



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

October 17, 2021

Looking Unto Jesus (Kent Heaton)

Life can be hard when you want to live for Christ. The storms of life batter our faith through sickness, sorrow, persecution, and the challenges of sin. The early Hebrew Christians were faced with those same mountains to overcome and often wanted to give up. In the epistle to the Hebrews, the writer offers hope and a promise of rest for those who would endure.

The conclusion of this letter is pleading with the people of God to “lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author, and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

When the encumbrance of sin is removed in life, the vision becomes clearer to look to Jesus for

hope. Looking unto Jesus will put a person’s life in the right direction. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6), and our way must be His way; our truth His truth; and our life must come from Him.

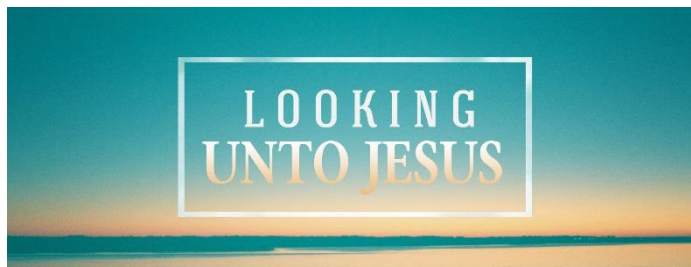
The Lord knows the right way, and we must look to Jesus for the right answers.

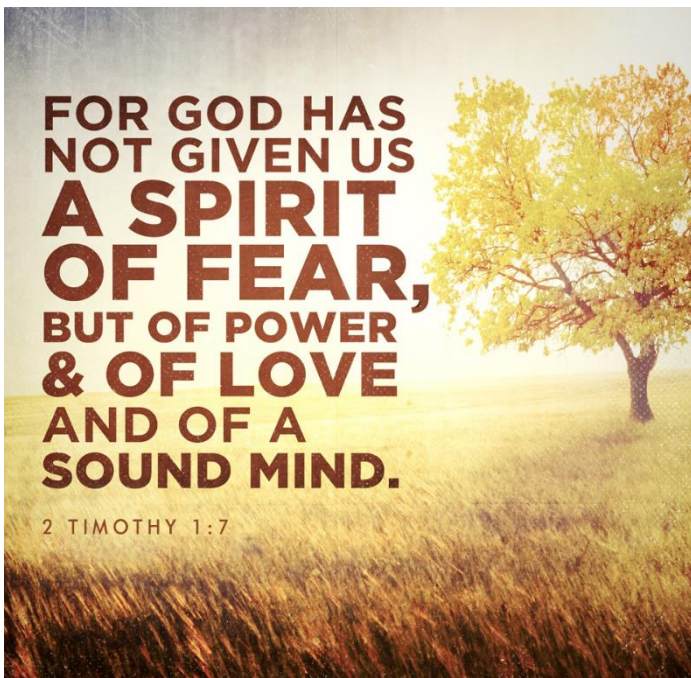
Through the word of God we gain enlightenment as the psalmist declared in Psalm

119:105 – “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Looking unto Jesus is looking at the “author” of our faith. As the author of our faith the Lord is where we originate our faith. Earlier, the Hebrew writer said, “For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain (author – ASV) of their salvation perfect through sufferings” (Hebrews 2:10).

Paul wrote, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has





raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).

Not only do we look to Jesus as the author of our faith He is also the "finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). Our faith is perfected when we look to Jesus. Growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ instills in our lives the hope of promise (Hebrews 11:13-16) and the strength to endure through difficult times (Hebrews 11:33-40).

We see His own example of faith when He "endured the cross" with "joy" (Hebrews 12:2). As a pattern of courage, we can face the day with renewed faith and knowledge that the one who "has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2) will reign in our lives with the promise of giving mercy and grace in our time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16).

The greatest joy of looking unto Jesus is that we see the Father. Jesus said, "He who has seen Me

has seen the Father" (John 14:9). When we look to Jesus we realize the blessings of mercy and grace to be God's children.

"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (Colossians 1:12-15).

What do we see when we look unto Jesus? "Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:3). Look to Jesus!

On The Lighter Side

- Just about the time a woman thinks her work is done, she becomes a grandmother.
- Note from a fisherman's wife: "Wouldn't it be great if all men showed as much patience with their wives as they do with fish?"
- An exhausting study of police records shows that no wife ever shot her husband while he was doing the dishes.
- Don't forget that your wife still likes candy and flowers. Show her you remember by mentioning them occasionally.

- The husband who boasts that he never made a mistake has a wife who did.
- Before criticizing your wife's faults, you must remember it may have been those very defects which prevented her from getting a better husband than the one she married.

But He Never Enlisted (Sewell Hall)

He served in the Army but ... "he isn't a soldier." We believe there is a lesson in the following Associated Press report: An Army spokesman said Friday that 15-year-old Walter Lee Martin "is not recognized as a soldier - despite two periods of serving in Vietnam because he did not enlist, was not drafted and did not enter the Army through any regular means."

