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THE NEWSLETTER

September–October 2018

“The Lord gave the word: great *was* the company of those that published *it*” (Psalm 68:11).

Hope for all Nations



2018 Missions Conference

with Pastor Danny Farley, Houston, TX

Sept. 26–29, 7 pm & Sept. 30, 11 am & 6 pm

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Guest Editorial



Tony & Kathy Stark

Ten new churches in ten years!

Tribalism seems to be an ever-present problem in parts of Africa. In 1994, it was between the Hutus and Tutsis of Rwanda. Over 1,000,000 people suffered death, leaving so many orphans and widows. One man with foresight sent his two sons and one daughter to Burundi for survival. When they returned to Rwanda, their mother and father were both dead,

suffering from the genocide at the hands of others.

In 2008, Irizerwa Ignace, one of those two surviving sons, travelled to Uganda to learn English since it was becoming the new language of his country. While learning the language and living in sin, Ignace received the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. After graduating from Uganda Baptist Bible Seminary in 2013, Ignace returned to his home in Huye, Rwanda. For two years he taught English and held Bible study from his home. Many received the Lord.

Shortly after I met Ignace, he started talking to me about how his country needed the truth. He wanted to start a new ministry there. In 2015, while ministering in Uganda, I talked with Ignace on the phone. He begged me to come to Rwanda and help him start a church and radio station. I told him it was not possible because my health would not allow it. After getting back home, I continued to get emails asking when I was going to come. In October, while I was working on a new mission's message, the Lord broke my heart and directed me to go and help Ignace.

In the spring of 2016, Kathy and I joined Ignace in Huye to start Berea Baptist Church. We bought the place he was living in and holding English classes and Bible Study. Then we bought a tent, chairs, baptistry, signpost, and hymnbooks. All this time we were witnessing on the streets and inviting people to the first service that would be held that Sunday. We had a great crowd. Ignace was ordained, and four were baptized. Berea Baptist Church was now a reality under the non-governmental organization, Independent Baptist Ministries. It has continued to grow, and they now have about 90 adults and 180 children.

Recently people started telling me about thousands of churches being closed in Rwanda. Even our BBC was closed due to not having a building that met the government's standards. The Holy Spirit led me to look at a map of Rwanda and identify 10 population centers that would be good locations for new churches, preaching and practicing the Word of God. He impressed upon me that if we added 10 new churches, strategically located with the one in Huye, those 11 churches could reach Rwanda with the truth of God. A key to succeeding would be to build Acts 1:8 churches from the beginning.

I contacted a second Rwandese preacher I had met while still in Uganda. When we met, Sadock was studying in an Independent Baptist Bible College. He had since then graduated and gone back to Rwanda to reach his country. I sent him an email to ask what he was doing. When he wrote back and shared, I could see the Lord was bringing us together in His work.

As it turns out, Sadock had led people to the Lord who listened to his radio broadcast in 9 of the 10 population centers I had targeted. He had not only led them to Christ, but had personally disciplined them and started Bible Studies in four of the locations. They could not organize and hold church meetings because they did not have

continued on page 4...

RWANDA, an East African country the size of Alabama, with over two and a half times the population.

The red dots in Cyangugu, Gikongoro, Kibuye, Gitarama, Gisenyi, Ruhango, Byumba, Kibungo, Nyagatare, and Kagali (the capital) represent concentrated population centers where churches need to be planted.



Print Shop News



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,
The last few months have been interesting in the shop. I have spent most of my time struggling with our four-color press. Quite a lot of progress has been made, but not quite enough yet to print this Newsletter with confidence. Please pray that God will help me get over these hurdles so we can use this machine for God's glory. We would save considerable money just by being able to print this Newsletter

on it, but there are also Bible covers and other projects that we look forward to doing.

Meanwhile, things are looking up. Jacob, my helper, just recently came back from Zimbabwe where we sent a container of John/Romans and other helps earlier this year. He spent a couple of weeks with another man back in the bush doing mainly an in depth Bible study through the book of Romans. Most of these men have very little Bible training and soaked up all the teaching like a sponge. Now, if they will just go back to their churches and allow themselves to be squeezed out like a sponge, then the blessings will multiply themselves.

