VALENTINE'S DAY IS TO HER. SHE MUST HAVE SOMETHING  
REALLY AWESOME PLANNED FOR US.*

## Lest We Forget



Captain Lacie  
Hester

### An Air Force First

Capt. Lacie Hester is the first woman in the Air Force to receive the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest valor award.

As Air & Space Forces Magazine reports, the honor comes as a result of Hester's role, as an F-15E weapon systems officer, in intercepting waves of Iranian missiles and drones targeting Israel last year.

Maj. Benjamin Coffey, who piloted the F-15E, was also awarded the Silver Star. "At great personal risk, Coffey and Hester engaged low- altitude one-way attack UAVs in the complete darkness of night with the air-to-air Gatling gun of the F-15E, after they expended all their air-to-air missiles," according to the Air Force.

# 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

**B**iblical Authority

**A**utonomy of the Local Church

**P**riesthood of ALL Believers

**T**wo ordinances - Baptism & Communion

**I**mmersed Church Membership

**S**oul-liberty

**T**wo officers - Pastors and Deacons

**S**eparation of Church and State

## 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 in England
- **John Franklyn Norris** (1877-1952), founder of World Baptist Fellowship
- **Jack Frasure Hyles** (1926-2001), 10,000 baptisms per year and might be the greatest Baptist pastor

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