

•Summer 2017•
•Free Subscription•

The Voice in the Wilderness

The Transformed Mind

**We do
judge a
book by its
cover.**

**What
version
are
you?**



"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." - Mark 1:3



Contending for American Freedom • Contending for Fundamental Christianity



*My Personal Message
to you*

Dear Friends:

"The Transformed Mind" is our Theme for 2017. It has been my privilege to preach on this thought provoking subject in several meetings thus far this year. Within these pages are three articles you will want to read and reread on this critical topic. Can you identify my four individuals on the front cover of this edition? The church is easily identifiable. The Fireman, Policeman, Doctor and Preacher are as well, I hope. Our generation can remember these uniformed individuals and identity. However, with 60+ gender identities, who knows! The Transformed Mind will help with this.

Already in 2017, we have logged more highway miles than I anticipated. Part of one trip included a stop at Bearing Precious Seed in Milford, OH, to start a Scripture printing project.

The Voice in the Wilderness is printing and preparing the Gospel of John and Romans in Curipaco and Piapoco jungle languages. After that we head to Colombia for meetings and distribution. There may very well be precious souls receiving for the first time Scripture in their mother tongue. Pray with us that the churches will be blessed by this special project.

Then it was a privilege to be a part of Awake America's Capitol Connection. Several inches of snow and ice made our appointments on Capitol Hill even more interesting. Terry and I also visited GraceWay Baptist Church, a new church plant in D.C. just a few blocks from the Capitol. That Sunday morning, as we entered, one of the greeters said, "Hello, Bro. Ronnie Williamson." I had no idea we knew anyone personally at GraceWay. It so happened that Bro. Worth, a charter member of GraceWay, is working in Washington, and I had preached in his home church years ago. What a small world, and it was a wonderful Lord's Day. Pray for Pastor

(Continued p.19)

The Voice in the Wilderness

PRINTED MISSIONARY

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Evangelist/Editor
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Staff Missionaries

The Voice in the Wilderness is a nonprofit, independent incorporation, founded by Rev. Dr. J. Royce Thomason D.P.D. Ph.D., evangelist and medical missionary. The organization is dedicated to the spreading of the whole gospel to the world, especially in foreign lands. The program consists of building mission stations, supporting American missionaries and native pastors by partnering with the local church in various areas of ministry and preaching Christ to the lost. We are supported by the gifts of those who care. Contributions to The Voice in the Wilderness for projects or to support the ministry of a missionary will be used as indicated by the donor following approved policies and procedures. Gifts are tax deductible and should be made out to The Voice in the Wilderness.

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Online

Fingerprints for God

The Group

Over 50 Little Ivy Baptist Church workers attended.

The Welcome

Bro. Ronnie gave the Jungle Bible history.

The Collating

Bro. Chad from Bearing



From the littlest to the oldest, fingers worked to fold the covers, collate the inside portions, add the covers, and staple the booklets. In awe of the project, we all marveled at the thought of our fingerprints on these Bible pages which would soon be in the hands of indigenous people needing God's Word in the Curipaco and Piapoco languages.



in the **JUNGLE**

The Folding

The Stapling

The Trimming

Precious Seed explained the Bible assembly process, which would take over 7 hours to complete 10,000+ copies.



Pastor Dotson, his wife and others worked to make the final trim of the Bibles and box for shipping. We celebrated each completed box until 10,000+ Scriptures were ready for the Jungles. Sunday brought opportunity to share with the church family all that had been accomplished, offer a prayer of dedication for the Scriptures, and load the boxes for shipping.



The Trans formed Mind

Your Living Sacrifice & Renewing Mind

Not every person in the pew will have a transformed mind. Not every pastor in the pulpit will have a transformed mind. But as we will see in our text, the transformed mind is without doubt a Biblical teaching, if not a command. Our text is taken from Romans 12:1,2:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The great apostle Paul, saved by the grace of God, a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, separated unto the gospel of God says this is his prayer for us. "I beseech you therefore, brethren..."

1. The Plea

Paul says, I am pleading, begging, beseeching you by the power of this Scripture to be transformed. No not a casual; would you think about it, please do me a favor suggestion. In his plea for transformation Paul is calling us near to himself in an urgent beseeching. Under inspiration Paul says, "I beseech you therefore." I was told as a young preacher when you see, "therefore," ask what is "therefore" there for? The reason is the principles or doctrine Paul has previously taught.

2. The Principles

The apostle Paul by inspiration gives us the foundation to stand on and presents the practical for living the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. (Note the **GAP** – GOOD, ACCEPTABLE, and PERFECT) The Book of Romans is in itself a treatise. As you read and study, here's a brief outline:

- His Doctrine – Romans Chapters 1-11

(This is the “therefore” that Paul is referring to in Romans 12)

- My Duty – Romans Chapters 12-16
- Our Decision – Romans Chapter 16:24-27

Take a look at the end from the beginning. The Book of Romans closes with what I emphasize as our decision. Just an observation: When an individual is born again, the Holy Spirit begins to teach and guide in all Truth (John 16:13 Prov. 3:5, 6-9; II Peter 1:19). If the growth is stunted early on, recovery is rare (Matt 28:19,20). As Paul closes in Romans 16:24-27, we see

The miraculous “grace of our Lord Jesus Christ”

The marvelous gospel – the power to establish us according to my gospel

The message given – the preaching of Jesus Christ

The mystery glorious – Paul uses *mystery* 20 times in his epistles, speaking of God’s glorious purpose. Christ is all in all.

The manifest goodness made known to all nations.

The magnificent God – Only wise, glory through Jesus Christ. Think about it. The Lord will use us to tell the nations, the world about our Saviour.

Our decision is certainly not conforming to this world, nor is it legalism, rules or hypocrisy. Keep in mind the end result is a transformed mind. So, we have the **plea** given by Paul and **principles** he has taught in Romans, Chapters 1-11. Now we see the **participants** are the brethren.

