

"Together We Strive In 2025"



MARCH 2025

FROM THE DESK OF:

GERALD B. COLLINGSWORTH, PASTOR



Pastor & Mrs. C

Loyalty

INTRODUCTION: In *II Samuel 15:20* we find an unusual verse, "...should I this day make thee go up and down with us?" David was fleeing Jerusalem as Absalom had plotted and gained support to take over the seat of authority at Jerusalem. Here we find a Philistine by the name of "Ittai" that had become totally loyal to King David. David did not expect, nor accept such loyalty from someone he had known only a short time. David tells him to go back, but he would not hear of it. Notice *II Samuel 15:21*.

"*And Ittai answered the king, and said As the LORD liveth, and as my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be.*" What loyalty, from a Philistine? Such loyalty that when David was restored to the throne this man was placed over the King's guards.

Loyalty has always been a characteristic of the Bible believing Christian.

FIRST: THE PROPER ORDER OF LOYALTY.

JOHN 17:17

1. Loyal To Truth.

"*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*" Truth must override all friendship!

2. Loyal To Jesus.

Just as Ittai was loyal to King David, we must be loyal to Jesus the true King. By the way, if you're loyal to truth you will be loyal to Jesus.

3. Loyal To Your Church.

There are millions of names on church rolls in America, but very few of the members can be found. Their loyalty is found to be toward their front yard, or their job, or their hunting and fishing skills.

Example: Excavators found buried underneath an old English fort, on a carved sign, these words; "We will die rather than surrender." The church is our fort and we should be willing to die for Christ rather than surrender to the world.

4. Loyal To Our Convictions.

Our convictions should be based upon the teachings of the Bible, and we should be loyal to them. Moses was loyal as he stood against Pharaoh. Why did Moses not compromise with him? Because he was loyal to God above the power and might of a nation and its' leader.

5. Loyal To Our Mate.

Matthew 19:5 "...*For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife...*"

Illustration: The divorce rate is 50% in America. Why? Because of adultery and fornication! This is a result of disloyalty.

SECOND: THE BIBLE'S EXAMPLES OF LOYALTY. RUTH 1:16

There are three types of loyalty that you will see in society:

1. Loyalty: Speaks up for.
2. Disloyalty: Speaks against.

Continued



John R. Rice

Does It Matter How a Christian Lives?

Perhaps some one will say then that it does not matter how a Christian lives if there is no danger of his losing his soul. How foolish and shortsighted such a statement is! Would you say to my daughter that it does not matter how she lives since her position as my daughter is secure? It is true she is my daughter; she always will be; and I dare say that even my poor human father-love would not fail her no matter what she did. But she could easily lose the sweet communion with her father, crush all his pride in her, and lose all the happiness which she now has. So it is with God's children; sin breaks the communion with the father, takes away the joy of salvation and loses much of the reward a Christian might have. **1 Corinthians 3:12-15** is talking about this reward and shows that the evil works of a Christian will be burned up and only the good works remain. But the Scripture says,

"If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: BUT HE HIMSELF SHALL BE SAVED; YET SO AS BY FIRE."

It certainly does matter how a Christian lives!

Spring Program—2025

April 13th to May 25th

HORSES

Food



Treasure Hunt

Wow!

Games



Fun



Hayrides



America! What Am I?

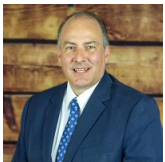
I am sleepy, rustic villages and surging, roaring cities, fruitful vines and fertile fields, magnificent mountains and dry, dusty deserts. I am 3 1/2 million square miles, 4 1/2 million farms, 10 million small businesses. I am 200 thousand schools and colleges and 300 thousand churches.

I am Paul Revere's "The British are coming!" | am Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death!"

I am Washington in prayer at Valley Forge, Lincoln in sorrow at Gettysburg, MacArthur in return at Manila.

I am the Defender of freedom. In answer to its call, I left my heroic dead in Flanders Field, Pearl Harbor, Okinawa, Korea and Vietnam. I am the voice of freedom, and freedom is breath and my blood. Without it I'd die! And God willing and helping, may I always possess the integrity and inner strength of unity to keep myself unshackled and to remain forever the citadel of freedom, a beacon of hope to all men everywhere!

I am the American flag-13 stripes to remind all of my humble beginning and 50 white stars on a field of blue, showing the strength of unity with integrity, as captured in those immortal words of Lincoln, "The Union-at any price!" If you have ever known the feeling of seeing me unfurled over a stronghold of evil, stormed in the cause of right or waving proudly in the breeze in a foreign land to the stirring sound of "Retreat" or "Taps," then you know why men are willing to follow me and to die for the freedom for which I stand.



