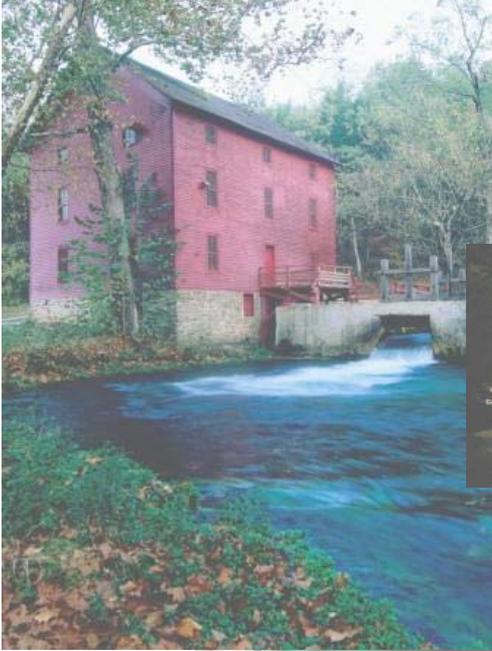


*Happy Summer from
The Ozarks!*



Jewels For His Crown



A periodical for Christian Young Ladies

July/August 2015



Family Moments

Wedding bells have sounded again in our home! Dakota Lahmann has married our daughter, Esther, and become part of our family. We are very proud to welcome him! They have made their home just a few miles away and still attend church with us at Straight Paths, where Esther blesses us by playing the piano. Please pray for them as they start their new life together.

We have more exciting news! Straight Paths Bible Church is now holding services in Ellsinore, Missouri in the building formerly known as First Baptist Church. The Lord has made it possible for us to attain the property to use for the work of the Lord. It is a large facility and a great change for us. The building is in the center of town and very easy to see and find. The property has been allowed to run down quite a bit but our people have a mind to work. We ask that you pray for the Lord's guidance in the work that he has in mind for us, whatever it may be. *"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:" Psalms 127:1* ~T. Miller



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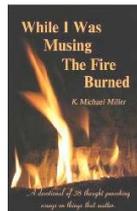
Subscription is free.
Donations for publication are appreciated.

Our Book Store

We still have two books available, "As The Days Go By", a collection of poems by Teresa S. Miller. The book is a 68-page paperback edition of original poetry. The cost is \$5.95 shipped free.



Also available, "While I Was Musing, The Fire Burned", a book of devotions written by K. Michael Miller, which many have already found a great blessing. The cost is \$8.95 plus free shipping. Order both for \$12!



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(Note: These are now also available through Amazon to order or to download on your Kindle device. When searching, type in name and author, please.)

That I may
know him,
and the power of his
resurrection,
and the fellowship
of his
sufferings,

Philippians 3:10

God will not permit
any troubles to come
upon us,
unless He has
a specific plan
by which
great blessing
can come out
of the difficulty.

Peter Marshall



Not until each loom is silent,
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Will God unroll the pattern
And explain the reason why
The dark threads are as useful
In the Weaver's skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
For the pattern which He
planned.

Blessed is any weight, however
overwhelming, which God has
been so good as to fasten with
His own hand upon our
shoulders.
F. W. Faber

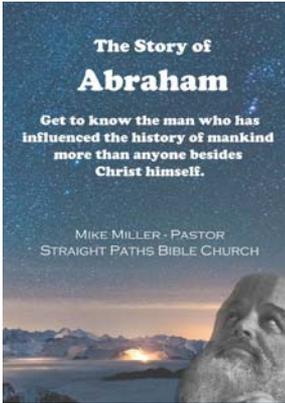
*Nearly all
God's jewels
and crystalized
tears.*



To choose to suffer means
that there is something
wrong; to choose God's will
even if it means suffering is
a very different thing. No
healthy saint ever chooses
suffering; he chooses God's
will, as Jesus did, whether it
means suffering or not.

Ozward Chambers

Knowing God and understanding his heart is the first step to living a holy and separated life. God gave us "the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." I have come to know more about the God that I love and serve through these messages and I highly recommend that you, too, listen to them. They will bless your life.

