



# THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

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

August 7 & 14, 2022

## **Feeling Our Pain, Facing Our Sin (Gary Henry)**

“For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight; that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge” (Psalm 51:3,4).

TWO PAINFUL TRUTHS MUST BE CONFRONTED IF WE ARE TO LONG FOR GOD DEEPLY: OUR EMPTINESS AND OUR SINFULNESS. Somehow we’d like to convince ourselves that we can get all that we need in this life and that our problem with sin is at least manageable. In truth, however, our deepest longings can never be satisfied in this world, and the sin in our hearts is worse than we’ve been willing to admit. The sooner we face these facts, the sooner we can learn what grace really means. We only “get” God when we “give up” in both of these areas!



Larry Crabb has written concerning these important matters in his book ‘Inside Out.’ There he argues that an acceptance of both our thirst and our selfishness is necessary if we are to begin growing toward God. “We are

not psychologically disordered,” Crabb writes, “we are sinful people who believe lies about what must be ours in order to experience fulfillment.” Real change for the better is possible only when we confess the pain of our disappointed longings and

the sinfulness of our self-protective motives. These are the keys that open the door to the only joy worth having.

In regard to our EMPTINESS, we need to just go ahead and admit that we hurt. As long as we live in this world, our groaning is inescapable. In God it can be diminished, but in this life it will not go away completely. And in regard to our SINFULNESS, we need to just go ahead and admit that we are broken. In God our sins can be forgiven and our lives can be

improved, but if we are to be saved, God must save us despite our continuing failures.

Honesty about both our yearnings and our guilt is not easy. But the good news is that it leads to an appreciation of GRACE that will allow God to enter us deeply. Hope can only be ours when we admit that our hearts will never be completely healed in this world. And forgiveness can only be ours when we admit that our crutches and our carnal coping mechanisms are selfish.

“Very few Christians feel their disappointment with life deeply enough to fix their hope on what is yet to come. Even fewer face their sin so thoroughly that forgiveness becomes their most valued blessing” (Larry Crabb).



### **Make Worship A Family Affair**

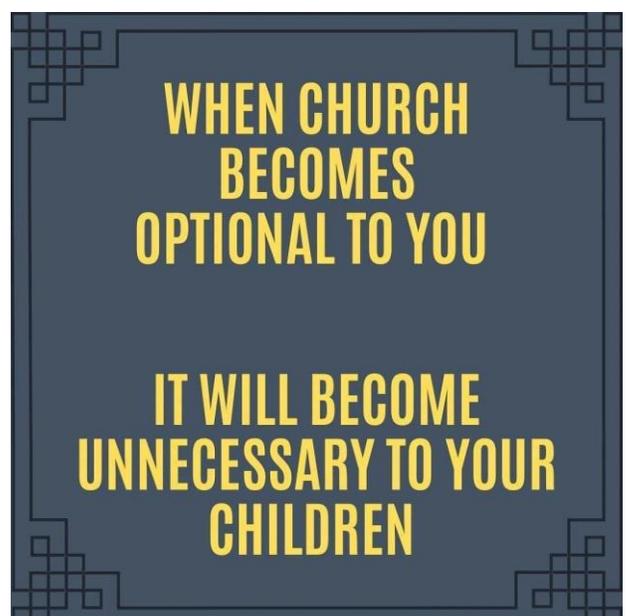
## **The Muffled Note (Paul R. Blake)**

“From the steeple of St. Mary’s Church in Cracow, Poland, a bugle has been sounded every day for the last seven hundred years. The last note on the bugle is always muted and broken, as if some disaster had befallen the bugler. This seven hundred-year commemoration is in

memory of a heroic trumpeter who one night sounded a blast on his trumpet and summoned the people to defend their city against the hordes of the invading Tartars. As he was sounding the last blast on his trumpet, an arrow from one of the Tartars struck him and killed him. Hence the muffled note at the end.” (C.E. Macartney)

Persevering to the end in spite of opposition and danger, we deeply admire those who do so. But there is a difference between admiring such quality of character and actually living that quality of character. We train these virtues into our character by daily manifesting integrity; then, when we find ourselves in crisis, we have developed the life habit of persevering through danger until the end.

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him” (James 1:2).