Dr. Greg Neal

Selling Out

I have grown up in church. I cannot tell how many times I have seen a backslidden father take his family with him away from God. I cannot tell how many times I have seen a backslidden wife take her family with her. I cannot tell how many times I have seen a backslidden young adult or teenager take his family with him. When a person runs, he sells out not just himself but those whom he says he loves.

When Elimelech in panic made this decision to forsake the right principles, the right decision-making process, and the leading of God, he sold out. He altered the future of his own children. They no longer had the opportunities that they would have had. That is why parents must stay right for their children's sake. They need to swallow their pride for their children's sake. We cannot let our sins alter our children's future. Husbands and wives need to stay right with each other and with God. If we do not follow this Book, it will alter the future of our children and grandchildren.

3. Ah-loyalty: Says nothing.

Both Ah-loyalty, and Dis-loyalty are in the same group. You can always tell the Ah-loyalty group by how they keep changing their mind as they hear each argument. They will speak up for whichever side appears to be winning.

1. In Absalom, the Openly Disloyal.

II Samuel 15:1-7

II Samuel 15:6 "....so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. "

2. In Ahithophel, the Secretly Disloyal.

II Samuel 15:12

David's boyhood friend. He owed everything to David. He owed his job and his wealth to David yet was secretly trying to destroy him. *"And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor..."*

Illustration: When I was a boy one of my best friends stole my wallet.

3. In Ittai, the Instinctively Loyal.

II Samuel 15:19

Illustration: When General Sherman was asked by a reporter as to why he was so loyal to General Grant, he replied, "When I was crazy he stood by me, and when he was drunk I stood by him, we've been friends ever since."

4. In Mephibosheth, a One-sided Loyalty.

II Samuel 16:1-3

David was loyal to Mephibosheth, but Mephibosheth merely used the loyalty David had for Jonathan to watch for a future opportunity to gain the throne.

5. In Shimei, we see Loyalty to Strength.

II Samuel 16:5 and 19:16

Cursing David when he leaves, but runs to him for mercy when he regains power.

6. In Hushai, we see Political Loyalty.

II Samuel 16:18

Don't misunderstand. Hushai was totally loyal to David, but played the role of a politician to help David. *II Samuel 17:6 and II Samuel 17:23.*

7. In Barzillai, we see Loyalty Just Waiting.

II Samuel 19:32

This dear man was just waiting for an opportunity to reveal his loyalty and his love for his King.

THIRD: THE REWARDS OF LOYALTY.

MATTHEW 25:21

1. The Reward of Receiving Greater Understanding.

When you are a loyal friend, you will learn of the nature and reasoning behind your friend. But, if you're disloyal you will be shut out from learning from someone that may become your best friend.

2. The Reward of Greater Usefulness.

Once David was placed back into power he remembered those who stood by him in adversity. By the way, in *Matthew 25:23* Jesus said to those loyal to him, *"... thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things..."*

3. The Reward of History.

You know what history continues to say about Judas Iscariot, and Nero, but there is a wonderful truth behind history. The truth of history usually comes out.

Illustration: In New York City there is a bronze statue of a man with his hands and feet tied.

On that statue it states: "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country." These were the words of Nathan Hale, a great patriot.

CONCLUSION: When our soldiers returned from the battlefields of WWII, we cheered them because of their loyalty to our nation. One day, the greatest cheering will come from Heaven's balcony for those who were loyal to the cause of Christ.

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)



Billy Collingsworth,
US Army Special Forces.
Brother of our Pastor.



David Thomas,
US Marine Corps.
Father of Vida Collingsworth.

Lest We Forget

We have lost these for a short period of time. For now, let us remember what they have meant to us.



Ken Crowe,
US Air Corps.
Husband of Peggy Crowe.



Eric Campfield,
US Navy.
Father of Eve Oswald.

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 11th Annual “Old-Time Religion” Conference on June 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, 2025.



4. Scheduled Meetings in 2025.



Dr. Greg Neal



Dr. Tom Neal



Joseph
Collingsworth



August 3rd
Dr. Bob Gray

June 22, 23, 24



From our Pastor’s Wife ... Mrs. Vida Collingsworth

The Greatest Need In Motherhood

There has always been a need. The request of our Lord has been given. It is a topic that is rarely discussed and it is not seen, even in churches today. What is it? It is HOLINESS.

Sadly, many people today, even in churches don't care about HOLINESS. As Christian women we should desire HOLINESS and see that it is displayed in our speech, attitude and conduct.

Jesus said, **“Be ye holy for I am holy.”** *1 Timothy 4:12* says, **“Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of believers, in word, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”**

If God was grieved in Noah day because of the wickedness that was on the earth, how much more is He grieved by the wickedness that is in the world today. What is HOLINESS?