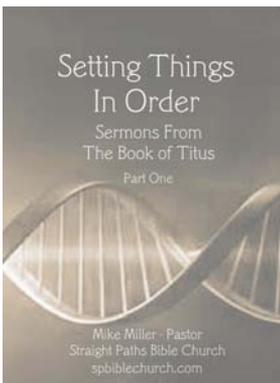
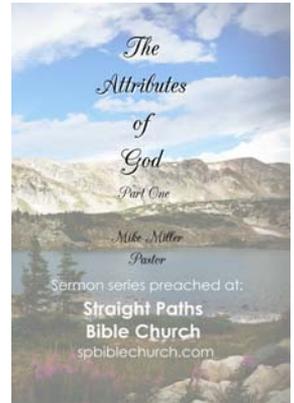


The Story of Abraham

Fourteen messages on twelve separate CDs in a convenient album case that covers the life of Abraham (Genesis 12-Genesis 24). Precious insight into the life of the man that everyone knew as the "friend of God", these messages have already been a great blessing to many others. You may purchase the entire set for \$20, or you can buy all the messages on one MP3 for only \$10. Both come in plastic cases and are perfect for gift-giving.

The Attributes of God

Sixteen messages are gathered into two separate albums in this wonderful study of the attributes and character of our blessed Creator, such as "God is Holy," "God is Patient," and "God is Omnipotent." This set, which comes in two separate albums (part one and part two) can be purchased for \$20 in the CD form, or for \$10 with all the messages on one MP3. Each message will be a blessing to you and your family and is easy to understand.



Setting Things in Order

This set of sixteen messages is taken from the book of Titus. Our God is a God of order which is clearly seen in all of his creation. There is nothing left to question in the way that he expects us to live in this present day, and God blesses those who seek to live according to his statutes. These two albums may be purchased for \$20 in the CD form, or they are also available in an MP3 format for \$10.

(Note: All proceeds go back into our CD ministry.)

But Why?

*"And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"
Esther 4:14*

Her parents were dead and she had been raised by her cousin, Mordecai (Esther 2:7). Hadassah was beautiful and fair (of pleasing appearance, especially because of a pure or fresh quality; comely) and with all probability, just coming into the age that she would be ready for marriage. By this time, she had been taught all the laws of her people about marriage and the duties of a wife in the eyes of the God of her fathers. Being raised in a land that followed pagan idols, Mordecai undoubtedly took her spiritual education quite seriously, making sure she knew who she was and to Whom she belonged. Her future as a good Jewish wife and mother was secure...or so they thought, until the day that the king's men came and caught her away to be one of the many he would consider for his wife.

I believe Esther knew what her fate would be up to a point, for everyone knew what the trial would consist of for being chosen as the new queen. The least that would happen to her would be a year of purification (which was a very long and particular process), the loss of her purity, and then becoming a member in the house of the king's concubines. In the best of circumstances, her future did not look very promising or blessed. No doubt at times she wondered why these things were happening to her. Being chosen as the next queen made things a little easier to bear, no doubt, but she was still a Jewess in the midst of a very heathen nation, and they did not know she was a Jewess.

So, why did all of these horrible things happen to such a seemingly sweet, beautiful young lady? Why would God allow her to be mistreated so horribly by these cruel men and have to live a life as the wife of such a heathen king? Because, obviously, God needed her to help deliver his people, Israel. This heathen king loved his new queen and she obtained grace and favor in his sight (2:17). True love can be a great factor when things are going wrong. If you read the rest of the book of Esther, you will see that there was a wicked man by the name of Haman who wanted the Jews dead. Had it not been for Esther and the love that king Ahasuerus had for her, she would not have been known as the queen who helped deliver her people from destruction. Just as Mordecai had said in the first part of the verse above, God would have procured another deliverer for his people but she would not have been blameless or spared. Her demise in being ruined by a heathen king was rewarded by being the wife that saved a nation.

Bad things are going to happen in this life, not because God wants it that way, but because we live in a sin-filled world that has not been yet been redeemed by our God. People come into this world pure and spotless, and then they learn all the wicked ways of Adam's children until they are also polluted by the filth of sin. Sin brings hardships, sickness, fear, hatred, death, and countless other abominations on

the children of men. We live in a sin-cursed world and without God and his influence on our lives, we are of all men most miserable. But we have God, who takes our blunders and feeble attempts to live and uses them for our good, if we let him. Most of the time the evil he must deliver us from is our own doing, but sometimes it is out of our control.