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is certainly not
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world, nor is it
legalism, rules or
hypocrisy.

3. The Participants

There is a deep connection and close relationship. Together we are in Christ. The apostle Paul has addressed us personally as the brethren. We are the participants in this transformation. So we see The Plea, The Principles, and The Participants. But you may ask the question, “How can this transformation be possible?” And so without His **provision**, it would be impossible.

4. The Provision

Can we do this? Yes, but only “by the mercies of God”. It’s mind over matter, and your mind does matter. 2017 marked the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and a towering thinker. That historical event did not always reflect a transformation but from God’s Word we can have a transformation reformation. Proverbs 4:23 says, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” If by reformation you mean a total transformation of the heart and mind, then, and only then,

will result the miracle of Romans 12:2. Proverbs 23:7 says, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he....” The mind and heart does matter if we make reformation and resolutions without transformation. There will be no lasting change of heart and mind apart from Transformation. President Ronald Reagan once said, “The trouble with our liberal friends is not that they’re ignorant; it’s just that they know so much that isn’t so.” Ignorance and wrong thinking will lead to wrong living and lead to bad influence. “A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fools wrath is heavier than them both” Proverbs 27.3. The wrath of a fool can be dangerous and even deadly. But think of this. A church full of people conformed to this world—they can condemn a generation to hell. It is only “by the mercies of God” that transformation can occur and a generation can live to the glory of God. That is HIS **provision**. Now let’s look at the presentation.

5.The Presentation

The apostle says, “...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

“What! know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are Gods.” I Corinthians 6:19-20. Some are always saying God looks on the heart, and that is true. But the carnal crowd is making excuses for their conformity to the ways of the world. The apostle Paul speaks of the reasonable service which is more than just a so-called reasonable request. This service refers to the priestly ministry. Choose you this day whom ye will serve. Presenting our bodies a living sacrifice is not asking too much. We are not to be a pierced, tattooed, dancing footed, wine sipping, leggin’ wearing, carnally clad body. Did you notice holy and acceptable unto God? So presenting your body is a service of the mind, reasonable. If it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, then what is reasonable? Read Joshua 24:15. All too often we live beneath our birthright. The only way we can understand this is by a transformed mind.

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It’s always amazing to me how some people achieve a certain way of thinking and view of their life. David Rockefeller died on March 20, 2017 at age 101. He was the grandson of John D. Rockefeller, a devout northern Baptist. John D. would read the Bible daily, attend prayer meetings twice a week, and led his on Bible study. He abstained from alcohol and tobacco all his life.

John D gave tens of thousands of dollars to Christian groups even while trying to borrow a million dollars to expand his own business. By age 45 John D. Rockefeller had given away \$100,000 per year. By age 53 he gave away \$1,000,000 per year. At age 80 he gave away \$138,000,000 per year. In total he gave \$550,000,000 to churches, schools, hospitals, black schools, southern schools, and Baptist schools. What a way of thinking. This man had a mind about life and giving. If only every believer had a mind for presenting their body as a gift to God. Okay, now watch this carefully. I'm not teaching some mystical, religious, impossible hocus-pocus. This is not some wild-eyed, charismatic, emergent church, new-age heresy. This is the born-again saint of God performing the priestly ministry and service of a living sacrifice presented unto God, holy, acceptable and reasonable. This is not a second work of grace, a second blessing nor sinless perfection. This is a living sacrifice, transformed by the renewing of our mind!

From the Old Testament Tabernacle and High Priest to the New Testament Temple of the Holy Ghost and believer priest, we “enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way...” Read Hebrews 10:15-25:

¹⁵ *Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,*

¹⁶ *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;*

¹⁷ *And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*

¹⁸ *Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.*

¹⁹ *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,*

²⁰ *By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;*

²¹ *And having an high priest over the house of God;*

²² *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

²³ *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

²⁴ *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

²⁵ *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Almighty God in every detail “by His mercies” and His perfect plan (He is the architect) gives us the prophetic picture of perfect propitiation. From the OT to the NT, from the Tabernacle to the Temple of the Holy Ghost we see the sinner, you and me, as being *outside*. We enter the door and there is the brazen altar. Christ is the door and it is His Cross where Christ gave His life to give us life. We pass on from the brazen altar to the laver where there's washing and cleansing. Then there's the table of fellowship and light at the golden candlestick. The power of prayer as we come to the incense altar when suddenly, we behold, the veil is rent! Come to the mercy seat “by

the mercies of God”. Come on in, His mercies are mine, they are yours. Don’t stay outside sinner. And don’t live in the courtyard saint. The veil is rent and we can enter into the Holiest. In Christ, Christ in us is the hope of glory. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Therefore, enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus. Don’t feed on the dregs of this world. The veil is rent. Enter in to the Holy Place. Behold The Transformation!

Remember our test - Romans 12:1,2. Consider this **ABC** formula for The Transformed Mind. Philippians 4:8 says, “Think on these things.” The **attitude** of the believer concerning the things of God is absolutely critical to the transformed mind. Read what Paul says our minds should think on in Philippians 4:8. “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” Deuteronomy 29:29. The attitude of our mind should be obedience in all that God has revealed to us. This is not mysterious, but God has given us His Word to be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. It’s a matter of attitude—willingness to recognize His direction; aptitude—reading and studying to learn what God has said; altitude—commitment to the high call of God in Christ Jesus.

Secondly, think about the word **believe**. Acts 17:11,12 says:

¹¹ These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

¹² Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

The Bereans received the Word with all readiness of mind and searched the Scriptures daily. Then the record in Acts says many of them believed. Our transformed mind is dependent daily on the Word of God renewing our minds in this world of confusion.