Quote, “Holiness is the habit of being of one mind with God, according as we find His mind in Scripture.”

That means we should love what God loves and hate what God hates. And we should measure everything by the standard of God’s Word. Those who desire to be holy will hate every false way and have a great fear of displeasing their Lord, their Heavenly Father.

Psalm 119:11, **“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”**

We should seek after God with all our heart. *Psalm 119:10*, **“With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.”** We should forebear and be forgiving because Christ has forgiven us. *Ephesians 4:32*, **“And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”** HOLINESS displays selfishness, faithfulness, love and compassion for others. Only by God’s grace and the work of the Holy Spirit in our life can we ever hope to be holy, but in this life we will never be perfectly holy.

It is important because God commands it. *1 Peter 1:15-16*, **“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written. Be ye holy; for I am holy.”** *Hebrews 12:14*, **“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”** *1 Thessalonians 4:7*, **“For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto HOLINESS.”**

HOLINESS shows the world who we are. *1 Peter 2:9* says, **“But he are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”**

Precious Mothers, remember the commandment, remember the need for Holiness. Let Christ be seen in you.

Some food for thought ...or...

Seed From The Silo!

Texas School District Removes Bible Due To Law Banning Sexually Explicit Content

The head of a Texas school district says the Bible had to be removed from school libraries because of a new state law prohibiting explicit books.

Canyon Independence School District Superintendent Darrell Flusche announced in an email that under House Bill 900, which was passed by the Texas legislature in 2023, protecting schools from sexually explicit or vulgar content, The Holy Bible is unsuitable due to "sexually explicit material." Flusche's statement cited the law's section defining "sexually explicit material" as "any communication, language, or material" that describes or depicts sexual conduct in a matter that is "patently offensive" under the Texas Penal Code.

The email sparked outrage from local parents with many expressing disbelief at the decision. At a school board meeting on December 9, parent Regina Keene told school officials, "it seems absurd to me that the good book was thrown out with the bad books."

Ian Giatti, The Christian Post

Realtor Accused of 'Hate Speech' For Posting Bible Verse

A Virginia realtor has been accused of hate speech for posting a Bible verse on Facebook in 2015. The realtor, who is also a pastor face the possibility of being hit with fines or could lose his license, which would jeopardize his longtime real estate career.

Two Staunton realtors, including an openly gay man, filed a complaint against Fauber with the Virginia Association of Realtors. The complaint accuses Fauber of 'hate speech.'

The alleged hate speech was a social media post that Fauber shared. Fauber reportedly reposted a Scripture from Reverend Franklin Graham that stated homosexual sex is a sin.

[*Leviticus 18:22*]

Paul Sacca, Blaze News

What Kind Of Seed Are You Sowing?



Heritage Highlanders March 2025 Schedule

Saturday March 1

Soulwinning

Saturday March 8

Modesty

1 John 5:13

1 Timothy 2:9

Saturday March 15

Rooted In God's Word

Saturday March 22

Growing In Christ

Saturday March 29

Spring Craft

Colossians 2:7

11 Peter 3:18

Proverbs 31:13



Dennis Stotts

Being Sincerely Wrong

As a kid I overheard my dad say that you could put a match in a diesel fuel tank and the diesel fuel would put the match out (not that I ever tried). My dad was trying to illustrate the fact that diesel fuel had a low flashpoint and would not just explode. After hearing that with my untrained mind I developed the belief that diesel fuel was not flammable. Of course I was sincerely wrong. (Editors note: Propane is also flammable.)

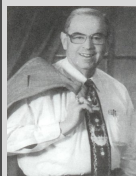
I was sitting on the couch at my babysitter's house next to her husband (an ex-military jet aircraft mechanic) as we watched TV. On the show a bulldozer fell off a cliff and exploded into flames. I said that could not be possible but the mechanic sitting next to me told me it could. I argued with him! He just gave up the conversation because he could not get through to me.

So many times I have heard people argue with my Pastor about Bible issues that he is an authority on. This makes as much sense as me arguing with a jet aircraft mechanic about whether or not diesel fuel is flammable. Do I believe EVERYTHING my Pastor says? I have known him for over 20 years and he has never lied to me. However I have always found that in any conversation concerning Bible issues that "the Bible says" always works better than "my Pastor says".

"Know what you believe and why you believe it."

Are you sincerely wrong? All you have to do is admit it.