Back in 1953, a young missionary couple married and began working with some indian tribes in South America. Working with four other missionaries, they went into the jungles of Ecuador to try to reach the natives there for Christ. For a while it seemed that their efforts would be blessed with good results. Then one day while they were visiting the village, the natives rose up against them and speared them to death. All five of the men died: Jim Elliot, Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, Pete Fleming, and their pilot, Nate Saint. It was a terrible tragedy and a seemingly useless waste of young lives. But the wives of these men were able to lay aside their grief after a while, and instead of becoming hard and bitter for being robbed of their husbands, they worked to better learn the language and went back to those people and won many of them to Christ.

Just take a little time and think of what Joseph had to go through. God had given Joseph some very vivid dreams about his future, how that in some way he would reign over even his family. He had no way of knowing how God would bring those things to pass, and without doubt there were times when he wondered if his dreams were only childish fancies. But think of how many times his hopes were dashed: favored of his father until he was sold as a slave by his brothers; head of his master's household until his master's wife falsely accused him of attacking her; favored in the prison insomuch that the two servants of Pharaoh listened and believed the interpretation of their dreams that he gave them, only to be left in bondage for two more years. But it was in that prison that the iron of affliction did the work that God intended it to do. Joseph woke up one morning in prison only to lay his head to rest that night in the palace of Pharaoh.

But, why did Joseph have to go through all of that to become the ruler of Egypt? Why did Moses have to spend forty years on the back side of the desert before he was ready to lead the children of Israel out of their bondage so many years later? I have never been there, but in California there is a famous place called "Pebble Beach" that is a great attraction to many tourists who visit that area. You see, the ocean comes into that area with such a force that the waves constantly beat against the rock bluffs there by the beach. In the arms of these tremendous waves are many rocks that get swept up as the water is gaining force and these rocks are rolled, beaten and rubbed together as a grinder would do. The end result are some of the most beautifully smooth and polished rocks that can be found anywhere. These stones draw people to collect them when the tide goes down. Without the pounding of the waves, these rocks would be just like the ordinary ones that lay just around the face of the cliffs in the sheltered coves, which draw no interest. The thing that made the rocks so sought after was the grinding, sanding, and polishing, those things that are most abrasive and hard to endure.

Our early life is full of learning how to live and interact within the culture of our society. We are born as a blank sheet of paper that the world writes upon with a permanent marker. If we are under good influences, certain things will be a help to us in our earthly walk. But even in the best of circumstances, there will be attitudes and ideals in our minds that may not be conducive to the design God intends for us. Pride, stubbornness, and the pull of other worldly influences can keep us from attaining the standard set by God for our lives.

Pearls are beautiful! Real pearls that are formed in the ocean oysters are worth a lot of money when they are found. But did you know how pearls are formed? Inside an oyster is an organ called a mantle that releases a substance called nacre (which is calcium carbonate) that is responsible for the production of the shell in which it lives. When the oyster is feeding, sometimes a grain of sand or other foreign object will make its way into the mantle. This causes pain to the oyster and it releases the nacre many times over to coat the object, thus forming the pearl. If it were not for the pain, there would be no pearl. But what does this have to do with our lives and what we must suffer to be used of God? Jesus said that *"the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."* Matthew 13:45-46 What God offers to everyone, eternal life, is not something that is just lying on the ground in plain sight for anyone to simply pick up and carry away. Many today make salvation such a simple action that it becomes a mockery, an addition to your life that you need to make your life better but changes nothing. Salvation is something that should be understood in a way that when you begin to comprehend your need for it, there is nothing you will not do to attain it. The verses before this say, *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field."* Matthew 13:44 In both cases, these men **sold all that they had** to attain the treasure they sought. Salvation is God's greatest treasure to mankind, and remember, *"behold, the kingdom of God is within you."* Luke 17:21 and, *"from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."* Matthew 11:12

Another example God gives is in Isaiah when he speaks of the ways that certain grains are harvested. Some grains are more delicate than others and so there is a process for obtaining each of them that is different. *"For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod. Bread corn is bruised; because he will not ever be threshing it, nor break it with the wheel of his cart, nor bruise it with his horsemen."* Isaiah 28:27-28 Fitches and cummin are small seeds that are used as spices and cannot be treated roughly. Back then, these type of plants were carefully cut down and gathered to a threshing floor where they were flailed gently to knock the seeds out of the husks. Then the stems and leaves were winnowed (thrown in the air for the breeze to take away) and the seeds were gathered from the mat where they had fallen. As they were ready to be used, they were ground with a mortar and pestle, crushed to powder in order to release their flavor. If they had been ground while threshing, they would lose their

potency and be worth nothing. The wheat and the corn were harvested much the same but were taken to a mill to be ground into flour. All of these seeds and grains would be of no use to anyone if they were not ground and crushed.