Finally, where is Biblical **conviction**?—conviction for the Word of God, to the work of God and in the way of God.

Years ago while ministering and living in Montana a very sad and tragic event occurred. A elk hunter raised his high-powered rifle, pulled the trigger, and discharged a bullet aimed at his target, but unbeknown to him the projectile traveled another mile further striking a young girl riding her horse on a distinct mountain ridge killing her. Did the hunter intend to do this? NO! The illustration is—we must always look beyond the target. The transformed mind is not fixated on just the hear and now, but looks beyond the target. The transformed mind lives in the light of eternity.



NEWS BITS

FROM HERE AND THERE

New Fields of Study - Universities in the United States, Australia, Britain, Denmark, Sweden, Canada, and France offer undergraduate and masters's programs in fashion/dress history and fashion studies. There is a difference, you know. From contemporary to broad spans of time, visual culture to sociological, the crisscross of confusion is furthered for students and researchers alike. Throw in with the history, art, design, film, media, marketing, business and gender studies, far too many Pastors and Churches have said "anything goes!"

What should I wear to the funeral?

- Almost daily, the fashion world, celebrity and even politics debates the confusion and complexity of dress. Colleges and Universities are conducting "Adulthood Classes" for students without a clue on how to make adult decisions. There are courses on dress, as well. Not just fashion and marketing, etc, but how to dress for

various events. For example, there are ways not to dress for a job interview. I personally was born in a different era or as some assert, a different planet, for I never needed a course on appropriate dress for a job interview, funeral nor a wedding. By the way, my wife and I praise the Lord, have been married 44 years and never had an "Adulthood Class!" Some say there should be a law against baggy pants hanging down and underwear tights worn as outer wear. There is confusion and who is the author of confusion? Is it such a sacrifice or inconvenience to dress up not down in respect of a loved one? I remember the secular news coverage criticizing the casual, sloppy, even disrespectful dress of multitudes that filed by when President Ronald Reagan lay in-state. Do we need a Funeral Dress course like the University course "Adulthood"?

IS GOD'S WORK IN YOUR WILL?

"One of the most important documents a man ever signs is his Will. I can tell better what a man had in his heart by reading his Will than I can by reading his obituary. His obituary tells the world what his friends thought of him; his Will reveals what he had in his heart."

- A. M. Vollmer

For as (a man) thinketh in his heart, so is he- Proverbs 23:7.

Out of (the heart) are the issues of life - Proverbs 4:23.

A bequest in your Will to The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. can assure that the outreach of this ministry at home and abroad will continue after you have gone to your eternal reward. Prayerfully consider us in your Estate Planning.

Thank you!

ARKANSAS MISSOURI

Travel Snapshots



Pastor Nolan Wynn overlooks their new church building site. It was a joy to be with the good folks at Pleasant Ridge in Missouri. Pray as they expand their property and ministry with a vision to reach precious souls for Christ. Thank you, Bro. Wynn, for your fundamental stand.



Pastor Burks and his talented folks were a blessing this year at the Oak Lane Camp Meeting. We always enjoy our time in Arkansas. It was my privilege to preach twice and hear more than a dozen excellent sermons that challenged my life. This was a great time of fellowship and refreshing.





The Voice in the Wilderness Ministry reprinted Sophie Muller's (Missionary to the Jungles) Bible translation work in Curipaco, Piapoco, Puinave, and Guahibo languages. In 1999 Brother Williamson was privileged to stand where Sophie served for 50 years and witness 1500 precious souls come walking through the jungle and canoeing down the Orinoco to receive the Word of God in their indigenous language. Indeed it was a blessing! Bearing Precious Seed in Milford, OH, agreed to print the indigenous language Jn/Rms Bibles for the jungle work and volunteers from Little Ivy Baptist Church assemble the Scriptures. We are working together with BPS, Missionary Gage and others to determine the best shipment and distribution method for the John and Romans. **PRAISE THE LORD for the offerings thus far! We look forward to giving these John and Romans to those who already have expressed anticipation and excitement over receiving their own precious copy of God's Word.**



Read the background of Sophie's Jungle ministry in her books.

Please pray and give toward the remaining printing, shipping and distribution costs for this mission project.



Nuggets of Gold

- Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.

Ronald Reagan

- The Proverbs 31 woman has fire in her soul and grace in her heart.
 - One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.
- A house is made of walls and beams; a home is built with love and dreams.

TREKS THROUGH



• Thank you Pastor Creed and Dr. Chuck Harding for another opportunity to impact Capitol Hill with the Truth. Hundreds of Pastors and others walked the halls of our government to meet with and pray for Congressional leaders. We were honored to present Congressman Mark Meadows (NC) with a beautiful commemorative edition of the history of our nation. Many leaders, like Cathy McMorris Rodgers (pictured right) gave time to update attendees on current issues.

CAPITOL HILL



- As we entered the Arlington Cemetery, notice the wordage of the sign to the right that greeted visitors. So, where is "Dignity and Respect" today? Have we taught the next generation the meaning of "Hallowed Grounds" and "Dignity and Respect" when they show up at a grandparents funeral in flip-flops and the beach look?
- Graceway Baptist Church, Pastor Brad Wells, his family, and this new church in the heart of D.C. was a blessing! They currently lift up their voice and make a difference from the old hospital building once dedicated by Abraham Lincoln.



The **Trans**formed Mind

Belief Transforms Behavior

THE TRANSFORMED MIND

Those little foxes will spoil the vine
Lest you have a transformed mind.
With all thy getting, this is a must
To place in Him your completed trust.
By God's Word perfecting in you
With all thy heart, acknowledge it's true.
Your understanding you cannot lean,
But handfuls of purpose daily glean.
Hide His riches in your heart,
And day by day a prayerful start.
Live your life a transformed mind
Defeat those foxes, grow in the vine.
Present your body, holy is Thine
To you, O Lord, a renewing mind.