Some Reasons to Hate Sin



*Dr. Jack
Hyles*

I recall when my father passed away. My father was a drunkard. I got the word he had passed away. My sister and I went to a little one-room apartment where he had lived. We got the little gatherings that Dad had left. He didn't leave us a dime, not a penny of insurance, not a thing, just an old souvenir of a gun, and one change of clothes and a funeral bill of seven hundred dollars. We went to that apartment and got his little clothes. You could put them all in my arms. That is a picture of what sin will do. One day he was a fine young man. He had owned a nice grocery store. Then sin came into his life and he died with nothing but a few pennies in his pocket, a hammer and a saw, a little gun, and one change of clothes.

When my sister and I went to his room early one Sunday morning to get the few things he left, a man who didn't know that Dad had passed away of a heart attack the day before (they called Dad "Pop"), came swaggering in and said, "Hello there. How are you?", I said,

"Fine." He said, "Is Pop here?" "No," I said, "Pop is not here. He won't be coming back." "Well, do you see that whiskey bottle? See it?"

"Yes, I see it." (The whiskey bottle was over there in the corner.)

He said, "Me and Pop killed that whiskey bottle yesterday."

I picked up that whiskey bottle, looked at him and said, "Sir, that whiskey bottle killed Pop right after he killed the bottle." It was all I could do to keep from hitting that fellow in the head with it.

Tonight I hate liquor like I hate a rattlesnake. I hate any kind of liquor. I hate Martinis, I hate cocktails, I hate beer, I hate 3-2, I hate Seagram's Seven, I hate Four Roses, I hate it all. Why? Because I have seen what it will do to homes. I saw the wrinkles it put in my little mother's face. I saw the gray hairs it put in her head, and the stooped shoulders it caused. I saw her go to bed weeping at night because her boy and girl had no food to eat. The husband had drunk it all up. I hate it.

Soulwinning Stories

Recently I listened to the testimony of Jan Roueche on the Abundant Living podcast. She was led to the Lord by a teenager as she was sitting at the mall reading a book while waiting for her sister. She had heard the Gospel before but had not had anyone take the time to show her personally how to accept Christ as her Saviour.

Shortly after I heard the podcast was the last Saturday of the month when there were no scheduled soul winning meetings. Due to the bitter cold weather, I was really unsure of where to go soul winning. I could not get Mrs. Roueche's testimony out of my mind. For a few days, I felt strongly that the Lord was wanting me to go to the mall to witness. It was so out of my comfort zone that I kept pushing it out of my mind and trying to find a different way. The Lord would not let the thought leave. After much prayer and trepidation, that Saturday afternoon I got my soul winning Bible, grabbed some tracts and headed to the mall. My stomach was in my throat as I walked through the mall handing out tracts to people I passed by and felt I could reach out and hand them one. I stopped to talk and witness to a few people who were by themselves. Most people were busy or had other reasons not to listen. As I was headed back the other way toward the doors I came in, I saw a young man sitting by himself in one of the chairs that were strewn in the middle between the different stores. I stopped to talk to him for a few minutes and asked him if he knew he had a home in heaven. He said he did not and agreed to let me show him from the Bible how that he could know. After finishing and praying with him, I found out he lived in Cleveland. Right as I was putting my coat back on, he stood and walked away to meet a young lady coming out of one of the stores. I don't know any details of his life, but I would venture to say the Lord placed me there right at that time just for him to hear the Scripture that maybe he would not have heard anywhere else.

- Tammy Anderson

Fetch the Roll



Dr. Bob Gray

Jeremiah 36:21, "So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll: and he took it out of Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes which stood beside the king."

You are just as good a Christian as you are in relation to the reading and obeying of the Word of God. The average person in the average congregation does not average ten minutes a day in the Bible, and that sums up all of our problems as Christians. That is why life becomes so complex and confusing! Everything God has ever done He has done through His Word.

The Bible says ten times in the early verses of Genesis, "...and God said let there be..." The sun rises in the east and makes its journey at the Word of God. The sun was created by the Word of God! The moon and the stars were created by the Word of God. Everything that God has ever done He has done by His Word. Nobody is going to do anything lasting unless he does it by the Word of God.

I am not as concerned about the Bible being kicked out of our public schools as I am about it being left out of our Christian homes. *II Chronicles 7:14 says, "If my people..."* The plea is for God's people to repent. Judgment always begins with the house of God, according to the Bible. Our country will rise and fall upon the obedience of God's people to the Word of God. So, let us fetch the roll! JUST A THOUGHT!

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, I 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.

I Corinthians 15:3-4, I 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

Biblical Authority

Autonomy of the Local Church

Priesthood of ALL Believers

Two ordinances - Baptism & Communion

Immersed Church Membership

Soul-liberty

Two officers - Pastors and Deacons

Separation 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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