And what about those seeds? What if the farmer had said to himself, "These seeds are so pretty, I just hate to put them in the ground. I will just keep them here in this jar so I can admire them"? Would there be any crop or a harvest? Of course not! Seeds must be planted so that they may produce more seeds that can be made into bread and other good things for others to enjoy. Jesus said in John 12:24, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."* In other words, if you live your life for yourself, never give your heart to the Lord or yourself to the service of God's kingdom, you will come to the end of your life with nothing.

There is a story of a servant in Matthew 25:14-30, who had received only one talent to keep for his master and when he did nothing with it, was condemned. Why would God pronounce such a harsh judgment on someone like that? Because God has given every one of us who are born into this world a "talent" that belongs to HIM for which we are responsible. He lets us breath his air and eat his food, gives us blessings when we do not deserve them, and even gave his only begotten son to die for us so that we could have a forever life with him. So what do you think he is going to do when we take all of that from him and give him less than nothing in return? When we feel that to live for God is just asking too much, that to suffer for him is beyond our desires for our life, we are taking the "talent" that he gave us and burying it in the earth. Or in other words, we are telling God that we want our life for ourselves and we have no desire to give him anything in return.

But I have not really answered the most imploring question of "why", have I? When we see the entire picture of life instead of just the year, day, or moment that we are living at the present, it helps us to better understand. When you let your mind think of eternity, a life without ending or death, our few short years here are like a star in the universe. The few short years that we have to live here on this earth are given to us to learn how to live in heaven with Christ. God knew it would be hard on us and so he sent us a Savior. Jesus told us in John 16:33, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* Trials and tribulations, sorrows and heartaches, disease and death all belong to this world and no one escapes them. But **in Christ** we have peace. He has overcome the world, and we may, also, by giving our life to him and living as he would live in this ungodly world. There will come a day very soon that he will come for us, and it will not be too late. Life is hard any way you look at it, but to know that you will have an eternity with Jesus makes the hard places in our life easier to bear. So, like the merchant man in Matthew, "sell all you have" and seek the pearl of great price; salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, and then follow closely in his steps so that you may hear him say, *"but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."*

*"The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not
drink it?" (John 18:11)*

This was a greater thing to say and do than to calm the seas or raise the dead. Prophets and apostles could work wondrous miracles, but they could not always do and suffer the will of God. To do and suffer God's will is still the highest form of faith, the most sublime Christian achievement.

To have the bright aspirations of a young life forever blasted; to bear a daily burden never congenial and to see no relief; to be pinched by poverty when you only desire a competency for the good and comfort of loved ones; to be fettered by some incurable physical disability; to be stripped bare of loved ones until you stand alone to meet the shocks of life--to be able to say in such a school of discipline, "The cup which my Father has given me, shall I not drink it?"--this is faith at its highest and spiritual success at the crowning point.

Great faith is exhibited not so much in ability to do as to suffer.
--Dr. Charles Parkhurst

To have a sympathizing God we must have a suffering Saviour, and there is no true fellow-feeling with another save in the heart of him who has been afflicted like him. We cannot do good to others save at a cost to ourselves, and our afflictions are the price we pay for our ability to sympathize. He who would be a helper, must first be a sufferer. He who would be a saviour must somewhere and somehow have been upon a cross; and we cannot have the highest happiness of life in succoring others without tasting the cup which Jesus drank, and submitting to the baptism wherewith He was baptized.

The most comforting of David's psalms were pressed out by suffering; and if Paul had not had his thorn in the flesh we had missed much of that tenderness which quivers in so many of his letters.

The present circumstance, which presses so hard against you (if surrendered to Christ), is the best shaped tool in the Father's hand to chisel you for eternity. Trust Him, then. Do not push away the instrument lest you lose its work.

Strange and difficult indeed
We may find it,
But the blessing that we need
Is behind it.

The school of suffering graduates rare scholars.