# Jesus And The Little Children

(Stanley Zavala)

“And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.” (Mark 10:13-16)

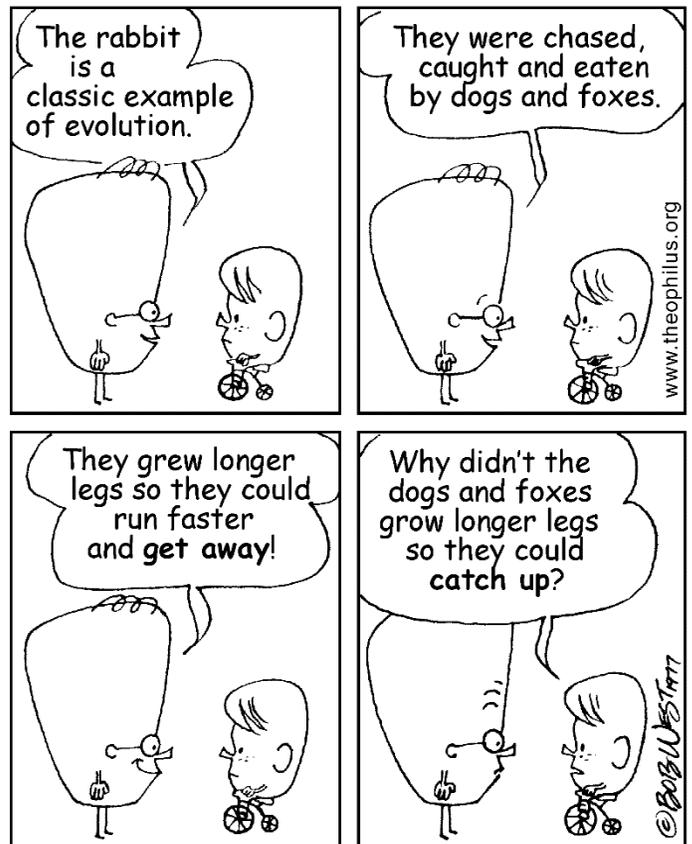
With VBS just behind us, we have focused, and rightfully so, on our children and lessons we can learn from them. However, I would like for us to consider the above verses from a different perspective. At the very beginning of the passage, it says, “they were bringing children to him.” Please do not take this part of the account lightly. They brought their children to Jesus because they understood who he was and knew that their children needed him as much as they did.

No one today can take their children to physically see Jesus, so what does the application of this account look like for us? I would like to suggest three ways that we can bring our children to Jesus.

First, share your testimony. This is a great way for children to

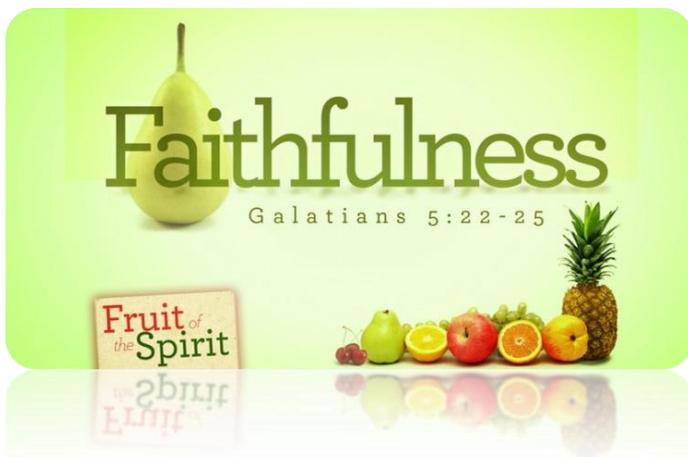
THEOPHILUS

Classic Evolution



get to know who Jesus is and what he can do for them. Paul used this approach to bring others to Jesus. In Acts 26, he shared his conversion story with King Agrippa. We should be unashamed of what Jesus has done for us. We should desire to share our new life with Jesus not only with strangers but with our children. As the song says, “hide it under a bushel, NO. I’m going to let it shine.” Our children should know Jesus from the change he has made in our lives.

The second way is to routinely expose children to the church. Jesus is the cornerstone on which the church is built (Ephesians 2:20), and the church is the body of Christ (Colossians 1:18). What an awesome opportunity to expose our children to “living stones being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” – 1 Peter 2:5.



This experience is not something that happens on just Sunday and Wednesday night, but in our daily commitment to fulfill the purpose of the church. If we want to bring our children to Jesus, we must expose them to the church.

Thirdly is to teach them theology (the study of God). "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" - John 14:6. When we study the truth of God's word, we are bringing our children to Jesus. Children should learn and develop the skills to be "a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" - 2 Timothy 2:15. This is something that should be taught daily when

you are eating a meal together, going for a walk, or watching T.V. Could you say that your words and actions bring our children to Jesus?

To me, the best part of the account can be found at the end when we are told, "He took them in his arms and blessed them." Jesus is waiting for all of his children with open arms and is wanting to bless them. What a great opportunity and responsibility we all have to bring our children to Jesus.

We sometimes sing this prayer in the hymn "Father, Help Us Raise Our Children."

*When our time to go draws near,  
We may leave our children here;  
To the new land, far away,  
Father, bring them home someday.*

May God bless us as we strive to help our children see Jesus.

**Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive. (C. S. Lewis)**

### **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; Philip North, Branson, Missouri*

↪ *The saints in Nicaragua*

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