"He was not officially in, did not officially enlist or enter through any normal means," Barrante said. "He was, in fact, not a soldier. He isn't a soldier. Two periods of service in Vietnam, twice wounded in action; yet not purple hearts, no honorable discharge, no veteran's benefits; he did not legally enlist."

This reminds us of a host of men and women whom we have observed serving among the soldiers in the Army of the Lord. They serve faithfully and even sacrificially. They reject the sins of the flesh and live a pure life. They

attend services regularly, give liberally of their money, and are ready unto every good work. They often study the Scriptures, defend the truth and attack error. Often, they are outstanding in their performance as soldiers, except that they have never enlisted!

The "Captain of our salvation" knew in advance there would be such individuals. He warned in advance of the fate they may expect: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name cast out devils? And in thy



name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:22-23). What a pity to spend a lifetime enduring "hardships as a good soldier" only to miss the veteran's benefits because of a failure to enlist.

There was no way that the young man described above could have legally enlisted; he was ineligible. But anyone who is a sinner can enlist in the army of the Lord if he is willing to leave his sins. The conditions are simple: "He that

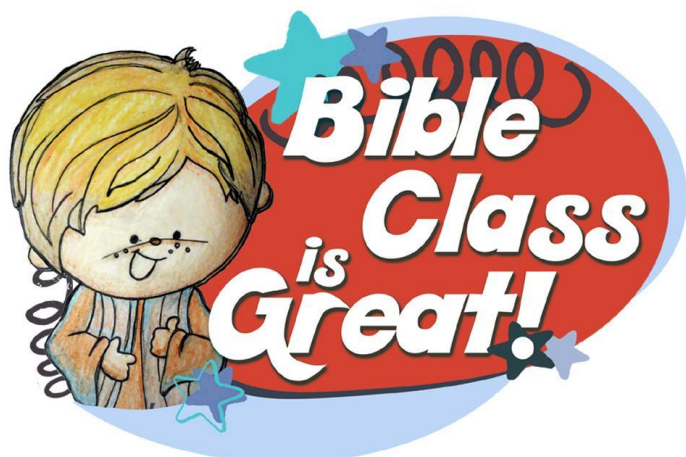
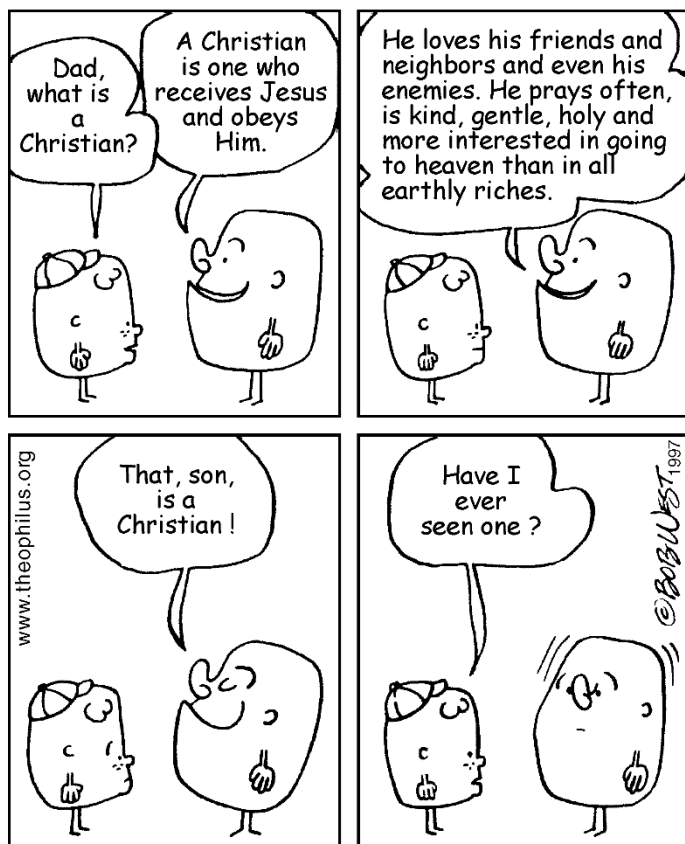
believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16). "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38).

A Prayer With Teeth In It (Selected)

The old evangelist Bud Robinson is reported to have prayed the following prayer each day: "O Lord, give me a backbone as big as a saw long and ribs like the sleepers under the church floor. Put iron shoes on my feet and galvanized breeches on my body. Give me a rhinoceros hide for skin and hang up a wagonload of determination in the gable-end of my soul. Help me to sign the contract to fight the devil as long as I've got a tooth – and then gum him until I die."

THEOPHILUS

A Rare Breed



**DO NOT BOAST ABOUT TOMORROW, FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT A DAY MAY BRING.
(PROVERBS 27:1)**

Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

- Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)
- Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)
- Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

- ↪ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida
- ↪ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; The saints in Nicaragua

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