



# The Amish Voice

MAP, P.O. Box 128, 575 State Route 250 N, Savannah OH 44874

(419) 962-1515

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## The Minister Defended The Gospel

Study 3: Galatians 2:1-10

—Teacher's Outline and Study Bible™

CHAPTER 2	
<p><b>1. Paul's second trip to Jerusalem, 1:18</b></p> <p><b>2. He defended the work of the gospel</b></p> <p>a. How: God led him (by revelation)</p> <p>b. The purpose for his defense: To protect the work of the true gospel</p> <p><b>3. He defended the gospel before false believers</b></p> <p>a. Titus was made a test-case</p> <p>b. The false believers</p> <p>1) A hypocritical entrance into the church</p> <p>2) A false message of bondage</p> <p>c. The purpose for his defense: To preserve the pure Gospel</p>	<p><b>C. The Minister Defended the Gospel, 2:1-10</b></p> <p>Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.</p> <p>2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.</p> <p>3 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:</p> <p>4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:</p> <p>5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.</p> <p>6 But of these who seemed to be</p>
	<p>somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me:</p> <p>7 But contrariwise when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;</p> <p>8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)</p> <p>9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.</p> <p>10 Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.</p>
	<p><b>4. He defended the gospel before any &amp; all persons</b></p> <p>a. Because God shows no partiality</p> <p>b. The purpose for his defense: To keep the real gospel from being added to</p> <p><b>5. He defended the special call given to each minister to proclaim the gospel</b></p> <p>a. A special task is given to each person</p> <p>b. The purpose for his defense</p> <p>1) To assure that each minister's task is recognized</p> <p>2) To assure that each minister has the right to carry out his task: To minister</p>

### Section II

#### THE PROOF OF GOD'S MESSENGER AND MESSAGE

Galatians 1:10-2:21

**Study 3: THE MINISTER DEFENDED THE GOSPEL**

**Text:** Galatians 2:1-10

**Aim:** To vigorously defend the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Memory Verse:** Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Ti.1:13)

#### INTRODUCTION:

Perry Mason, a fictional but masterful television lawyer, set the standard for every successful trial attorney. In the world of television entertainment, Perry Mason was employed to defend those who had been

falsely accused.

In the course of each trial, he would carefully investigate each fiber of evidence. His search for clues enhanced his client's defense. No evidence was overlooked. When the case came to trial, Mason had to present the evidence and defend his client before a prosecutor, jury, and judge. And in the end, after the truth became known, his client would be set free.

The apostle Paul found himself in the position of being put on trial, of having to defend both himself and the gospel. In the context of the trial, he presented every shred of evidence in defending the gospel and his part in it. In his closing arguments, he challenged each man to proclaim the gospel to men who are guilty of sin.

As you recall, Paul was under attack by some false teachers and critics in the Galatian churches. They were charging him with being a self-proclaimed minister and with preaching a false gospel. He was forced to defend himself and the gospel which he preached. In the present passage, he defended the gospel which he preached in no uncertain terms; and he showed how he defended it before the recognized leaders of the church, the apostles themselves.

**OUTLINE:**

1. Paul's second trip to Jerusalem (v.1).
2. He defended the work of the gospel (v.2).
3. He defended the gospel before false believers (vv.3-5).
4. He defended the gospel before any and all persons (v.6).
5. He defended the special call given to each man to proclaim the gospel (vv.7-10).

**1. PAUL'S SECOND TRIP TO JERUSALEM (v.1)**

It must be remembered that Paul was being very careful and going to extra pains to list his contacts with the Jerusalem church (v.1). He had to show that his call and gospel had come from Christ and not from men, not even from the leaders in Jerusalem. This was absolutely necessary, for the basic qualification for being an apostle was having been called by Christ Himself. Christ had appeared to him on the Damascus road; Christ had saved and called Paul to preach the gospel. Therefore, Paul met the basic qualification of being an apostle: he had seen the Lord Jesus face to face. Christ had confronted him and personally called him to be an apostle.

What Paul was doing in this particular verse was answering his critics: he did not visit Jerusalem to discuss his call and gospel until fourteen years after his first trip to see Peter, whom he had visited for fifteen days (see Ga.1:18-20). He had been serving the Lord Jesus as a minister and preaching the gospel for years before he visited the church leaders at Jerusalem. His call and message had been proven by years of service. His ministry for Christ was set; it could not legitimately be questioned and denied—not by an honest person. The critics were terribly wrong to be questioning his call and message.

**2. HE DEFENDED THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL (v.2).**

Note that God led Paul to go to Jerusalem (v.2). The trip was not a

man-planned journey; it was a God-called journey. God wanted Paul to go to Jerusalem to protect the worldwide mission work of the gospel.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What kinds of things did Paul do to stifle criticism of his ministry?
2. What can you do to prepare to defend yourself from those who are critical of you, your faith, your beliefs?

There were those in the church who were pressing the necessity of ritual and rules for salvation, in particular the necessity of being circumcised and of subjecting oneself to keep the law of Moses.

Paul knew something: if men were allowed to add ritual and rules to the gospel, he and his ministry would have been in vain (fruitless). Every person who had trusted in Jesus Christ and every person who would trust in Jesus Christ for salvation would have to undergo the ritual of circumcision. They would have to focus their lives upon the law instead of upon Jesus Christ.

This was the reason God led Paul to Jerusalem: to save the message and work of the *true gospel*.

- ⇒ Just imagine the thousands of Gentile believers who had been led to the Lord, and all the churches that had already been established by Paul and others throughout the world.
- ⇒ Just imagine the catastrophic devastation upon the believers and the churches if they had to return to their conversion experience and add a ritual and other rules to their lives.

Note the method used by Paul to defend his case: private discussions with the leaders, in particular with the apostles.

**APPLICATION:**

The minister must not run in vain. He must preach only the gospel, and he must build his ministry upon only the gospel. He must not allow ritual or rule, ceremony or law *to be added* to the gospel. People are saved and people grow only by the gospel, only by the good news of God's love for the world—a love that was demonstrated in the supreme gift of His Son to die *for us*.

**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (Jn.3:16-17).**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

Does the gospel make a difference? To put it simply, the “proof is in the pudding.”

*A well-known preacher of the United States was asked to say a few words to a gathering in an open air meeting. At the close of his address an atheist stepped up to him and challenged him to a debate, assuring him that he would bear all the expense of renting the hall and advertising.*

*“I accept on one condition: When you bring with you fifty people who*

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A R E	

have been helped by your philosophy, I am ready. I will bring you hundreds who will testify to the transformation this Gospel has wrought in their lives.”