Romans 12:1,2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*

DUTY AND DOCTRINE—BELIEF AND BEHAVIOR

The apostle Paul is beseeching the brethren for a total transformation. Are there unfathomable mysteries—are there unattainable promises God has given only to frustrate mortal man? It is only through and by the transformed mind that we can even understand all that God has prepared for His children. How can this be? It begins with presenting our bodies a living sacrifice unto

God. After all, we are not our own or do we even understand that fact? The apostle beseeches me/you to present my/your body a living sacrifice. This is to be holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Using the word sacrifice is certainly the Holy Spirit's intention. This brings us to the Old Testament system and even back to the Tabernacle, where the priest entered the Holiest of Holies, to bring to annual sacrifice. So, what exactly is the apostle, under Holy Spirit inspiration, telling the New Testament saint? Hold on to that thought and question for just a moment.

From the time of salvation we are new creatures in Christ. Thus begins the walk of faith. The transformation Paul speaks of may appear to be mystical and even unattainable by some. Others will label this legalistic. But Scripture says this is good, and acceptable, and perfect. As a matter of fact, this is the will of God.

This transformation is, simply put, to be like Jesus. Are you a Christian? What exactly does that mean? Are we to be Christ-like as the meaning of Christian says? Does that carry with it the true meaning of transformation by the renewing of your mind.?

Ultimately, the one mind that matters is the mind of Christ. So, "In the beginning God..." and "In the beginning was the word..." reassures us of the fact that it all begins with Him. This miraculous transformation by the renewing of our mind is by the mercies of God. He must do the transforming. He transforms our minds by His Word. Consider the following:

- The born again child of God desires to be more like Jesus, not more like the world—yes?
- The Word of God is absolute authority in the child of God's life, not feelings, fads, and the fashions of this world—yes?
- Men and women with a solid Biblicist model are our examples not modernist, purpose-driven, emergent, charismatic pseudos—yes?
- We should ask the Lord's counsel for discernment of the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God not the world's counsel—yes?
- Purpose in your heart to stand strong and know the rewards of high standards and Biblical separation—yes?
- The transformed mind loves, as 1 Corinthians 13 describes, knowing that not every saved person will embrace Romans 12: 1,2.
- *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever*, and as the world and worldlings move and change, the transformed mind is steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

A MULTITUDE OF MINDS

The setting was the streets of Delhi, India. It is always uncomfortable to have a panhandler confront me with what is usually a pack of lies about why they want my hard earned money. In this case, I'm 9,000 miles from home and the last thing I need is to be accosted by a street person, a beggar. The dear Indian brother traveling with me had no patience for his fellow countryman trying to shake down the American gringo. In a sudden outburst he almost shouted at the beggar, "Why don't you get a job?" Without hesitation and to our shock, the beggar immediately blurted, "I've got a job—it's hard work begging out here in the hot sun."

Talk about different mindsets and ways of thinking. First, there's an American in a foreign country. That's me, with all my background and culture. Then two Indians going toe-to-toe with obviously different opinions about the definition of legitimate employment.

The next day we were scheduled to drive from Delhi to Agra. After grabbing a bite to eat, my Indian brother left his trash and paper cup lying on the street curb. Now India typically has its share of litter and garbage. I mildly rebuked my friend for tossing his trash inappropriately. Again, for me the response was unexpected. "There are people that are paid to collect trash. If I don't leave some, they will not have a job."

These are true and humorous accounts. It illustrates how vastly different people are and different thinking can be. By the way, I love the people of India. It has been my joy to visit India nine times and minister with our precious brethren. With dozens of languages, many religions and such diversity of culture, India is a prime example of diversity in thinking.

So whether India, the United States or any other point on the planet what makes one's thinking right, wrong, good or bad. Thus our study—*The Transformed Mind*.

HOW DO YOU SEE IT?

A professor wrote the following words on the chalkboard and asked each student to punctuate them: A woman without her man is nothing

All male students punctuated the words this way:

A woman, without her man, is nothing.

All female students punctuated the words this way:

A woman: without her, man is nothing.

Without the discussion of right or wrong, it is not very difficult to find a variety of opinions and thinking when it comes to the various issues of life. The apostle Paul makes it clear in the realm of the spiritual that the transformed mind must be renewed by the Word of God.

Far too frequently I make a gesture or say something seemingly involuntarily that is identical to my parents. Often it is a characteristic I did not especially appreciate in my mom and dad. Was that genetic or repetitive influence? DNA, environment and a host of factors shape our thinking. The writings and documents of religion through the centuries have built and destroyed nations. People are a complex curiosity. So with all that said, we as believers in Jesus Christ have been given the mind and message of God in His inspired/infallible Word. The choice is ours. Will we be conformed to this world or transformed by the renewing of our mind? -RLW



(Continued from page 2)

Wells and this mission work in our Nation's Capitol. Also pray for the men and women in government trying to do what is right. It is a spiritual warfare, and they are under constant attack.

For Christ and souls,

Ronnie Williamson

Ronnie L. Williamson

Isa. 40:31

Happy Trails!



PLEASE NOTE:

The situation in Venezuela remains desparate. Anything you could give for the Pastors would be deeply appreciated.

The *Trans*formed Mind

Stinkin' Thinkin'

There's a whole lot of stinkin' thinkin' going on!

"Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom. 12:2).

This brother and I had only met a short time ago, yet something seemed quite obvious. Just listen awhile and many times you will learn something. As we drove through the Texas countryside, I listened to him talk. This former pastor revealed a serious flaw in his thinking. Beside the highway was a cliff and rock formation. He pointed out the different shades and colors in the rock layers. Then the tell tale comment was made. "That occurred over a 100,000 years ago." Now maybe that statement means very little to you, but to me it spoke volumes. Many of the decisions made by that man over the years could be interpreted by the thinking represented by that statement.

