



APRIL 2024

Pastor BAILEY and "Impact Church"

Song of Songs 3:1-4a "By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye whom my soul loveth? It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go"

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

"I suppose it is almost impossible to explain what it is to come to Jesus, it is so simple. If you ask a sick person who has been healed, what it was to come and be healed, he could hardly tell you. As far as the Lord has given light in this matter, and looking at what my own heart does in like circumstances, I do not feel that there is anything more in coming to Jesus, than just believing what God says about His Son to be true. I believe that many people keep themselves in darkness by expecting something more than this. Some of you will ask, 'Is there no appropriating of Christ? no putting out the hand of faith? no touching the hem of his garment?' I quite grant, beloved, there is such a thing, but I do not think it is inseparable from believing the record. If the Lord persuades you of the glory and power of Emmanuel, I feel persuaded that you cannot but choose Him. It is like opening shutters of a dark room; the sun that moment shines in. So, the eye that is opened to the testimony of God, receives Christ that moment." Robert Murray McCheyne

1 John 5:10-13 "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

Hear this testimony of a transformed life, the Apostle Paul (Roman prisoner giving testimony before King Agrippa): *Acts 26:9-20 "I verily thought within myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth, which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities. Whereupon, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them that journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, 'Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick*

against the goads.' And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, 'I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee. To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.' Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision. But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet (fitting) for repentance."

Writing some years later from a Roman prison cell: *Philippians 3:13,14 "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* -the Apostle Paul

Quite some years ago, when passing into the gates of the Angola Prison in Louisiana, I read a posted sign, and on it the first words that greeted the eye of every prisoner who entered: "FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND..REACH FORTH UNTO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEFORE." Of one thing I am very sure, a Savior calls us to know Him. There is hope in this darkening world!

I am looking forward to our fast approaching 'Fourth Sunday Nights' at the campus at Old Mill. These have long served as the great opportunity for many of our supporters and encouragers to join together in evenings of thankfulness, prayer and timely, critical messages. Please keep your hearts and ears watchful as we will announce our preachers in our May newsletter.

I continue to know the mercies of God in my battle with 4th Stage 'advanced' Prostate Cancer. God has extended my life since the diagnosis in summer of 2022. While experiencing wonderful strength, I set myself to 'redeem the time' and to embrace the critical concerns of this mission's perpetuity to the glory and use of God who raised it up! Very able men and women of God are serving now and together we wait upon God for His fullest directing and pleasure in us! We have stayed the course of His callings for more than 50 years and have no other mind than that which is fixed upon strengthening and securing what remains to be accomplished in this spiritual battleground. We presently prepare for exciting, summer camps for our children's work and May 12th -15th we'll be serving 'at the memorial wall' of the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial in D.C.. Pray as we long to bring comfort and hope to bereaved families. In July, we will be presenting Pointman Seminars at the Int'l Conference of Police Chaplains in Pittsburgh.

Thank you for Standing With Us in These Perilous Times,
Jack Crans/Debtor.

PS: We have a "critical need" for help to remove a dangerous tree ...

Is 64:1-4