Crafts



Simple & Cheap
DIY FRAME SHELF



If you are like me, you have extra frames tucked back for the family pictures that you do not need frames for anymore. Here is a great decoration idea that you could use for some of them. All you need are some 1x4 scraps that are long enough for the size of the frame. You may need a little help from an adult for this project since you may need to use a power saw to cut the boards the right sizes. First, take the back off the frame and remove the glass, being careful not to cut your fingers on the edges. Remove any brads, hangers, or nails that may be on the back of the frame. Measure the back side of your frame. (Note: you will not want it to fit the hole but to come out on the frame a little to allow nailing.) Measure and cut the four sides of your box and nail them together. (Note: A brad nailer works best for this, if available. Also, to make your box more stable, run a thin line of wood glue along the edges you are putting together before you nail them.) When that is ready, lay your frame on top of your box and shoot a few brad nails through the frame and into the box to hold it on. Fill the holes made by the brad nailer, allow to



dry and paint your new frame shelf! The best way to hang your shelves is to use Command strips (pictured here) so as not to damage your walls. These apply easily and can hold up to 16 pounds. I would recommend to use at least two.

Silverware Caddy

Here is something pretty for your picnic table. Collect six empty metal cans of the same size. With a heavy file, remove the sharp edges around the inside top. Paint them all inside and out. Paint a 9-inch 1x6 also. When cans are dry, slip the can over a 2x2 and, with a nail, hammer a hole about 1 inch from the top of each can. Now, line the cans up beside your board and mark where the nail holes are. Hammer a hole where each dot was made on the board. (This will allow the screws to set easire.) Attach each can with a 1/2" screw. Then, make a handle on top of your caddy by using a leather strap, such as a piece of an old belt, or you could use strapping, about 10 inches. Attach the ends of the strap 1 inch from the outer edges of the board with screws, making the handle arch. Apply lables to each can if you like, or use chalkboard lables.



Recipes

Chocolate Lazagna

- 1 package regular Oreo cookies (about 36 cookies)
- 6 Tablespoon butter, melted
- 1- 8 ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 Tablespoons cold milk
- 1- 12 ounce tub Cool Whip, divided
- 2- 3.9 ounce packages Chocolate Instant Pudding
- 3-1/4 cups cold milk
- 1-1/2 cups mini chocolate chips



1. Begin by crushing 36 Oreo cookies. I used my food processor for this, but you could also place them in a large ziplock bag and crush them with a rolling pin. When the Oreos have turned into fine crumbs, you are done.
2. Transfer the Oreo crumbs to a large bowl. Stir in 6 tablespoons melted butter and use a fork to incorporate the butter into the cookie crumbs. When the butter is distributed, transfer the mixture to a 9 x 13 inch baking dish. Press the crumbs into the bottom of the pan. Place the pan in the refrigerator while you work on the additional layers.
3. Mix the cream cheese with a mixer until light and fluffy. Add in 2 Tablespoons of milk, and sugar, and mix well. Stir in 1 and 1/4 cups Cool Whip. Spread this mixture over the crust.
4. In a bowl, combine chocolate instant pudding with 3 and 1/4 cups cold milk. Whisk for several minutes until the pudding starts to thicken. Use a spatula to spread the mixture over the previous cream cheese layer. Allow the dessert to rest for about 5 minutes so that the pudding can firm up further.
5. Spread the remaining Cool Whip over the top. Sprinkle mini chocolate chips evenly over the top. Place in the freezer for 1 hour, or the refrigerator for 4 hours before serving.

Crescent Roll Cream Cheese Dessert

- 4 ounces of cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup of granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1 package of crescent rolls
- 1 can of apple pie filling
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) of unsalted butter, melted
- Mixture of cinnamon and sugar*



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray an 8" x 8" glass baking pan with non-stick spray and set aside. Hand whip the cream cheese, sugar and vanilla extract together until well blended.
2. Unroll the package of crescent rolls and cut into even halves. Pinch together the seams and place one of the halves into the bottom of the baking pan. Spread the cream cheese evenly on top of the dough and top that with the apple pie filling. If you are using a low sugar or sugar free apple pie filling, you'll probably want to add some sugar or brown sugar to the apples. Top with the other half of the dough and pour the melted butter all over. Sprinkle generously with the cinnamon sugar.
3. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30 minutes until golden brown. Let cool long enough to set the filling before cutting.

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