*Needless to say the challenger departed somewhat chagrined (Gospel Herald. Walter B. Knight. 3,000 Illustrations for Christian Service. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdman’s Publishing Company, 1971, p.317.)*

Only the true gospel can produce the ‘fruit’ of changed lives. No false religion or false god can bring about the love, peace, security, and salvation that the gospel can and does produce.

### 3. HE DEFENDED THE GOSPEL BEFORE FALSE BELIEVERS (vv.3-5).

A brief look at what lies behind these verses will greatly help the reader. Paul was preaching the gospel of grace alone and this aroused some of the Jewish believers. Remember that most of the believers at Jerusalem were Jews. They had been circumcised when they were eight days old and had been steeped in the law of Moses since childhood. When they accepted Christ, some just refused to forsake their

#### QUESTIONS:

1. What things do some Christians add to the gospel?
2. When there are doctrinal disagreements in a body of believers, what can be learned from Paul’s example?
3. If you were asked to defend the gospel, what would you say? Do you feel confident in your answer? What can you do to get a better grasp of the gospel?

Judaistic religion. They saw Christianity only as an extension of Judaism. In their minds Christ had *only added* new teachings to their existing law and religion. Therefore, if a person wished to accept Christ, he had to become a Jew first...

- to undergo the ritual of circumcision
- to commit himself to the law of Moses
- to observe all the ceremonies and rituals of Jewish religion

Once a person had done these things, that is, become a Jew, then and only then could he receive Christ and be baptized. Only then could he be accepted into the church.

Paul, of course, had gone against these beliefs and practices. He had...

- allowed people to receive Christ by grace through faith alone without undergoing the ritual of circumcision.
- allowed people to follow and focus upon Christ instead of upon the law of Moses.

This shocked those who were still loyal to their Judaistic religion, and they began to form an alliance and oppose Paul vehemently. They felt he was out to destroy their religion and its form and rituals. Therefore, they set out to discredit and destroy him...

- by questioning his salvation and call.
- by denying that his apostleship and ministry were of God.
- by planting their own teachers in the churches where Paul had ministered and by indoctrinating the churches with their own false teaching.
- by sending their own emissaries to follow and hound Paul by stirring up the people against him—stirring them to question

his message and call.

These men were called Judaizers, men who mixed ritual and law with the gospel of Christ. Paul’s argument was that this teaching was the very opposite of the true gospel. A man is not saved by fleshly signs, by ritual, nor by his own ability to keep the laws, regulations, and rules. A man just cannot earn, win, or do anything to save himself.

Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ alone (Ga.2:16). A man can only accept salvation, and then in thankfulness for God’s gift, he must depend upon the power of the Holy Spirit to live for God.

Now to the point of the present verses. When Paul went to Jerusalem, he took Barnabas and Titus, two co-workers, with him. Barnabas was a Jew who had been converted in Jerusalem. He was well known by most believers, for he was one of the very first missionaries, and he had experienced great movements of God wherever he had carried the gospel.

Titus, however, was a different matter. He was a heathen (Gentile) convert. He was not a Jew, which meant he had never undergone the ritual of circumcision, nor had he committed himself to keep the law of Moses and the rituals of religion. Titus was a perfect example of salvation by grace alone, for he had been saved and called by Christ to preach without ever having been circumcised and without submitting to the law of Moses. Apparently, it was Paul’s intention to present him as a prime example of God’s saving people by grace through faith alone—without any religion, ritual, or rule whatsoever.

However, when the Judaizers heard about Titus, they planted several of their followers in the church who reacted and demanded that Titus undergo the ritual of circumcision and make the law of Moses the focus of his life. Note that they entered the church hypocritically; they were not true believers. Paul calls them *brothers*, but *false brothers*.

Note that Paul refused to be subject to the false teachers. He would not tell Titus he had to undergo a ritual and focus upon the law in order to be saved. Paul fought to preserve the pure gospel in all its truth.

**“This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” (Ga.3:2-3).**

#### ILLUSTRATION:

Throughout the ages, men have attempted to *improve* the gospel. Some call it old-fashioned. Others want to repackage it in order to make it *more relevant for today*. And there are some who want to change it by replacing it with something else all-together.

In composing a “new gospel,” these people convince themselves that they are right on key. But to a trained ear, the obvious is apparent: this vain rendition is as flat as a pancake!

*When Lloyd C. Douglas, author of The Robe and other novels, was a university student, he lived in a boarding house, says Maxie Dunnam in Jesus’ Claims—Our Promises. Downstairs on the first floor was an elderly, retired music teacher, now infirm and unable to leave the apartment.*

*Douglas said that every morning they had a ritual they would go through together. He would come down the steps, open the old man’s door, and ask, “Well, what’s the good news?”*

*The old man would pick up his tuning fork, tap it on the side of his wheelchair, and say, “That’s Middle C! It was middle C yesterday; it will be middle C tomorrow; it will be middle C a thousand years from now. The tenor upstairs sings flat, the piano across the hall is out of tune, but my friend, that is middle C!*

*The old man had discovered one thing upon which he could*

depend, one constant reality in his life, one “still point in a turning world” (Craig B. Larson, editor. *Illustrations for Preaching & Teaching*, p.27.)

We live in a world filled with a variety of noises. But, there is still only one ‘middle C,’ only one gospel of Jesus Christ. Make certain that your song is in tune with Him!

### A CLOSER LOOK

(2:3-5) **Judaizers—Legalists:** these were Jews who professed Christ but still hung on to their Judaistic religion, in particular to the rite of circumcision and to the law of Moses (see Ac.5:1-35, esp. 1, 24-29). They believed a man became a Christian...

- by first becoming a Jew. The man was to embrace Judaism with all its rituals and ceremonies, be circumcised, begin to obey the laws of Moses, and...
- then the man could accept Christ as his Savior.

In the mind of the circumcised, Christianity was a mixture of Judaism and the teachings of Christ. The law was just as important as Christ and Christ was no more important than the law. They failed to grasp...

- that Christ was the fulfillment of the law.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of *baggage* (old habits, customs, traditions, etc) do new believers bring into their new lives with Christ?
2. As you examine your life, do you need to check any of the above baggage at the door? If so, what things have you added to the gospel?
3. What is the end result of a gospel that is not founded upon grace and faith?