More than once, from good people, have I heard such thinking. Years ago, my wife and I were eating lunch with a Bible believing, soul-winning pastor. Stretching for miles just outside the restaurant window was a beautiful valley. Describing this part of Wyoming the pastor's wife, said "Over 100,000 years ago, this valley was covered in water."

Born again, blood washed children of God, who seem to have their Bible Doctrine in order yet are seriously influenced in their practical everyday thinking by the philosophies of this world. It's as if they possess a split brain. In one compartment they house all the Bible, church and Christian thinking. Then in this other compartment is stored all the world's thinking, which often includes elements of the personal (e.g. family, finance, career, etc.) Interestingly enough, decision-making becomes muddled. The two compartments spill over into each other causing a very distorted Christian view of this world. They seem to randomly go to the two compartments to

pick and choose. For decision making they apply a little Bible and a little of the world's thinking to arrive at their conclusion. From one compartment a little Bible thinking mixed with a little worldly thinking from the other compartment and voila - they have made the right choice. Or have they?

I read this statement the other day - "Sometimes you must do a little wrong to do right." Have you ever heard anyone say, "Well, that's just the way business is done, everybody understands that"? Or how about, "The check is in the mail," when the check is not in the mail or possibly has not even been written. One business man said, "I would rather do business with a lost man than a Christian. I can expect the lost man to lie to me, but when the Christian treats me the same way the lost does, well..."

"Christians dress like the world, listen to the world's music(perform it in the church even) entertain like the world, do business like the world, think like the world" - for cryin' out loud, have you read the Bible? "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I Jn. 2:15). "Christians" and "the church" today have fallen in love with this world. If the heart is filled with love for this world, the love of the Father does not exist in that heart. "For all that is in the World, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world"(I Jn. 2:16). Explain to me how it could be possible for the love of this world and the love of the Father to abide in the same heart. Don't waste your time or mine—it is IMPOSSIBLE. The church is trying to put a pearl in the snout of the worldly soaked swine and call them by another name. It cannot be so.

"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you"(I Jn 3:13). Is the world your friend? Do you have a love affair with this sin cursed world? Truly if you are a child of God, this world will not love you, it will hate you and you will not love the world nor the things that are in the world.

Herein lies the indictment. Beware of stinkin' thinkin'! Have you been transformed by the renewing of your mind? We are commanded, "Be not conformed to this world..." The Greek word "Conformed" in Romans 12:2 is *suschématizó* meaning to fashion alike, conform to the same pattern, fashion self according to this world. I see free will here... We have a choice not to fashion ourselves after this world, the times, styles, patterns and philosophies of this world. It is a choice of how you determine to fashion self — your self. The church has swallowed this worldly sales job hook-line and sinker. We do not have to follow the thinking of this world.

We have a choice. God does not need the world's marketing techniques, its throbbing music, or hyped up programs and showmanship to win the lost.

"No, the church service is not to be some dead dry funeral dirge. No, Christianity does not need to be portrayed as some boring stiff stick-in-the-mud. With the Biblical dynamite of God, I am a two-edged sword wielding, Holy Ghost empowered child of the kingdom who knows where I came from, who I am and where I'm going. I have got the peace that passeth all understanding, the love of heaven in my soul, a song in my heart, and joy in my step. There's no credit limit on my treasure account, and have I got a message to TELL TO THE NATIONS!

"Come out from among them..." (Read II Cor. 6:17). Separation, personally and in the ministry as well is taught in 11 Cor. 6:14-18 and applies to all believers. "Be not conformed to this world" - that's the command. Earlier in Romans 8:29, Paul speaks of being "conformed to the image of His Son..." We are not to be conformed (suschnatiz) fashioned like this world, but we are to be conformed (Greek: summorphos) to the image of Jesus Christ. This speaks of union with, jointly formed or to be like Jesus. We preachers may apply Romans 8:28 in an effort to comfort someone when in reality that individual is out of the will of God and far from His purpose. Yes, "All things work together for good to them:"

1. "that love God,"
2. "to them who are the called according to His purpose."

To abide in His PURPOSE is to know His Promise. Apart from that may very well be chastening, correction to bring us in line, punishment for disobedience. The promise of Romans 8:28 belongs to those who walk in His purpose. The child of God will know the power and provision in all things that will prove to be for good "to them that love God" (not the world) and "to them who are the called according to His purpose" (not the pattern of the world). Back to Romans 12:2, Paul says "be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." This is indeed a supernatural change. The Greek metamorphoó or "Metamorphosis" is a "transformation by the renewing of your mind." The mind of God transforming your thinking, your attitudes, your philosophy of life. So clear is the sharp contrast given here. BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD - BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, how? - by His Word!

Dear Reader,

The Lord is good. It cannot be overstated how gracious God has been to allow us the wonderful opportunities of ministry during 2017. Our church meetings, conferences and many appointments have been truly blessed. Preaching has been a joy and God's people so kind. Take a look at the pictorial journal and pray for these points of ministry.

Over 10,000 Curipaco and Piapoco John/Romans Scriptures are enroute to the jungle. We are looking forward to great meetings with the jungle Pastors and Churches. Please pray there will be no hindrances to the completion of this great project. Also the situation continues to be difficult and dangerous in Venezuela. The Voice plans to make contact with the Pastors to assist them with some urgent needs. Souls continue to be saved and churches planted in spite of persecution. These brethren need our help!

There is still preliminary work before the reprint of *The Book of Revelation Study*. We are getting close! Thank you for praying. We are excited to share this new edition with you upon its completion.

Check out www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org for current up-to-date progress on all these ministry projects.

Praise & Urgent Notice!



