



# The Voice of Truth

A weekly publication of the  
**Hillcrest church of Christ**  
1621 Hillcrest Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54313

(920)499-5677 E-mail: [Hillcrestcofc@live.com](mailto:Hillcrestcofc@live.com)  
[www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com](http://www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com)

**August 10, 2008**

## **DO You Remember Thy Creator?** By Jimmy Pettigrew

“Remember also thy Creator in the days of thy youth, before the evil days come, and the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them,” (Ecclesiastes 12:1). We would think that everyone would remember the Creator. But, sadly, for many of today’s youth this is not the case. Many of today’s youth have very little hope pursuing the course of righteousness. In an age of television addiction, materialism, and recreationalism we allow our youth to learn at an early age not to remember the Creator each day, but to do what pleases self. It’s sad that the youth are taught by our actions that these things are to take precedence over God. Then the Creator sounds strange to them in adulthood.

We must teach our youth about the Great Creator!!! “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it,” (Prov. 22:6). “... Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord,” (Eph. 6:4).

There is nothing so despicable as to see parents who abuse a child by severe beating or torture, unless it is a parent who fails to instill within his child the love of God and the joy of service in Christianity.

There is nothing sadder than the story of a careless parent who causes a child to be burned, unless it is an adult who carelessly fails to prepare a son or daughter for eternity.

The time for remembering God is in the days of our youth. Sunday worship and Wednesday services are not times set aside for the adults to give remembrance only, but for the youth also!

The youth should know that worship is a time that all should give praise, them included! Bible study is a time for both youth and adults to be learning! So why don’t the youth remember thy Creator? Maybe recreational time conflicted with the time of worship and bible study. Or, maybe they’re too tired to come to services. Brethren, we don’t use these excuses to keep our kids home from school. What an ungodly imbalance!! Or, maybe they learned from their parents that they don’t have to come to every service. Parents, if they see you attending worship every time an opportunity arises, they will learn from your example. What’s the answer?

If our children do not desire to go to services, do we make them? Some say, if you make your children go to services, they will rebel against the church. That is a fool hearted statement, if I ever heard one. We make them go to school, and I never saw one rebel against the school. My mother used to make me take baths for years, and I still take baths! We are to teach them what is good for them. Parents have a great responsibility to help their children for eternity.

Does absence by choice reveal anything about ones interests, priorities, values, etc.? Absolutely! Also, you automatically taught that it’s not important to study God’s word; you

**CONTINUED INSIDE...**

told the town that the church is not important! Their problem is they do not want to retain God in their knowledge, because God gets in the way of their plans to live for self. So, they willfully forget God.

Let us all remember thy Creator!!!

## **Anchors in Troubled Times**

**By Keith Greer**

Often times this world can be a cruel place. Who has lived life on this earth without facing difficulties or heartaches? Mankind will always have to deal with the three T's: testing, tribulations, and trials. The Scriptures abundantly teach this to be so (1 Peter 1:6-7; 1 Peter 4:12-16; 1 Peter 5:9; 2 Timothy 3:12).

Each of us has our own burdens to bear. Some Christians seem to believe that God has placed them under a "protective umbrella," where no unpleasantness can enter. Comforting, but not accurate! Life on earth is a package deal. We must take the good and the bad (Matthew 5:45).

What do we do when these times come upon us? Where do we turn in times of trouble? Many folks make the problems worse by turning to the wrong source for help. Did God leave us without hope or recourse? Can we face life's problems and overcome them?

We can if we have some "anchors." What is an anchor? It is a source of security or stability (American Heritage Dictionary). God has provided some "anchors" to aid us in our journey down the uneven pathways of life. Do they work? Together we will endeavor to answer these questions.

1.) The Word of God. God's word is inspired. Who created man? Who better understands man? Who can be a better counselor? "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). "Profitable" means for our good. God's word can equip us for every good work. Do we turn to His word in times of trouble?

2.) Prayer. The Bible tells us to "pray without ceasing." "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). Do we tell God our troubles? Do we always think to pray? We have a special relationship with God, a Father and son kind of relationship. It is so sad that people in the world do not have this blessing. We have it and don't use it. If we don't turn to Him we show a lack of trust and faith in Him. Never underestimate the security of this anchor.

3.) The church. Why are we called the "family of God"? Who better understands the struggles of my life as a Christian than another Christian? Read these passages: John 13:34-35; 1 John 2:9-11; 1 John 3:15-18; 1 John 4:19-21. God commands us to love our brethren. When facing the onslaught that life can give you, whom do you turn to first? People of the world or your brethren? Who is going to heaven? If we don't care now, we won't get the chance to care later!