They also got to do some evangelistic work, and from the description he gave me, it was nothing like I have ever done in the States. The biggest difference being that he got to give the Gospel in its entirety several times, resulting in several people being saved. All in all, it was a good trip, and there should be fruit for years to come.

Our next project, that we hope to start soon, will be two truckloads of whole Bibles for South America and Mexico. We have one load of paper on the floor right now, and hope to get another one soon. By doing two truckloads at a time it should save some time in changing plates on the press.

Please pray that we can get this project done quickly and the four-color press running smoothly so we can do more for His glory. It seems there are a thousand distractions keeping us from doing what God has called us to do. The problem with these distractions is they tend to take away the sense of urgency to get the job done. After so many setbacks, it is easy to say, "What difference does one more day make?" On the other hand, we do not want to rush into things and do them haphazardly. John Geddie was a missionary to the South Pacific and spent several years preparing himself for the mission field and then spent over 20 years there and suffered many setbacks and heartaches, but there is a plaque in one of the churches he started that states, "When he landed in 1848, there were no Christians here, and when he left in 1872 there were no heathen." Perseverance pays off. Pray that God gives us all the perseverance to do what we need to do to get the Gospel spread around the world.

God bless,
Bro. Albert Berg

MEMORIALS

Each contributor listed below, through their individual contribution, has helped provide 760 Bibles for the mission field.

FROM	IN MEMORY OF
Bible Baptist Church of Plymouth, IN	David D. McMallum
Jim and Nancy Bradley.....	Jack Teegarden
.....	Bill Robbins
Hope Whitson.....	Bill Robbins
Fellowship Baptist Church of Trafalgar, IN	Mary Duncan
.....	Lore Picklesimer
Sarah Russo.....	Christine Krzeminski, Fran Manning
.....	James W. McAlinden, Natalie
Frances Nawlin & Cindy Weeks	Clarice Thornton
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Anonymous.....	Larry Hughes
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Arthur Boyd.....	Larry Hughes
Debbie Portier	Marvin Thompson, Kevin Keyser,
.....	Ann Ballard, & Paul Campbell
King James Bible Baptist Church of Moncks Corner, SC.....
.....	Arthur Eric Driggers
Russell & Jewell Burris.....	Bro. B.C. Gillispie
Sue Yaden S.S. Class	Bro. B.C. Gillispie
Norma & Buddy Hasol.....	Bro. B.C. Gillispie
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.....	Brittany Nicole Rider
Steve & Glennda Dowdy	Lorene Worrell McKathan
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.....	Becky Lovett
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.....	Julie Rae Enderle, Norma Iris Frye
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Richard & Gayle Gibson.....	Wanda Ketchie
Ann Cook & Jennifer Arnette	Wanda Ketchie

FROM	IN RECOGNITION OF
Sarah Russo.....	Jennifer and Keith Giordano
.....	Nancy O'Connor

continued from page 2...

church buildings which met government standards. The Lord immediately impressed upon me to buy land and build government approved buildings in each of these centers. Meanwhile, Sadock and Ignace will preach on the radio and in the open air, evangelizing the lost and edifying the saints. Sadock will ride a circuit on his motorcycle until we can get church buildings built and churches established.

I just returned from a trip to Rwanda, where I traveled to four of the centers we are targeting for churches. I ministered in two Bible studies and bought land in two centers for new church buildings. Sadock has nine men he has sent to the same Bible college he attended. He has 12 men he is training in his Kinyarwanda Bible Institute. Many of these men are prospective pastors. Some of them already help Sadock with the Bible Studies when he is not present. While in Rwanda, Ignace and I laid the groundwork for an English Bible Institute in his church in Huye. His new building has been approved, and church has resumed. **This is the only independent Baptist Church open in the country of Rwanda.**

If we are ever going to fulfill the command of Jesus and reach the world, we must extend our ministry through faithful men that have been reached and are preaching the truth, planting churches, riding circuits, and teaching other faithful men. The Holy Spirit has shown me that I am to assist these men in reaching their country. My major task is to supply them with funds to buy land and build buildings in our targeted centers. The Lord has shown me through His Word that He will supply \$15,000 for each of eight locations and \$50,000 for the land and building in the capital city of Kigali, which will be the new church, Kinyarwanda Bible Institute, and proposed radio station. On August 29th, Victory Baptist Church of Milton, Florida, raised enough to build the first building in Ruhengeri. I am confident that within eight to ten years there will be eleven Acts 1:8 churches fulfilling Jesus words.