Looking forward to reuniting with friends in Colombia for Bible Distribution



Chivacoa Church



Yaritagua Church



Pray for Venezuela

In the midst of rioting and a country crumbling under socialism, 2,903 people came for the 13th Anniversary Service in Yaritagua with over 200 saved while others packed a lean-to with Pastor Estelvio in Chivacoa!



Entire Family Baptized





Bless be the **tie** that binds

No one had to beg, twist my arm or even encourage me after salvation to stay faithful to church attendance. There was a desire to fellowship, learn and even serve in God's house! As a 17 year old, I even borrowed ugly, flowered, Hawaiian-style ties from my unsaved Dad to wear something different, something special for Sunday school and church. Why was that?

How do we stoop so low? Can you believe that alcohol use, fornication and Sodomy are subjects in debate. Wine and beer consumption in the casual, cultured, culinary setting is now acceptable in "Bible preaching Churches". Senior age men and women outside of marriage, to protect government benefits, are living together but continue their church relationship. Teaching has changed. Sin is no longer sin because deacon or preacher so and so's child is doing it. This casual and careless has broken the hedge and in rushes corruption.

So now you will think I have lost my mind. But enter "Bless Be The Tie That Binds." If you required your Ushers, Deacons or men in the choir to wear a coat and tie there would be mutiny on the good ship "Church". Obviously that aroused hostility has nothing to do with "Ties" and everything to do with heart attitude. If Pastor believed coats and ties would be appropriate in terms of reverence, respect and dignity in God's House would you set aside your preferences, prejudices even peculiarities to follow a pastoral request. Or would you bristle and say absolutely not...! What attitude is aroused in your heart just by reading this article?

*Sunday
Go-to-Meetin'*



In today's casual, dress-down, come-as-you-are culture, weddings, funerals and, to be sure, church time has seen a drastic shift in what is considered appropriate attire. Are there any biblical guidelines on the subject of casual dress for church? Certainly as a 17 year old I did not have a clue. But as with regular church attendance my desire to "dress up" for church came from the inner voice. The Holy Spirit guided my thoughts. Is He a respecter of persons? Does the Holy Spirit teach or convict certain individuals of truth while remaining silent with others? Absolutely not. Yet I confess from personal experience we mortals can resist, refuse and turn a deaf ear to the Holy Spirit's prompting. That being said, permit me to share the obvious to the thinking believer.

I. I'm a child of the King.

As a member of His royal priesthood and joint heir with Jesus, surely I am different inside and out!

II. Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit...

This truth became so real to me as a young person in Christ. Should God's Temple look shabby, unkempt, or worldly?

III. New means NEW

As a new creation in Christ, the urging of the indwelling Holy Spirit prompted the change of heart and yes attire, attitude, and actions.

IV. Heavenly Father—You are worthy.

Out of honour and thanksgiving, I wanted to fix my attitude in reverence when I prepared for church time and worship.

Now after over 40 years in the gospel ministry and travel to many countries around the world, it's apparent that culture and climate do affect church dress. In many of the churches where I have been privileged to preach, they do not wear suits and ties. In the Philippines, Mexico and India for example there is attire that is appropriate for that country. Yet, the biblical principles outlined above still apply. They desire to wear their best for the Lord. Their attire is defined by appropriate, modest dress for Church not casual or carnal dress of the world. Could it be distinctive "Sunday Go-to-meetin' Dress"?

V. Nothing for Jesus that cost me nothing.

I learned the account of Araunah and his threshing floor. The world's casual attire costs little time, effort or work. What testimony does our Sunday dress communicate?

Our life is the cover of THE BOOK – Living Epistles with a message to give.

VI. Dare to be a Daniel

Daniel said he would not defile himself with the king's meat. Though a captive in a strange land, Daniel determined to be different. After their dramatic test, they

even looked different.

VII. Give of your best to the Master

I'll never forget one preacher saying when he goes to the closet to dress before preaching the Holy Word of God he prays about what pants, coat, tie, or suit to wear. He sincerely believed the Lord used his appearance, deportment and over all presentation to take the Word to the listeners heart. Judge a book by its cover—like it or not some do.

YOUR LIFE IS THE COVER TO *THE BOOK*

One thing is for sure. Can you admit it? From the pew to the pulpit, we are getting gooder and gooder. Somebody say "AMEN," right there! The church's influence in the world is stronger than ever. I think this casual, don't sweat the small stuff, "Let it go," get down and party with Jesus is making a difference from the church house to the White House. TO THE CONTRARY! I thought about it this morning as I dressed for church. I positioned my patriotic lapel pin on my coat in honour of Memorial Day Observance. If I did not wear a suit, I could not use my American Flag or King James Bible lapel pin. If I thought a coat and "TIE" was a show, haughty, uppity, hypocritical or whatever, I would wear a vest or unique shirt appropriate to the witness of the Red, White and Blue or a Bible Lapel Pin. When I leave the house on Sunday morning or even Wednesday night, I want my neighbors to know I am going to church, not fishing, a ballgame or the shopping mall. Maybe they will know a church member by the cover.

-RLW

Me First is Me Last but Me Last is Me First.



From the Pulpit to the Pew
Does anything go? What IS appropriate?

God forgive us for not only the casual and careless, but the carnal and corrupt hearts and lifestyle of your people. We are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.