4.) The hope of eternal life. Why did Abraham leave his homeland? To offer Isaac on that altar? "...for he waited for the city which has foundations whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). He had his focus on something better! We need to keep "focused" on heaven. Read Philippians 3:12-16; 2 Peter 1:3-4. We are told by Paul to "lay hold on eternal life" (1 Timothy 6:12). This is our most prized possession. Do not allow it to slip through your hands. Troubles are temporal!

## **Can We Walk On Water?**

**By Jonathan L. Perz**

One of Jesus' more memorable miracles took place on the sea of Galilee. After feeding the five thousand disciples, Jesus dispersed the multitude and sent His disciples by boat to the other side of the sea. The wind was contrary, it was the fourth watch of the night and the disciples were troubled when Jesus came to them "walking on the water" (Matthew 14:25-26).

As incredible as this is, another amazing event took place on that memorable evening that is sometimes overlooked. Peter, after learning that it was Jesus who was walking on the water and not a "ghost," says, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water" (Matthew 14:28). Jesus replies, "Come." The word of God tells us that Peter "had come down out of the boat" and "walked on the water" to go to Jesus (Matthew 14:29). Observe that the text doesn't say he tried, but could not. It says Peter "walked on the water." This mere fisherman, exercising faith in his Lord, did that which most believe impossible—he walked on water. Now here is a challenging question for you to ponder, "Can you walk on water?"

Before considering the question, please observe that the lesson did not end here. The Holy Spirit goes on to reveal that when Peter saw that the water was boisterous, he was afraid and began to sink. He cried out, "Lord, save me!" So, the Lord immediately stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:30-31).

Peter did that which so many do today—he doubted. Doubt will always undermine faith (cf. James 1:6-8). Because our hearts are laden with doubts, our faith can never reach its fullest potential. Because we focus too much on the boisterous seas, taking our focus off of the Lord, we will never know if we can walk on water! Those boisterous seas may be the waves of trial, adversity, calamity, troubles, cares and such forth we face in the world, whether by chance or of our own devices. They may also be constant, unrelenting voices of the faithless world we live in telling us "No," "You can't," or "That's impossible." These voices of doubt more often than not keep people from trying, which is an even greater tragedy than trying and failing. When Peter began to sink, the Lord was there to lift him up. The Lord also stands ready to lift us up when we try and fail. At least we have the courage to try. Maybe we only take one step the first time, but that will embolden us to take two the second time. Before we know it, faith will have conquered doubt and we will be "walking on water."

As long as we allow the waves of doubt to disrupt our faith, we will always sink. We will never know what it is to rise above the boisterous seas of this world and walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). The truth be told, in the scheme of things, walking on water has no great purpose in this world. What matters ... what really counts for something ... is having the faith that says 'I can walk on water, if the Lord bid me'. So, once again, we ask, "Can you walk on water?"

## **Are You Breaking Your Vows?**

There is a strange, peculiar and bewildering disease that is spreading among God's children today! It strikes Sunday afternoon and is cured by Thursday morning. The disease is called "LUKEWARMNESS". The lukewarmness makes my Lord sick (Revelation 3:16).

We in the Lord's church are not totally committed to the Lord. Brethren, we become married to Christ when we obey the gospel. It is then that we become a part of His bride, the church (Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2). We then make solemn marriage vows, and they

must not be broken. If we neglect these vows for just a moment we deny the Lord and “If we deny him, he also will deny us,” (2 Timothy 2:12).

As Christians, we have solemnly promised the Lord that we will ever be faithful in all our duties as a part of the bride – we must not break these vows. But, sadly many of my brethren and sisters who would not think of breaking the vows they made to their earthly companions think very little of breaking the vows to the Lord, break them! HOW?

1. By forsaking the assembly (Hebrews 10:25).
2. By loving the things of this world (1 John 2:15-17).
3. By not seeking and saving the lost (Matthew 28:18-20).
4. By not putting the Kingdom of God first (Matthew 6:33).
5. By not adding to your faith (2 Peter 1:5-11).
6. By burying thy talent (Matthew 25:14-30).
7. By not redeeming the time (Ephesians 5:15-16).
8. By not giving attendance to reading, meditating, study (1 Timothy 4:13-15; 2 Timothy 2:15).
9. By not having a saving influence (Matthew 5:14-16).
10. By not presenting our bodies a living sacrifice, holy to God (Romans 12:1).

I know that you could think of many more ways we break our vows to our Lord. Have you faithfully kept your vows? Have you been true to the Great Bridegroom? May I implore you to live true to your Lord. Christ died for us; let us serve him faithfully until the end (Revelation 2:10).

---

### **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

**Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

**Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

**Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

**Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

**Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17