- that Christ had kept the law perfectly, thereby becoming the Ideal Man, the Perfect Pattern of what every man should be.
- that Christ was not only the embodiment of the law, but so much more—the very embodiment of God Himself, the Ideal Man, the Perfect Pattern to whom *all men* were to look for their salvation and standard.
- that Christ, as the Son of God and as the Ideal Man and the Perfect Pattern, was the One to whom *all men* were now to look and obey.

Some Jews were impressed with Christ and professed Him, but they were never able to understand or else were unwilling to accept Christ as the fulfillment of the law and as the Savior of all men. Therefore, they never turned to Christ alone, never broke away from...

- their legalistic religion.
- requiring men (Gentiles) to become Jews before they could become Christians.

This was the great battle the church had to fight in its beginning. It was the great problem that faced God: how to break the church away from its Judaistic roots and away from excluding and shutting out the other people of the world (Gentiles). This had always been the problem of the Jews—the problem of keeping the Gentiles away from God and the glorious salvation He had planned for *all men*. Now, since Christ had come, God had to lead the early church away from the Judaistic approach, away from making a man become a Jew before he could accept Christ. This just was not the will of God, for God had sent Christ into the world to save *all men*, not just the Jews. The message had to be carried to all. He had to break the early Jewish believers away from their legalism, away from their...

- making distinctions between themselves and others
- making others become religionists before accepting Christ
- discriminating against others
- building barriers and walls for others to cross (legalistic rules)
- being separatists and being divisive
- being a people of prejudice and bigotry

However, note this: all through the history of the church, extending from the early church up to the present time, there have been some who have refused to follow Christ *alone*. They have laid the burden of the law and ritual and ceremony (legalism, becoming a religionist, a Jew) upon people. In the past such people were known as *the circumcision* or the Judaizers; in modern times they are known as religionists or legalists .

**“And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised [undergo a ritual] after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved” (Ac.15:1).**

### 4. HE DEFENDED THE GOSPEL BEFORE ANY AND ALL PERSONS (v.6).

The false brothers were saying that Paul should not be followed, for he was not a true minister. His call was not equal to the apostles of Christ: he had never been an associate of Jesus Christ nor of the other leaders of the church. How then could he be a true minister of God? He did not have the right credentials or education, and he was not an associate of the right leaders.

Bluntly, Paul declared the piercing truth:

- ⇒ God accepts no man’s person; God shows no partiality.
- ⇒ No man, not even a man of reputation, can add anything to another man’s call or to the gospel. God is the creator of the gospel and the One who calls men to the ministry. Men have not developed the gospel, not the real gospel, and men do not call other men to the ministry, not to the real ministry.

### APPLICATION 1:

All believers, especially ministers, need to search their hearts

### QUESTIONS:

1. If you saw a modern Judaizer walking down the road, what would he or she look like?
2. What would have happened to the church if the doctrines of the Judaizers had been adopted by Paul?
3. What would happen to your church if the doctrines of the Judaizers were adopted?

with such questions as:

- ⇒ How many of us seek the approval of leaders over the approval of God?
- ⇒ How many of us seek the call of churches or leaders over the call of God?
- ⇒ How many of us seek the favor and help of men over the favor and help of God?
- ⇒ How many of us seek to add to our reputation by associating with leaders instead of seeking God and His place of service?
- ⇒ And, of extreme danger, how many of us add and teach our own ideas, rituals, and rules instead of the pure gospel?

**“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you” (Jn.15:16).**

#### **APPLICATION 2:**

God treats all men alike. He has no favorites and shows no partiality. Every person is saved by the same gospel, and every true minister is called by the same Lord.

**“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (Ac.10:34-35).**

#### **5. HE DEFENDED THE SPECIAL CALL GIVEN EACH MINISTER TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL (vv.7-10).**

Note the word *contrariwise* or *to the contrary*: the leaders of the church did not agree with the Judaizers as the Judaizers had hoped; on the contrary they stood with and championed the call and gospel of Christ. They saw that God had called Paul to preach to the Gentiles (the uncircumcision) just as he had called Peter to preach to the Jews (the circumcision). They championed the truth that God gives to every man a particular task.

Note who the leaders were in Jerusalem: James, the Lord’s brother, who was pastor of the great Jerusalem church, and Peter and John. The point to note is that the great pillars of the church were *now standing together* proclaiming...

- that salvation by grace through faith alone was the true gospel.
- that God was the Person who called Paul and all other ministers to preach the gospel.
- that Paul and all other ministers should remember to minister to the poor, not just to the middle classes and wealthy.

**“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have**

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Unfortunately, politics creeps into the local church. In a subtle shift, we begin to seek to please men instead of pleasing God. What kinds of things can be done to correct this problem?
2. Why is partiality considered wrong?
3. What dangers result from a man-made gospel?

**a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation [trust, trusteeship, commitment] of the gospel is committed unto me” (1 Co.9:16-17).**

#### **ILLUSTRATION:**

As we share the gospel, we need to make sure that every aspect of our community is exposed to the love of God. No one should be left out.

There are many “hidden people” throughout the world—and some even close to home.

*A great life insurance company in New York invited all its agents throughout the country to a conference in New York, and while in attendance one of the agents from the West insured the barber, the elevator man, and a waiter in the restaurant, all of whom had been employed for years by the insurance company in its great building. No one had thought to offer policies to these men in the home office building!*

*Exactly so. That is the reason the professional evangelist sweeps in so many; he simply improves the chance that has been there all the time. But why must we wait for him? (Sunday School Time. Paul Lee Tan. Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times. Rockville, MD: Assurance Publishers, 1985, p.1327.)*

Closer to home, who needs to hear the gospel from you today?

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why are some people in the world overlooked by the witness of the church? What kind of role can you play as a solution?
2. Do you have a burden for the lost? What can you do in order to cultivate this in your life?
3. Who are some of the hidden people—overlooked people—in the world? In what ways does your church reach out to them? What can you do to help your church reach out to them?

#### **SUMMARY:**

God has placed you in the courtroom of the world where your task is to defend the gospel as well as your role in proclaiming the good news. As you face your prosecutors and juries, will you win your case? You will if you faithfully apply these major points to your life as Paul did:

1. Paul’s second trip to Jerusalem.
2. Paul defended the work of the gospel.
3. Paul defended the gospel before false believers.
4. Paul defended the gospel before any and all persons.
5. Paul defended the special call given each minister to proclaim the gospel.

**This article was taken from the Teacher’s Outline and Study Bible (TOSB) Commentary, Galatians? Did you know—you can buy the whole New Testament commentary set? To order, please go to the back cover (page 11) and use the ordering form.**

**Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.**

Have you ever thought about how great our God is and just how much he actually loves us? We tend to imagine that he is a certain way and does things the way we are. We know it is wrong to create an idol and bow ourselves down to it, but how many times do we do that in our minds by imagining God to be a certain way? Too many times we tend to put God in a box or draw a line in the sand and say that God is inside these parameters. The next thing we know God is over there somewhere using a person that does not fit inside our box. And what do we do? Many times we write it off as from the Devil because, by the way, the Devil is powerful too.

We have to be careful that we don't make the same mistake the Pharisees and Scribes and the religious leaders of Jesus' day did. They had it all figured out how the Messiah was going to be, and when he was standing right in front of them doing great signs and wonders, they still rejected him and ended up being the ones responsible for crucifying him. How many times do we do the same thing by rejecting a person and writing them off as being deceived or just plain lost?

When Jesus came to Saul on the road to Damascus as a blinding light, he did not ask, "Why are you persecuting the church?" He asked, "Why are you persecuting ME?"

Jesus said, "**Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.**"

When we reject a person that does not fit our description of what a Christian is supposed to look like, act like, or believe in, then we have just rejected God if he lives inside of them.

For example, today it is estimated that over 250,000 people accept Jesus as their savior every day. That is equal to the entire popula-

tion of the Amish worldwide! Most of these people live in Africa or Asia. Only fifty years ago, there were twice as many white or Western Christians as the non-western Christians, but today there are seven non-western Christians for every western Christian.

My question is, "Would these people be accepted in our churches if they happened to walk in?" Many of them become Christians under the threat of heavy persecution, not much differently than our Anabaptist forefathers.

To establish this fact further, in Rev.5:9 it says, "**And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.**"

Now, if there are people there from every nation, tongue and people group that ever existed, it makes you wonder why the only people in our churches are from our background and have to speak our language to be able to belong.

I'm afraid we are going to be in for the surprise of a lifetime when we get to heaven, and we discover that there are just as many Chinese speaking people in heaven as there are German or English speaking people, or Spanish speaking peoples.

It is estimated that 6% of humanity lives in all of North America, but over 60% live in two of Asia's countries; China and India. In China, the fastest growing church in the world is the persecuted underground church that gathers in forests and caves and secret

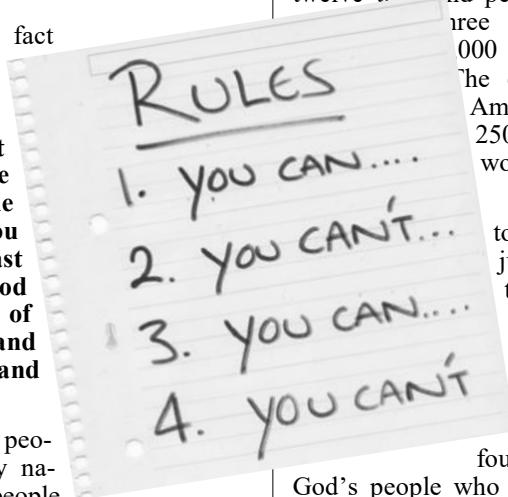
places where they gather and worship God for hours and days on end. It is estimated that there are twelve to eighteen thousand new converts come to Christ every day. Ninety percent of them become Christians because of seeing miracles happen either to themselves or a direct family member. Very few have Bibles, and when a person with a Bible comes to town they will come together and listen to the Bible being read for days on end.

Let's take the conservative number of twelve thousand per day; that would mean three weeks there would be 360,000 new Chinese believers. The estimated population of Amish people is between 250,000- 260,000 people worldwide.

I am not saying we have to become like them but just want us to realize there are other people out there who are also Christians that do not look, act or speak our language, and I, for one, do not want to be found guilty of rejecting God's people who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus.

One departing thought that I would like to leave us with is; "If Jesus himself walked into our churches, would we accept him?"

*Jonathan Helmuth  
Dundee, NY 14837  
(607) 351-1593*



Thomas Edward Lawrence was born on August 16, 1888, in England. When Lawrence grew to manhood, he joined the British Military and soon became famous for his daring actions

**The Magic Is Not In The Faucet**

—by Joe Keim

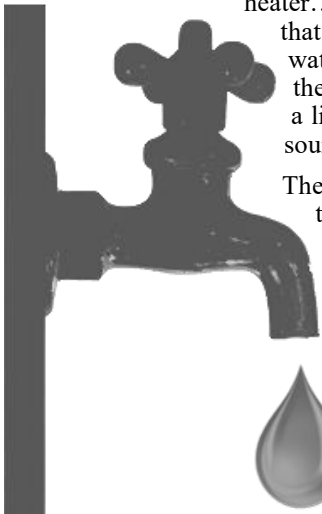
in Arabia. During the war, Lawrence formed close friendships with many of the LEADERS of Arabia, and, when the war was over, he brought some of these LEADERS back to England to show his appreciation for their support.

While in England, Lawrence gave them a tour of England; at one point, they even visited the Queen. On the last night of their visit, Lawrence offered to give them anything they wanted to take back to their desert homes. At which point, they led him up to the hotel

room, into the bathroom, and pointed to the faucet in the bathtub and said, "We would like to take that faucet with us." Their thinking was that the faucet would provide them with running water in the desert.

What the dessert men didn't realize is that the faucet was superficial. And what I mean by that is: behind the faucet was... plumbing...a hot water

—Continued on next page—



heater...a city main that supplied the water...and from the city main went a line to an outside source of water.

The magic is not in the faucet; it's what is behind the faucet that gives the water! The faucet can be 24 carat gold, but if it's not attached to a water supply, it's useless!

In a sense, you and I are just like a faucet; we are totally helpless, powerless, and incapable of accomplishing anything in life. We are nothing more than a heap of dust taken from the earth. Yes, powerless dust! But when these powerless bodies of ours are connected to God, great signs and wonders can be poured out of us and onto the world in which we live in. Jesus said in John 7:38.

*He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*

The one who believes in Christ – fully trusts in Him – out of his heart shall pour RIVERS of living water. Water is one of the greatest forces on earth. Water can potentially devour a huge city in a short amount of time; it is that kind of force that Jesus is speaking about.

In the next verse, Jesus tells us what the river of living water represents.

*But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.*

At the time Jesus was saying these things, the Holy Ghost had not yet been given. But Jesus was clear: In the near future, when I leave for heaven, the Holy Ghost is going to take my place on earth. And when He comes, He will fill you with a gigantic amount of spiritual force, similar to a raging river. All you have to do is open your belly and let Him flow in and through you. He wants us to make ourselves available so He can flow through us--similar to the faucet we all have in our kitchen.

Dear friend, do you believe Him? If you say you do but there is no evidence of the Holy Ghost flowing from your belly, then you have been fooled. Believe is a powerful word!

Those who come to God must believe.

*...for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. —Heb 11:6*

Belief is what saves a person from hell.

*... Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. —Acts 16:30-31*

**You cannot buy the Holy Spirit and His power; it's a gift from God.**

In Acts chapter 8, we are told that when the apostles in Jerusalem heard Samaria had opened their hearts to the Word of God, they immediately sent Peter and John down to help them along. Upon the arrival, the apostles started praying and laying hands on the believers, asking that God would give them the Holy Spirit and His power. And the Bible says, as they prayed, the Holy Spirit came upon the Samaritan believers, and they were filled with an immeasurable amount of spiritual force and power from high.

The Bible goes on to say in verses 18-19 that a man by the name of Simon was standing nearby, taking in all that was happening before his eyes. Look what he asks them:

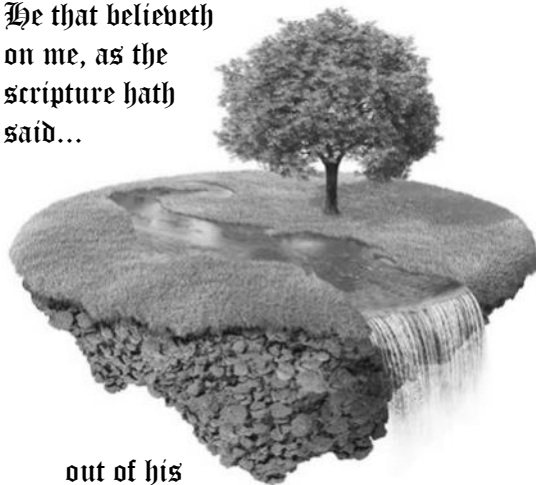
*And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. —Acts 8:18-19*

Simon also wanted to place his hands on people and watch them receive the Holy Ghost and His power. In fact, he wanted it so bad that he offered the Apostles' money. But look how Peter responds to him in verse 20.

*But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.*

The power--the river of flowing water is a gift from God. All the money in the world is not enough to buy even a small share of it. It's free! Absolutely no strings attached. But remember, it is conditional; **you have to believe.**

**He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said...**



**out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water**

As we think of the word believe, let's consider the faucet again. Every faucet has handles on it. The further you open the handle, the greater the flow of water.

In light of what we just read, consider, for instance, that you have a faucet attached on your kitchen wall. And connected to the faucet is a line of plumbing that leads to a pressure tank in your basement that is holding one thousand pounds of water pressure. The pressure tank is forcing all of *one thousand pounds* of water against the faucet in the kitchen, but since the handle is in the shut position, nothing is coming out. Let's say, however, that you walk over to the faucet and open the handle just a bit, and all of a sudden the faucet begins to drip. Then you open the valve a bit further, and the water goes from dripping to a small stream. You get the picture! It is up to you how much water you want coming out. Do you want a drip? A steady stream? Or do you want to open the valve all the way up so water gushes out full blast?

That is exactly how the Holy Ghost and His power work within the believer. We are just like the faucet and have been given the right to open and shut ourselves off to the rivers of living water (Holy Spirit). Within each born again believer is a living force of power the size of our universe. It is the same power that spoke the world and creation into existence. It is so powerful that our mind cannot even begin to fathom it.

However, it does not make any difference how powerful the force is; if you and I do not have faith and believe it, nothing will happen.

And just in case, you thought this power and might only happened in Bible times, or was meant for the Apostles, let me take you to ...

Acts chapter 2:38-39, where Peter got up and preached his first sermon, and three thousand fell to their knees and cried out to God for salvation. He plainly says:

*Then Peter said unto them... ye [too] shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

—continued next page—

—continued from previous page—  
(the magic is not in the faucet)

We may be the generation that is “afar off” since it was nearly 2000 years ago when that promise was made, but I have no doubt in my mind that we were meant to be included in the promise. Just because we are not seeing it does not mean it stopped happening. And if it stopped happening, it’s because we stopped believing it.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:19, God said: “*Quench not the Spirit.*” What He meant is, do not shut the Holy Spirit off. Open your faucets all the way and let Him come through.

- Imagine for a moment what would happen if you stopped worrying what everybody else thinks and you just opened yourself up and let the Holy Spirit come through.
- Imagine for a moment that you put every ounce of your trust into God and His Word (all of it) and stopped trusting in a religious, man-made system.
- Imagine what would happen if you started a community prayer meeting and invited others to come and join you as you cried openly before the Creator, God Almighty to move in our desperate world.
- Just imagine. Go ahead and imagine!

D.L. Moody, one of the greatest preachers who ever lived was once challenged by this statement: "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man who is fully committed to Him."

He did not say, 'a great man,' nor 'a learned man,' nor 'a smart man,' but simply, 'a man.'

Why not be that man or woman who lets revival begin in you?

D.L. Moody said, “By the grace of God, I will be that man,” and God used him to turn the world upside down for Christ. Through him, God caused thousands to fall to their knees and cry out for salvation in Christ alone. Before his death, D.L. Moody started a college right in the heart of Chicago, and, to this day, tens of thousands of people have been taught and equipped for Christian service. In fact, the Moody Bible School owns more ground than any other organization or business in the city of Chicago. All it took was for one man to believe.

**God can use anyone:**

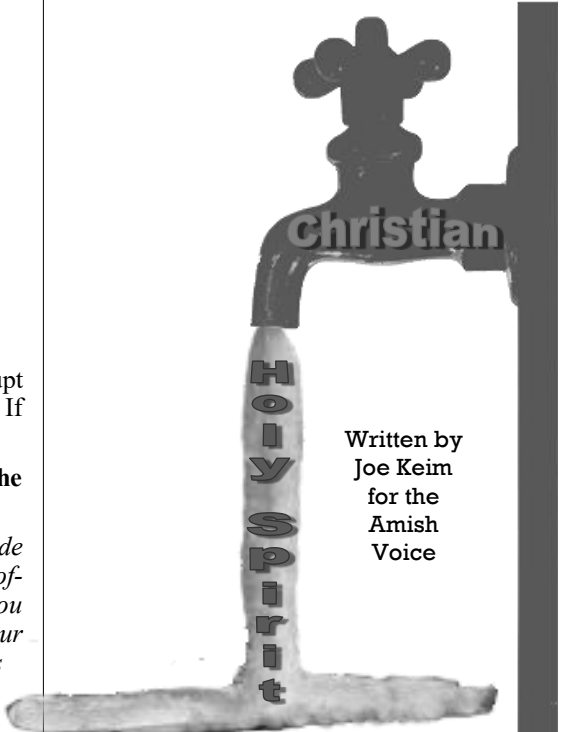
- \* **Moses** stuttered
- \* **Abraham** was too old
- \* **Jeremiah** felt incapable
- \* **Paul** was a murderer
- \* **Peter** denied the Lord
- \* **Jonah** ran from God
- \* **Martha** was a worry-wart
- \* **Jacob** was a liar
- \* **David** had an affair
- \* And He can use **you and me!**

So let’s go ahead and believe! This corrupt world we live in is thirsty for living water. If you have water, open up and let it flow.

**I end with a prayer that comes from the deepest part of my heart:**

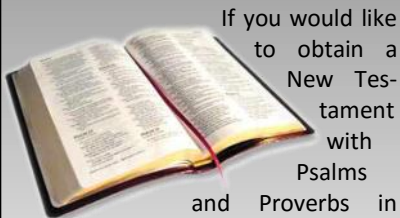
*Dear Jesus, We are just like a faucet made out of dust and clay. We have nothing to offer but that which You give us first. Will You fill us until we overflow into the life of our families and out into the neighborhoods and wherever else You place us? In turn, we will bow at Your feet and declare that*

*You are the Creator of the universe and all that it contains. You are our God and our Savior. Everything we have. Everything we know. Everything we are capable of doing. we owe to You. Everything! Amen*



Written by  
Joe Keim  
for the  
Amish  
Voice

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If you would like to obtain a New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs in Pennsylvania Deitsh, they are available for \$13.95 postpaid from the **Committee for Translation, 3864 Township Road 162, Sugarcreek, OH 44681. Phone 330-852-4663.**

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**Devotional Thought**

*“Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord...” Psalm 25:15*

There's a story about the devil auctioning off his tools. He had a high price on pride, laziness, arrogance, hate, envy, and jealousy. But there was one tool that had a sign under it, "Not For Sale." Someone said, "What is that tool and why isn't it for sale?"

"Well," he said, "I can't afford to get rid of that one. It's my chief tool, discouragement. With this tool, I can pry open a heart, and once I get in I can do most anything I want."



Thanks to all who gave from their hearts in January. You are so much appreciated. God bless you for believing in us and serving the Lord with us.

If the Amish Voice has been a blessing to you — drawn you closer to the heart of God — challenged you to live and serve the Lord with a greater passion...

Would you join others by sending a donation to help us with the printing and postage expenses?

Secondly, would you pray for us as we thrive to encourage and challenge the Amish culture with five more truth packed issues in 2012.

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More and more, we are all hearing about the rising number of sexual crimes. Counselors are crying out for help because of how many marriages are breaking up. Many sexual-abuse victims are seeking help—all because of the flood of immorality that is attacking our culture. It is not just happening in the “world,” but it is out of control in almost every church or religious setting.

I wrote my book, *To Kill A Lion—Destroying the Power of Lust From the Root*, to show people that sexual addiction is not a surface issue. Many people try to eliminate sexual addiction by focusing on the sexual area. They try and try. They make new rules and laws for themselves, but are unable to conquer the “lion of lust” that is roaring inside their heart.

I never acted out sexual immorality, but one day when I was confronted by a counselor, I realized that even though didn’t act immorally—IN MY HEART I WANTED TO. I thought every man had to fight this battle. It was like I had a roaring lion in a cage inside my heart, and it was roaring to get out, but I was strong enough to keep the cage locked. What the counselor showed me is that GOD WANTS US FREE INSIDE THE HEART, SO THAT WE CAN DESIRE PURITY—NOT BE SLAVE TO IT! I was a sexual addict in my heart, but God set me free!

You will not overcome sexual addiction until you overcome heart issues of shame, rejection, anger, self-hatred, fear, condemnation, father and mother wounds, and many other heart issues that drive sexual addiction. Many men can’t imagine that there is a place that they can be free from the torment of sexual immorality, but Jesus said in John 8: 32,36, “You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you

free. If the Son shall set you free, you shall be free indeed.”

I pray that you will experience a new level of victory in Christ Jesus if you battle with sexual lust.

You can order my book through New Book Publishing (or) by calling 407/296-0095 (or) at [www.ToKillALion.com](http://www.ToKillALion.com) (or) through the Amish Voice (see below).

## To Kill a Lion

Destroying the Power of Lust From the Root



This is a new book by Bruce Lengeman designed to help men find the roots of their sexual addiction. The theme is “Men cry out, I know it is wrong, but why can’t I stop!” The book is for both counselors and strugglers. *To Kill a Lion* will help men understand their own sexuality, and what makes it operate “out of alignment” with God’s design. You’ll learn why it is healthy to be sexual as a man, but in a pure and Godly way. Though this book was not written for women, many are reading it and getting understanding of things they never knew about sexuality.

To order, either call the MAP ministry at (419) 962-1515 or mail a check to “The Amish Voice, PO Box 128, Savannah OH 44874

**The price of the book is \$17 discounted to \$15 (includes S&H)**

## Who Is Greatest?

-by Phyllis Weibel

Matthew 23: 11-12. *But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*

The more lowly your service to others, the greater you are. To be the greatest, be a servant. But those who think themselves great shall be disappointed and humbled; and those who humble themselves shall be exalted.

We should be willing to meet the needs of others. We should forget self and focus on what our service may mean to a child or a young adult who needs to know the truth of God’s Word.

Jesus challenged the culture norms. To him, greatness comes from serving/giving of yourself to help God and others. Service keeps us aware of others’ needs, and it stops us from focusing only on ourselves. Jesus came as a servant.

In prayer, as we remember and lift up the names of those who are sick, we most certainly want God to heal them, but we should ask God for the strength and fervor to carry on when we are not feeling strong. Let us ask God to wipe our eyes clean of “narrow-mindedness” and to



give us insight how we might manage our time and money to serve others. Meeting their needs is serving Christ.

Every day we can show acts of mercy. These acts do not depend on wealth, ability, or intelligence; they are simple acts freely given and feely received. Jesus demands our personal involvement in caring for others’ needs.

Isaiah 58:6 *Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?*

• A servant **is** one who thinks of others.

A servant **is not** selfish, self-red, or wanting their own way over s.

- A servant **cares** and **thinks** about the other person’s feelings.
- A servant **does not** think that they have all the answers.
- A servant **thinks of others.**

## What is Pride? Humbleness?

**Have we ever taken in consideration of what Pride and Humbleness (hoffart und demut) really means to God?**

James 4:6 *But he givith more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but givith grace to the humble.*

In the Bible we can read many times that pride is not Godly, and that there is no room for prideful people in heaven; that one must be humble to receive the Kingdom. My point is that what I was taught in my young age is that pride (hochmut) is modernism.

My question is what did God really mean since, at the time it was written, there obviously was no modernism! Also, are we open and willing to seek the truth of the real meaning? I have to believe that this is a much more serious issue then what many of us realize. In other words, are we humble enough to seek and trust in what it means to be humble? Or are we too prideful? I am not giving my view on this but will remain open for insight.

Levi Schwartz  
(419) 560-5359

The following letter was sent in response to an article I wrote in the fall of 2011.

**Kentucky:** Greetings in Jesus name. Hope this finds you well. I have been reading the Amish Voice for some time. And at times I have questions. For example: In the September issue on “*Salvation: Event or Process?*” I understand you to say that Jesus’ death on the cross paid for all of our sins. My question is, were our sins paid for or are/were they forgiven?

**Joe:** The term “*paid for*” is not used in scripture, however, I don’t think we are wrong in using the term when considering the following scriptures passages:

*1 Cor 6:20—For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*

*1 Cor 7:23—Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.*

*2 Peter 2:1—...even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*

**Bought** means “to purchase,” or “to redeem out of the marketplace.

The phrase **who bought them** fits Peter’s reasoning perfectly. He is referring to the master of a house who would purchase slaves and put them in charge of various household tasks. Because they were now regarded as the master’s personal property, they owed their complete allegiance (duty) to him.

As far as forgiven goes, the Bible says: Blessed *are* they whose **iniquities are forgiven**, and whose sins are covered.—Romans 4:7

**Kentucky:** You wrote Jesus took God’s wrath upon himself. Are you saying that God was mad at mankind, so He beat up on His Son instead of us? Wasn’t it more like God was pleased with His Son that was able to endure all that was brought against Him? My understanding is that this Satisfaction Theory of God’s wrath on Jesus wasn’t taught until the tenth century by the Roman Catholic Archbishop, Anselm.

**Joe:** Most of us prefer to view God as a loving, patient, kind and forgiving God, however, as much as He is loving and patient and kind and forgiving, the Bible also says, “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness*”—Romans 1:18

God’s anger at sinners is so severe that the Bible says He hates them (Ps. 5:5; Hos. 9:15; Amos 5:21; Mal. 1:3; Rom. 9:13;

Rev. 2:6). Additionally, God’s wrath is mentioned nearly 600 times in the Old Testament by some 20 different words, and these concepts are also found in the New Testament, though less frequently (e.g., John 3:36; Rom. 1:18; 5:9; Eph. 5:6; Col. 3:6; 1 Thess. 1:10).

According to (Rom 3:10-12, 23; 5:12) every human being since Adam has taken on the sinful nature and, therefore, stands before a Holy and Righteous God as condemned and headed for the Lake of fire. But the Bible goes on to say in Rom 5:8-9, “*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*”

Going back to my article, It may have been better if I said, “Jesus delivered us from God’s wrath”, rather than, “Jesus took God’s wrath upon Himself”

**Kentucky:** I don’t mean to be critical because I can agree with most of what’s in the Amish Voice. But here I go again, because the way Isaiah 64:6 is used now a days troubles me very much. It should be quite clear that the prophet is talking about a backslidden people. It certainly wasn’t Jesus talking to His disciples. Or the angel saying this to Cornelius (who wasn’t even a Christian at the time) Or God saying such to the Jews who had reached their limitations in the Old Covenant. I’ve had different people quote 64:6 to me and when we get in a discussion about it, I find they don’t truly believe what they said. I think we should be very, very careful when, where, and how we use that passage. Or perhaps like Jesus and the Apostles, not use it at all.

Joe: I do not feel a critical spirit coming from your letter at all. In fact, I am thankful that you took the time to share your heart and are willing to discuss the Scriptures with others. I am sorry it took me so long to respond.

I appreciate the fact that you brought out Isaiah 64:6 and how some have misinterpreted its meaning. Let’s bring it out for others to see; it reads... *For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.*

Now let’s go to the New Testament and read 1 Cor 2:9, and as you will see, the Apostle Paul borrowed Isaiah’s thoughts when he wrote: “*as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.* —1 Cor 2:9

For years, I was taught and believed that both prophet and apostle were talking about a time when Christians would open their eyes in eternity, and for the first time see and experience what God had been preparing for them. But then one day, I realized, my interpretation was wrong—I Cor 2:9 is not a stand alone verse; we have to include verse 10 also. It says, “*But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.* —1 Cor 2:10

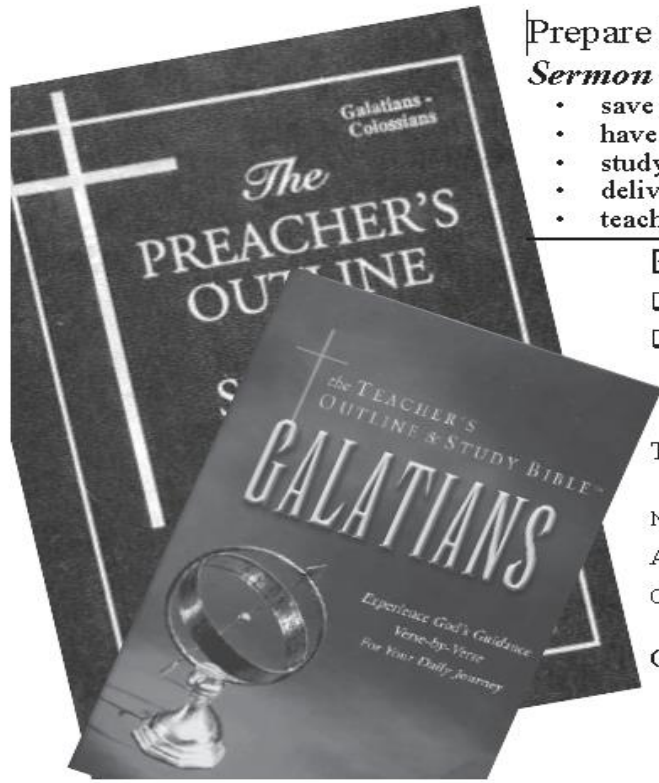
**John MacArthur writes:** *To illustrate the Holy Spirit’s unique qualification for revealing the Word, Paul compares the Spirit’s knowledge of God’s mind to a human being’s knowledge of his own mind. No person can know another person as well as he knows himself. Even husbands and wives who have lived together for dozens of years, and have freely shared their thoughts and dreams and problems and joys, never come to know their mates as intimately as they know themselves. Our innermost thoughts, the deep recesses of our hearts and minds, are known only to ourselves.*

*In a similar way, only God’s own Spirit can know Him intimately. And, wonder of wonders, it is the Spirit of God, the One who intimately knows the depths of God and the thoughts of God, whom God has sent to reveal His own wisdom to those who believe—to us.*

For those who have been born again in the Spirit, the truth which 1 Cor 2:9-10 describes, is happening right now. God through His Spirit is revealing great and mighty truths that were never revealed before the new birth took affect.

**Kentucky:** I’m not asking you to answer my questions if you’re busy and don’t have time. I can imagine you don’t have time to contend with just anybody. Although I would appreciate a reply.

**Joe:** I hope you found this response encouraging. There is no greater fellowship than this. Journey on, dear brother!



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## Attention!

Do you have a question for us?

*Do you have questions about salvation that you've never seen addressed in the Amish voice? Maybe a question about certain scripture verses that you have not been able to understand? Or maybe a question about what it means to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in your life?*

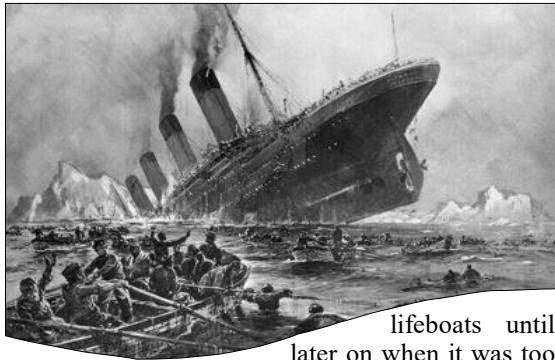
*No question is too small or unimportant to answer, and you can remain anonymous if you need to. We will post your question and an answer in a small section of one of the upcoming issues of the Amish Voice.*

—Titanic, Continued from back cover—

The examination of the wreck in recent years shows that the rivets popped along the seam. Sea water then gushed into the first five watertight compartments. Captain Smith contacted the ship's designer, Thomas Andrews, who was on board. How long do we have?" he inquired. "About an hour and a half," he replied.

The *Titanic* was able to stay afloat with four compartments flooded, but not five.

Not all on board were as convinced as Captain Smith and Andrews. People hesitated getting into



lifeboats until later on when it was too late. Even though there were only about half enough lifeboats, the first ones were not filled due to no one wanting to board. The lifeboats were designed to hold an average of 68 passengers, but some were launched with only 28 on board. As a result, less than one third of the people were saved. Out of the 2,228 on board, only 705 survived.

More lives could have been saved had the crew and passengers been willing to heed warnings. The

messages came all day to the crew but were not taken seriously. The Sunday morning message delivered by Captain Smith is not known. He could have warned them about the uncertainty of life from James 4:13.

*Go to now, ye that say, Today or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. —James 4:13*

What should the people aboard the *Titanic* have been told that they were not told? It seems they were over confident of the ability of crew and ship to get them safely to their destination. There are so many parallels to our journey through this earth. Will you arrive safely in heaven? The instructions are all there in the Bible.

*For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. —2 Corinthians 6:2*

Eli Stutzman — Ontario Canada  
 Phone: (519) 866-3737

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## Current Resident

### The Titanic

— by Eli Stutzman

Few shipwrecks have held our attention as long as the story of the *Titanic*. On April 15, 2012, it will be 100 years ago since the tragedy of that fateful night occurred. Our ancestors came across the Atlantic Ocean on wooden sailing ships that were small and weak compared to the *Titanic*.

The *Titanic* was large and strongly built. Not the largest of the time, but the most luxurious. She had a top speed of 22 knots. (About 25 miles per hour) Power was provided by steam from 29 boilers using about 850 tons of coal per day. It took about 73 stokers to shovel the coal into the boilers. They were the first to fully realize the severity of the iceberg strike. Steam from the boilers provided the heat and electricity as well as propulsion. The hull was made of 1 inch steel plate all riveted to the structure. It took 3 million rivets to hold her together. She was 92 feet wide and 883 feet long.

The *Titanic* was equipped with a new Marconi radio. This was a piece of equipment that sent messages from ships in Morse code across the seas or to other ships. This was important as it meant that important messages such as iceberg warnings could be exchanged to warn ships of danger. Wealthy passengers could send messages back home,

much like the telegraph on land.

The sea was calm on that Sunday morning of April 14 as the great ship made its way across the Atlantic. It was the fourth day at sea. At 10:30 AM, the passengers from all classes gathered in the first-class dining room for worship. Captain Edward Smith led the service reading from a prayer book sup-



plied by White Star, the ship's owners. Usually these services were followed by a lifeboat drill for all on board. However, for unknown reasons Captain Smith decided to not do this at this time.

In the wireless room things were buzzing as

incoming ice warnings interrupted outgoing messages from wealthy patrons. The *Carolina* signaled at 9 AM, "Bergs, Growlers and much ice." Shortly before noon, the *Noordam*, also nearby, told of much ice. At 7:30 the nearby *California* reported that she was completely blocked by ice. These intrusions annoyed the Marconi operator on the *Titanic*. He told the wireless operator on the *California* to "Shut up. Shut up, I am busy." At this the operator on the *California* shut off his radio and went to bed. Meanwhile, the *Titanic* went almost full speed ahead. Captain Smith did not receive the last warning from the *Mesaba* at 9:40 PM as he was a guest of honor at a dinner party.

It was twenty minutes before midnight. Suddenly officer Fleet jerked the warning bell three times as he spotted a large iceberg in the dim light straight ahead. He telephoned the bridge and frantically sputtered, "Iceberg, right ahead!"

The ship's engines stopped, then reversed the propellers, and turned to the left very hard. This avoided a head on collision but caused the iceberg to scrape along the right side of the ship opening a gash about 300 feet long.

—Continued inside, page 11—