FIRST RESPONDERS

Please Take Time to Pray for:

Jeff G. (OH)
Seth J. (IN)
Charles S. (PA)

Pat M. (IN)
Eric B. (IN)
Ethan M. (IN)
Josh (TX)

Ron L. (AR)
Billy T. (TN)
Emily T. (TN)
Matt M. (NC)
Lee B. (VA)

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Given In Memory

Of Sylvia Tabor
By Garry & Edith Tabor

Of Martin C. Kline
By Curtis Kline

Of Rev. Leonard Allgood
By M/M Tommy R. King

Of Mrs. Lottie Heffner
By Curtis Kline

Of Dake Anderson Goodwin
By M/M Tommy R. King

Of Fred M. Shimp
By Elberta Shimp

Of Dr. J. Royce Thomason
By Curtis Kline
By Bill H. McMahan
By Robert & Gretchen Pusch
By Dorothy L. Mellott

Of Imogene Rice
By James Rice

Given In Honor of Dr. and Mrs. Ronnie Williamson

Mrs. Nancy Ritz
Mr. Floyd Mowery
Mr. Thornton Norman
Mr. Bill H. McMahan
Ann Thornton
Mrs. David Andrascik
Neva Gibson
Lynn Johnston
Jerry Detillian

M/M Douglas Kaehr
Pauline M. Esry
Ruth A. Thompson
Dale K. McClave
Joann Whitley*
Judith Tyson
Richard E. White
John W. Hires
George E. Fleming

We would like to express our thanks to those who have given a memorial gift to The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc. Ministry. These names will be added to a plaque and displayed in our office. If you would like to honor a loved one, please send a Remembrance Memorial Gift or a Living Memorial Gift with the person's name (legibly printed). Your gift will be listed in an upcoming issue of this publication.



Update from The Lillys



Serving the Lord is an amazing privilege and blessing, especially when working together as a family. Through singing, teaching, and recitation, we have enjoyed ministry opportunities in many churches. AbiNoelle has studied to memorize the attributes of God through the Books of the Bible. The presentation of this has been a tremendous blessing to many, so much so, that some have felt led to pass along a "little gift" to AbiNoelle, which in turn has been an answer to her prayers to be able to have



a little of her own money to give toward the Jungle Bible Project. Imagine her excitement as she was able to hand over many dollars to print Bibles for those in the Jungle! Our travels in Arkansas and Missouri also gave time to renew fellowship with many Pastors/Missionaries and their families (Jason and Josiah, pictured left, are special preacher boys) and to teach a fun children's Bible class on missions.



On a Personal Note

AbiNoelle's a Kinder-Grad and soon to be Big Sister to a little sister! What a Spring full of blessings for our family!

In Memory

Upon joining with The Voice in the Wilderness as Staff Missionaries in 2005, The "Macs," as we call them, were one of the first to begin supporting APM monthly. A few months ago, our travels brought us near their home and we were grateful for a short visit. Even with long-term physical illness, both have remained faithful in their love for the Lord and support of our ministry over all these years. In May, Mr. Mac "graduated" to his eternal home. He will be greatly missed here.





CLUB MIT

MISSIONARY TRAINING

TEACHING YOUNG PEOPLE TO
BE A MISSIONARY EVERYDAY

Lessons from Aquila and Priscilla

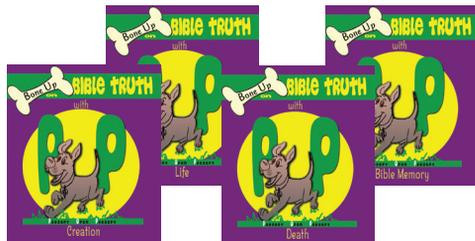
What is prayer? Is it a poem, a song, a memorized saying? Prayer is one of the most needful things in a Christian's life. It is communicating (talking) with God. It is a two-way conversation. There are many examples in the Bible of men and women who talked with God--Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Esther, Paul and even Jesus are just a few. Let's look at Daniel's life and apply **Four Lessons About Prayer**.

1. **Personal:** Daniel had personal, specific conversation with God. As you read the Book of Daniel, you will see that he was blessed by God to be able to tell the kings what their dreams meant. Daniel got in trouble, though, when he continued to pray and not submit to the king's command against prayer. What would you do? Would you forget God?
2. **Position:** How was he caught praying? He prayed with his window open three times a day. Like Daniel, we should choose a special time and place just for prayer. Would you have enough courage and faith in God to reject the king's laws like that? The king threw Daniel into the lion's den, but because Daniel believed in God an Angel was sent to shut the lion's mouths. What a great and mighty God we serve!
3. **Perseverance:** At another time in Daniel's life, he was praying and asking wisdom from God, but he did not receive the answer right away. Have you ever prayed and it seemed that God was not listening? The Bible tells us in

(Continued on next page)

PUP Series - Precept Upon Precept

Join PUP and learn what God says about key topics such as Bible Memory, Death, Life, Creation. Each mini-brochure helps you "Bone-up on Bible Truth" through study tips, tools, illustrations, Bible Verses and Q&A. A great kick-starter to family devotions! More coming soon.



Discipleship For Kids

BITS AND PIECES

Boy's CORNER

Girl's CORNER

Boys Bits & Priscilla's Pieces



Learn how to pray! Write CLUB MIT and request the JOY PRAYER JOURNAL. The included testimony about the creation of this little tool will inspire and encourage you to develop a personal relationship with God. Learn to Praise Him each day and create a habit of recording what God is doing for you. This 90 day journal

will impact your heart for God and become a special keepsake and reminder of God's personal touch in your life.

(Continued from previous page)

Daniel 10 that Satan was fighting with God's messenger to keep the answer from Daniel, yet Daniel persevered – he did not give up, but prayed on until Satan was defeated and the answer received. Keep Praying!

4. **Problems:** What are some things that can keep our prayers from being answered by God? Yes, Satan will fight against our prayers, but many times things in our own life hinder our prayers. **FIRST** - Are you saved? Do you know for sure that you are going to Heaven? If you are not a part of God's family, then He only needs to listen to a prayer for salvation. **SECOND** - Do you have unconfessed sin? The Bible says in Psalm 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." The word *iniquity* is another word for sin. **THIRD** - Are you praying for the best in your life? God only wants to give you the best. In Matthew 7, Jesus gives us the example of a child asking their father for some bread or fish. The father will give the child what is asked because it is good for the child. Then Jesus asks the question, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" God loves us and wants what is best for us. Pray for what God wants - His best!