Note: Brother Tony Stark and his family were sent to Uganda in 1990, as the first Independent Baptist missionaries in the country. After experiencing a fruitful ministry, they returned home in 2012, to reside. Tony goes back to East Africa once or twice a year to assist and encourage the believers and servants of the Lord. If you would like to hear more or know more, please contact him at eaostark@gmail.com.

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

VBP Field Reps



Bill and Vicki Richburg

P.O. Box 508
Six Mile, SC 29682
864.506.2380
billrichburg@victorybaptistpress.com

The Richburgs left a full-time ministry in South Carolina and became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in 1999. Brother Richburg now serves as our general field director.



Shawn and Emma Dunn

6 Hollowtree Court
Hamilton, OH 45013
765.580.2196
preacherswdunn@gmail.com

The Dunns left a full-time pastorate in Indiana to become VBP field reps in September of 2010.



Evangelist Jason and Jody Kendrick

4000 Avalon Blvd
Milton, FL 32582
850.261.5260
Email: jason.kendrick6@gmail.com
Web: <http://jasonkendrickfamily.com/>

Evangelist Jason Kendrick and his wife Jody have been traveling in evangelism for more than twenty years. They now also represent VBP as they travel throughout the US holding revival meetings.

The Kendrick Family sings gospel music and has four gospel music CDs available in the VBP Bookstore.



Tony & Dee Smith

4000 Avalon Blvd,
Milton, FL 32582
903.931.3069
Email: smithkjv@gmail.com

Brother Tony pastored for 24 years and taught at three Bible colleges. During the summer they traveled to recruit young men and ladies for college. Now they are traveling full time for VBP as field representatives.

Benefits & Blessings

Mrs. Pam Leake

A smile will cause a lot fewer wrinkles than a frown

One of the most precious attributes of God in the life of one of His children is the very nearness of Him—the presence of Him in the life of a believer. In Hebrews 13:5 He promises that He “will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” But sometimes as we go through life day by day, experiencing the trials and difficulties that can

weigh us down, we can forget that He is very near. David said in Psalms 139:7, “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?” Of course, the answer is nowhere!

I had a unique experience a few days ago that renewed my sense of the nearness of the Lord, and that experience helped me immensely. For a couple of weeks I had been overwhelmed in my spirit with some things that were happening and, without knowing it, had allowed the situation to rob me of my joy and my smile. It's easy to get swallowed up in yourself and not realize that your outward display of the absence of joy can be seen by others. I was with my husband in a retail store, and we had just spent some time together browsing and not really looking for anything in particular. He was in another part of the store, and I was near the front where the checkout was located. As I stood perusing a display of some home items, I heard a gentle voice from someone a few steps away, saying, “Ma'am...ma'am.” I looked up to see a fairly large man with a pleasant facial expression and a big snowy white moustache/

beard (I believe it's called muttonchops) looking toward me and speaking to me. He was on his way to make a purchase but had stopped and spoken to get my attention. I looked up as he said, “Ma'am” and he simply said to me, “A smile will cause a lot fewer wrinkles than a frown.” Immediately I realized what he was implying, and a big smile came to my face as I replied, “Yes...yes, you are exactly right!” I thanked him for what he had said to me, and he answered, “I'm just trying to be a help,” as I returned with another thanks and assurance that he had been exactly that—a help to me.

I had never seen that man before, and maybe never will again. I wasn't walking around looking for someone to encourage me, nor was I even aware my facial expression was sending a message to others around me. But I firmly believe the Lord sent that man to speak to me because the Lord is always near and always concerned about His children. I could not escape His presence if I tried. Psalm 139 confirms that the Lord *knows me, He understands my thoughts, and is acquainted with all my ways*. Surely “*such knowledge is too wonderful for me.*” (vs. 6) A stranger was sent by a loving heavenly Father with a message of encouragement and gentle rebuke!

Always remember God is near. Never succumb to the thought that you are going through something alone. The Scriptures are full of the love of God and His desire to be close to you, and He will confirm that to you in ways you might never expect. I'll always remember the kind man with the snowy white muttonchops who was sent to bring me a word to lift me up and to remind me that God cares for me!

Note: Pam is the wife of Ed Leake, pastor of Colonial Baptist Church and director of Colonial Press of Charlottesville, Virginia.
Email her: pamleake@colonialbc.org

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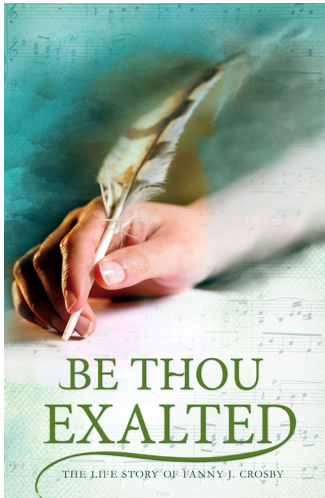


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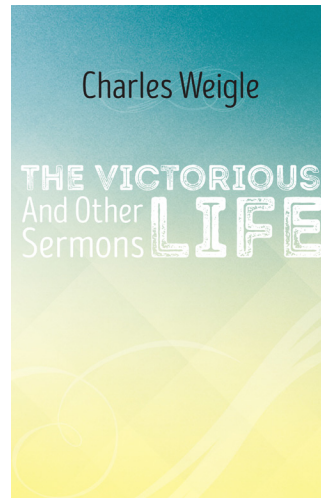
by Fanny J. Crosby

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A refreshing and often humorous account of Fanny's journey through life. This autobiography, written by her at age 83, shows the milestones and blessings encountered by her along the way. The most amazing aspect of her life was that she considered her blindness her greatest asset for it allowed

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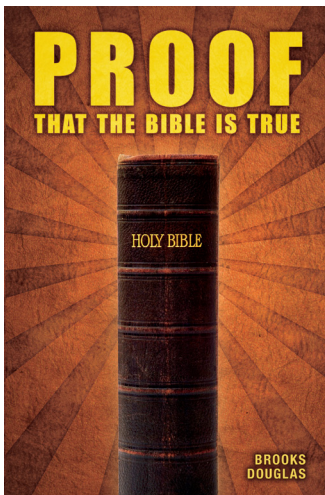
by Charles Weigle

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Charles Weigle preached to vast multitudes of people in almost every part of this nation, and a host of Christians greatly benefited by his ministry. Not only does this book contain "The Victorious Life" and nine other life-changing, evangelistic sermons preached by Dr. Weigle, it also includes a 16 page biography of

Dr. Weigle and the lyrics to his most famous song, "No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus."

**Proof That the Bible Is True**

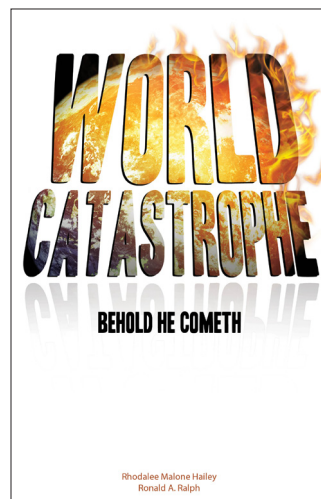
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This book is written so the honest seeker may know the truth. You will seldom find a book with its theme written in laymen terms, and condensed into such a small volume. The concise record of supernatural happenings, along with philosophies of great thinkers, bits of humor and common sense, and passages from

the Bible itself, blend together to prove that the Bible is true.

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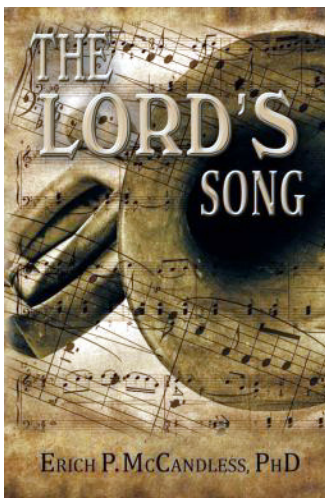
by Ron Ralph & Rhodalee Hailey

138 pages

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We have a backdrop of signals from the beginning of world history, down to the present day, to warn us of the dire consequences which come to peoples and nations that forget God and scorn His commandments. God's Word has gone out concerning our godless generation. Civilization is headed for a coup

d'etat with destiny! The conflagration is at hand, even at the door!

**The Lord's Song**

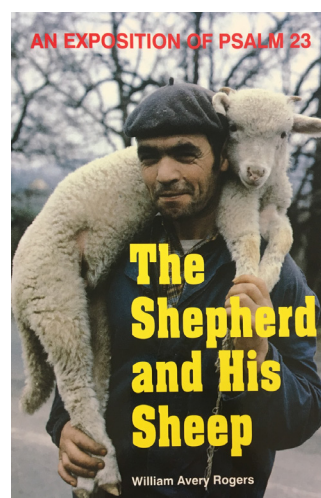
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"Very thorough. Soundly treats various styles of music and Biblical instruments, as well as the psychological, moral, and spiritual effects of music."

Dr. Mike Custer
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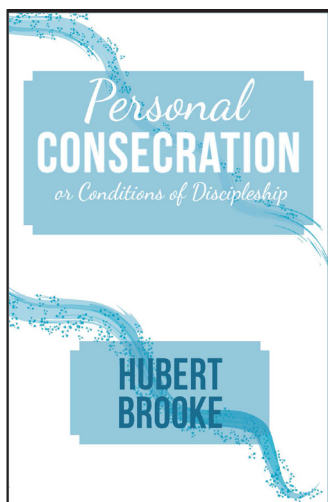
**The Shepherd and His Sheep**

by William Avery Rogers

213 pages

\$10.00

The pages of this book will stir the heart of the God-called pastor to want to be a better shepherd. It will cause every sheep of God to worship Christ Jesus, our Shepherd.



Personal Consecration

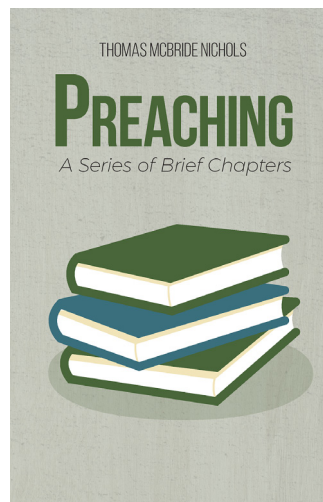
by Hubert Brooke

112 pages

\$10.95

There is a large portion of God's promised blessings as yet unclaimed by the Church of Christ; and the door that leads in to them is labeled "personal consecration." Some things have to be left behind by each soul who means to enter; but far grander things lie waiting to be possessed on the inner side.

As the pages are read, may the reader's heart be led to a growing conviction of what personal consecration means, and a final decision to respond to the call, which was given in the words of David to Israel: "And who *then* is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?" (1 Chronicles 29:5).



Preaching

by Thomas McBride Nichols

63 pages

\$7.95

The author of these chapters has written out of the experience of his own successful ministry. What he has to say about preaching he has learned in the actual work of preaching. This book does not profess to be an exhaustive treatise or a course of theological seminary lectures on preaching, but treats only certain

practical phases of the great subject. No preacher can read these earnest words thoughtfully without being freshly impressed with the sacredness and importance of his calling and also encouraged and stimulated to the better doing of the work of his ministry.

J. R. Miller

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The Pastor's Page



Tim Fellure

It's Not What You Eat, But What's Eating You Matthew 15:10–20

A delegation of Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem had, in the previous verses, confronted Jesus with a question about the disciples transgressing a scribal tradition, and Jesus used it to expose them for using a scribal tradition to transgress a law of God. They complained about the disciples not washing their hands before eat-

ing, while they were guilty of defrauding their own parents out of financial support (15:4-6)—which was the greater transgression? At first, Jesus didn't answer the question about unwashed hands. That question was rooted in their superstition that eating without washing your hands would defile you and could even open you up to demon possession. Instead of answering the question directly, Jesus struck at the heart of the matter, which was the matter of the heart—*"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me"* (15:8). But now the Lord comes back to the question about unwashed hands and uses that question to open up the conversation we have before us.

1. An Opposing Principle

"Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man." Judaism was built on a very complex system of ceremonies, and one of the ceremonies that had been added by the scribes was a token washing of the hands before a meal. It was unbiblical, but some rabbis taught you could unwittingly give a demon a chance to enter your body by attaching himself to your food, so by washing your hands you were washing the demons off. So, when Jesus mentions *"that which goeth into the mouth,"* He is alluding to that ritual. And He uses that ceremony to state a shocking truth to these Jews: defilement isn't about what you put in your mouth, but what about comes out of your mouth. Defilement is an inside matter; not an outward matter. If there was one single truth that marked the difference between Judaism and Christianity, it would be this statement. Judaism and all religion emphasize the outward; Christ emphasizes the inward. Judaism was committed to a religious system that was all ritual; Jesus Christ came to give men a relationship. You can perform rituals all day long without them ever touching the heart or having any meaning to the soul; but a relationship supersedes a formality.

When Jesus said, *"Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man,"* you have to understand that in Jewish context. Per the Levitical law, there were certain foods a Jew was forbidden to eat: not because it was a sinful food per se, but because it was a food God had pronounced unclean. God wanted to give Israel an illustration of a spiritual truth, and that ceremonial law that stressed outward cleanliness was a picture of what God desired on the inside. But

by the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, the leaders of Judaism had neglected the spiritual truth behind the ceremonies and had just a ceremony. So Jesus was bringing them back to the truth behind the ceremonial law. You're not defiled by eating pork; you're defiled by what is in your heart. What makes you unclean is not what you eat; it is what you think, what you desire, and what you love.

2. An Offensive Proverb

"Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?" The Lord exposed them and told them their religion was a sham, and they became offended. Hypocrites don't like to be exposed: they have put up a façade of spirituality, and they are offended if that façade is pulled down. If you've ever sat in church and the preaching offended you but the preaching was true, then the problem was you, not the preaching. A preacher does not need to be abrasive and rude in the pulpit, but too many preachers have mastered the craft of preaching against sin without ever actually naming any. If you pretend to be spiritual and love God, but your heart is full of worldliness and carnality, then your sinfulness needs to be exposed.

3. An Obvious Problem

"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man." The problem with the Pharisees was that for all the washing of their hands, they had never washed their hearts. They had whitewashed the outside of the sepulcher, but it was still full of dead men's bones. They thought they could go through some ceremony and wash their hands before they ate and would somehow be spiritual by doing so, but their heart was pumping out all kinds of vile things.

Jesus concluded by giving a list of the things that come out of the heart. It is not an exhaustive list, and Matthew doesn't even name everything Jesus named. It is only a representation of the darkness in the heart of man. It is those things—and many others—that defile a man. Your problem is not anything external: not your parents, not your bad station in life, not your upbringing, not even your pastor. Every spiritual problem you have is in your heart. If you look inside your heart with honesty, then you can see all that rebellion, all that anger, all that bitterness, all that jealousy, all that greed, all that carnality, all that dishonesty, all that pride—your mouth is just a bucket that goes down into the well of your heart and pulls up what is deep inside of you.

So what is the cure? It is not more religion; it is not more ceremonies and rituals and rules. All you are doing is just washing your hands over and over, but it is the heart that needs washing. Ezekiel prophesied to these people hundreds of years before the Lord, and he identified the exact same problem. He said you'll never know God until He takes away your stony heart and gives you a heart of flesh; you're going to have to have a new heart. And you get that new heart by confessing your sins to God, believing on His Son, and accepting the salvation He has provided for you. With that salvation come a new heart and a new mind that will produce a pure life.