Take Time for Bible Memory

Hall of Faith - Collector's card series; handy 2¾x4¾ size; Tidbits, quotes, testimonies, and Bible memory on back - Set Options: Ten Commandments, King James Bible Translators, Unreached People Groups, Heroes of the Faith, Luke 2 Christmas, Matthew 28 Resurrection



RESOURCES FOR YOU



Brochures

A Miracle in India - The story of Baba and his testimony of faith - Pamphlet

How to be a Prayer Partner - A simple yet challenging outline of how to connect and pray effectively for your missionaries - Pamphlet

Suffer the Little Children- Dynamic examples and techniques to equip the adult in biblical teaching and leading a child to Christ - Pamphlet

A Miracle in Venezuela- Testimony of church plant in Venezuela - Pamphlet

Public Education: A Case of the Heart - A study of the Why, What, and Way of Education through the truths found in God's Word.

While the Evil Days Come Not: A Biblical Approach to the Aged Years - Are you a caregiver for an aged person? Are you approaching senior years with fear of the future? This brochure gives timely, Biblical counsel and hope for those in these circumstances. Helpful suggestions are also given for pastors and others who may be in position to help.

Suicide & What About Cremation?- With the coming of "evil days," perhaps two new pamphlet resources will be a help, encouragement and study tool. - Pamphlet

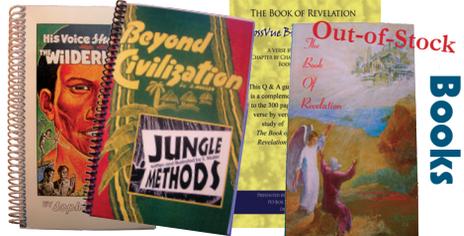
What Matters? A Forgotten Heritage of Black Lives - In a time when history is being deleted or altered to support an ungodly agenda, read four true testimonies of Black Christians used mightily by God.

God's Mind, Your Heart: Marriage, Divorce, & Remarriage - This trilogy examines God's definition of marriage through a Biblical lens and answers questions such as: When is divorce acceptable? *and* When can I get on with my life? *and* What if I'm divorced? The 8 part Marriage outline and multiple Scripture references make this an excellent pre-marital study tool or counseling outline for those in difficult circumstances.

His Voice Shakes the Wilderness - A detailed account by Sophie Muller of her lifetime of missionary work in the Jungles of South America

Beyond Civilization - Further details of Sophie's ministry including her "Jungle Methods" used by Indian lay leaders in the jungle

The Book of Revelation - A layman's verse by verse study and Q&A of Revelation written by The Voice in the Wilderness founder Dr. J. Royce Thomason



Books



Booklets

Truth or Myth - The Truth about the Confederate Battle Flag and other facts surrounding that time

Marriage & the Home - A Biblical study on God's plan for marriage and raising a Christian family

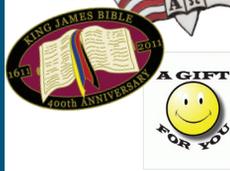
Life Testimony of Dr. J. Royce Thomason

Women Wear Pants...So do SOME Men - How have we "transitioned" from Genesis to Transgender? Politics, Money and the LGBTQ movement are actively and aggressively lobbying to destroy God's moral truths; yet how has it come this far? From a Biblical perspective, this booklet study will unlock the confusion of dress, truth, and the influence of Christians' choice through a bit of wit, wisdom and the Word.

Heritage Lapel Pin - A uniquely designed lapel pin picturing the Christian flag, US Flag, Star of David, Alpha & Omega, Bible, Eagle - full-color description card

KJB Anniversary Lapel Pin - Featuring the Bible with salvation colored ribbons and dates for KJB 400th anniversary

"Smiley" - Handy 2x2 tract booklet including the Gospel message - 10/pk



RESOURCES FOR YOU!

Please send me the following: (Check a box)

These resources are not for sale, but are this ministry's gift to you when you send an undesignated offering to
The Voice in the Wilderness, Inc.

Brochures
(with a contribution)

- Baba Testimony
- Suffer the Little Children
- How to be a Prayer Partner
- The Voice in the Wilderness Ministry Brochure
- Suicide
- What About Cremation?
- A Miracle in Venezuela
- Marriage
- Remarriage
- Divorce
- A Forgotten Heritage:
- Black Christians' Testimonies
- PUP Series: Bible Memory
- PUP Series: Creation
- PUP Series: Death
- PUP Series: Life
- A Case of the Heart: Gov't Sch.
- While the Evil Days Come Not

The Voice in the Wilderness
& Correspondence

- The Weekly Voice Quarterly Publication
- E-mailed to You
 - Mailed to You

Books
(with a \$10 Contribution)

- Out-of-Stock* The Book of Revelation Q & A Study Booklet
- His Voice Shakes the Wilderness
- Beyond Civilization

Booklets
(with a \$5 Contribution)

- Truth or Myth (with \$5 offering)
- Marriage & the Home Booklet
- Women Wear Pants - So do Men
- Thomason Life Testimony

Additional
(with a \$2 Contribution)

- Commandment Card Set
- KJB Hall of Faith Card Set
- Heroes of the Faith Card Set
- Unreached People Group Card Set
- Birth of Jesus Card Set
- Matthew 28 Resurrection
- JOY Prayer Journal
- MTA Devotional Book One
- Smiley Gift for You Booklet Tract 10/pk - Call for large qty.

Pins
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- Heritage Lapel Pin
- KJB Lapel Pin

Legibly write your e-mail address _____

- Enclosed is my free will offering. \$ _____
Please write your subscriber number on all correspondence. Your subscriber # is listed above your name on the label at the right.

- Please Pray for: _____
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The Voice In The Wilderness

P.O. Box 7037

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED