

The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDING EDITOR

“Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day”

Taking Responsibility...

by the late Dr. Clay Nuttall

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This country in which we live continues to plunge toward moral, economic, and spiritual disaster. In the world of the unregenerate, this would be no surprise; professing Christianity, however, is complicit to this looming tragedy, and no one wants to take responsibility. The liberal mind bent on change has no measuring device. It continues to create problems and generate difficulty for society but is not willing to grasp or admit its error. For some strange reason, liberals seem to think that more moral degeneracy will make things better. The answers they offer are limited to the physical and the temporary, using such things as money to make things right. In the end, this human-based system refuses to take responsibility for the suffering it creates.

On the other side of the coin is professing Christianity. The problem here is that this group tends to be filled with unregenerate souls who have only a pretense of any true Christianity. In the end, their cha-

rage provides no room to bear responsibility for the misuse of Scripture and the practice of accepting and polishing liberal ideas.

The real focus of this article, however, would be those of us who are true believers, who understand that Christianity is not a thing-it is a life. It is impossible to possess the gift of eternal life without its manifesting itself in the way we live. Our words and actions should betray the life within us. No one should have to search for evidence in our life of the presence of the Holy Spirit; it is impossible to hide such power and reality. We are not talking about perfection-that is God's work; rather, this is about our spiritual life, the existence of which is undeniable. The true believer must be careful. This fleshly house in which we live can fail, and that failure is what this discussion is all about.

THE ROOT OF RESPONSIBILITY

We love to shift blame. It all began in the Garden-it was her fault; no, it was the serpent's fault. We all know better, so let us face facts: The growing disaster in our nation lies at the feet of believers. Those of us who have tried to follow the clear teaching of Scripture should have known better. It is time to stop the denial and get on with our responsibility. That means we will have to openly deal with those who claim the name of Christ but who rewrite

the Bible to cover their shame and disobedience.

The only way to begin work on this responsibility is to admit we have failed. It means that we need to go back to the eternal Word of God and let the text speak for itself. This is something you will not get in the plethora of so-called evangelical publications now available. We talk to each other but seldom to the flawed society. It appears that, very soon, speaking the truth of Scripture is going to bring persecution. For the believer, it is time for the whole counsel of God to be broadcast to the whole of society. Stop hiding that truth under a bushel- take your responsibility.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

In our busy world, we tend to become lazy. We let everyone else develop our doctrine and then take little time to search the Scriptures to see if what they opine is actually true. Almost daily now, those who should know better quote false teachers without any disclaimer. The end result is that our listeners go to the writings of these same people and become buried in false teaching. This is only one reason we are responsible for the decline of a nation that is fueled by error; you cannot share truths with a corrupt society when you do not even know the truth yourself!

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Editor's Desk

Praying for A Nation

by Pastor Tod Brainard

One of the greatest prayers for a nation is recorded in Daniel Chapter 9. In that passage, Daniel prays before God for the nation of Israel and for the city of Jerusalem. He knows from Jeremiah's prophecy that the nation is nearing the end of the 70-year captivity (within a decade) and Daniel deliberately approached God with an attitude and prayer of genuine repentance.

His prayer consisted of two parts. The first was that of confession before God of the sins of the nation (vs.4-15). In this section, Daniel emphasized the greatness and faithfulness of God in keeping His covenants and showing lovingkindness to the people of Israel. Because of God's faithfulness, Daniel states that Israel should repent and love and fear God (vs. 4).

The second part of Daniel's prayer consisted of supplication (vs. 16-19). He besought God to forgive Israel and to restore the people to their land and to their heritage. Jerusalem and the Temple had been destroyed in 586 B.C. and had remained unrestored to the present. In his supplication, Daniel stated that in this judgment of Israel, Jerusalem and the Temple had dishonored the name of God among the pagan nations. In addition, Daniel noted that the Israelites had treated the "gods" of the pagans as equals with Jehovah and in some cases considered the "gods" greater than Jehovah. Daniel's supplication was for God to act with favor to His people, not because the Jews deserved it, but because God was gracious and merciful, and His covenant reputation was at stake before the nations.

Daniel continued in his supplication by beseeching God to hear, forgive, listen, and act and that God should do this without delay. This boldness gives us a clue concerning why Daniel prayed for his nation with such intensity. In Jeremiah 29:10-14 which Daniel had read, God declared that He would end the captivity in conjunction with Israel calling upon, praying to, and searching for God with all its being. Daniel no doubt

feared that God might delay this conclusion if the Jews did not call upon Him in repentance. In order to prevent such a delay, Daniel was moved to pray for his nation in an instructive and touching way.

When Daniel was praying before God, God sent Gabriel, the angel, in the form of a man to interrupt him. Gabriel came to Daniel around the time of the evening oblation. God had sent Gabriel to bring clarity to all Daniel's prayer requests by delivering new revelation regarding the present chastening of Israel and the future chastening of Israel (Tribulation period) separated by thousands of years. God in His grace and mercy was helping his servant Daniel directly as a result of Daniel's intense passion for God's glory and the keeping of His covenants with Israel.

There are many lessons that one can learn by studying this prayer, especially in regard to praying for one's nation. If there was ever a time to pray for the United States of America, it is now. It is important to remember that God has made no covenant with America similar to Israel. He has not promised anything other than what His Word states to any nation, **"that righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any nation"** Proverbs 14:34.

That being said, there are things that Daniel did as a citizen of Israel that God responded to in a positive way:

1. Daniel sought the Lord with **awareness** of what brought the judgment upon the people of Israel in the first place and thereby taking ownership of the national sin (vs. 3-6). Not remembering the causes behind God judgment is an indication of serious complacency and lack of awareness.

-Disobedience and rebellion
-Turned away from God's Word

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The PROJECTOR

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It Came to Pass

“But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son” (Galatians 4:4).

How old is the story of Christmas? While it is true that the *events* of Christmas—the birth of Jesus Christ—took place 2,000 years ago, the *story* of Christmas was being written for hundreds and even thousands of years before that blessed day.

The Story Begins

The beginning of the story of Christmas was told in the Garden of Eden, the paradise where Adam and Eve lived in harmony with God until they disobeyed His command. Because of Satan’s deceptive actions and temptation which led Adam and Eve to sin, God pronounced a judgment against him. The judgment, in Genesis 3:15, revealed that the seed of the woman (Jesus Christ) would bruise the head of the serpent (Satan). The sins of our first parents, as well as the sins of every person who has lived since then, created a need and a longing for a Redeemer who could conquer sin and restore mankind’s relationship with God.

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One of the major reasons we have failed to communicate truth to our culture is the compromise of evangelical leaders. We are told repeatedly that we are to stay silent in the open market. The idea is that we need to have “hands off” when it comes to political subjects. Now, that might be true if you are talking about political parties and candidates, but it is a serious error if you mean the discussing of biblical truths. For the true believer to be quiet about abortion, sodomy, and other moral issues is patent disobedience to a holy God. God is the only one who has the answers to these questions, and we need to be willing to say what God says. People in our culture are deceived because they go about sharing their ignorance while we are told to be deaf

More Details Emerge

God’s story of redemption—emerge throughout the centuries. The prophet Isaiah lived 700 years before Christ was born, but wrote that *“a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel”* (Isaiah 7:14, compare Matthew 1:20-23). Micah, another Jewish prophet, pinpointed the place where the Savior would be born: *“Bethlehem...out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be Ruler in Israel; Whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting”* (Micah 5:2, compare Luke 2:1-7).

The Picture Becomes Clearer

Other prophetic Scriptures reveal more about who the promised Redeemer would be. Isaiah wrote: *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace”* (Isaiah 9:6). The Savior was to be none other than the everlasting Son of God (John 1:1, 14; 3:16).

and dumb when it comes to truth.

SO LET US TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

We need to ignore ridicule from those whose father is the Devil; we belong smack-dab at the center of any discussion on a subject to which God has spoken. Followers of Satan need to be chided for their human theories and destructive opinions, and we must ignore leaders who scold for saying what God has said. If they choose to be cowards who are fearful of truth, we must not be caught up in their deadly silence. Even if some true believers are fearful of entering into public discussion, we need to do our best to serve the Lord with courage and wisdom.

Liberalism is smart, but it definitely is not wise. Liberals’ ability to de-

The Savior Must Suffer

When Adam and Eve sinned, God killed an animal and made coats of skin to cover them (Genesis 3:21). When the children of Israel sinned, God required that they bring an animal sacrifice, shedding its blood at the altar (Leviticus 4). When God envisioned the ultimate sacrifice—the full and final payment for sin—it also involved the shedding of blood. Isaiah spoke of the suffering Savior with perfect clarity: *“He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities.... He poured out His souls unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many”* (Isaiah 53:5, 12). Jesus Christ, the Son of God, suffered and died as the Lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice (I Peter 1:18,19). Now, He is the risen, conquering LORD, have defeated death and hell; delivering salvation to all who believe (I Corinthians 15:3-8, 55-58)

The Story is Not Over

All of the prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice

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bate is often disguised as right when, in fact, it is merely foolish. Moderate evangelicals talk a good game, giving themselves to “love,” the gospel, and going about doing “good.” They do not have time to stand firm or to dirty their white gloves with discussions that are included in the whole counsel of God. That arrogance does not fool the wise true believer, though. Sure, those things may be good, but it amounts to disobedience if they are all one does with the great task God has given. May we repent of our responsibility in the matter of national failure and move forward with true responsibility. Ω

-Dr. Clay Nuttall (1935-2017) served the Lord for over fifty years as a pastor, author, and seminary educator in various church and educational institutions.



Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 27:23-24, **Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks and look well to thy herds. For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?**

Genesis, the book of beginnings, introduces us to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, a captain of the guard, and an Egyptian. This was the same Potiphar who bought Joseph, the godly son of Jacob from the Ishmaelites who had brought him to Egypt from Canaan. Because of Jehovah's presence in Joseph's life, he was prosperous as a servant in the house of his master.

Joseph served his master excellently because he served his LORD excellently. Serving the LORD makes a difference in how you serve your employer. Joseph's diligence in serving his LORD and his earthly master caused God to make all that he did to prosper in his hand. Therefore, Potiphar made him overseer and everything he had he put into Joseph's hand. God blessed Potiphar's house and his fields for Joseph's sake.

Joseph believed in doing all things decently and in order and because of this his master trusted him completely. It became so that his master knew not what he had, save the bread which he did eat. Potiphar found excellent help in Joseph, and he took advantage of the situation to the fullest. He concerned himself with his personal necessities and left all

other details to Joseph. He no longer paid attention to the state of his flocks, and he did not look well to his herds. He left the details up to Joseph.

This proverb is addressed to the head of the flocks and herds; to those who have authority and important responsibilities. This proverb reminds us that responsibilities cannot be merely turned over to servants. There are duties which must be done by masters. They cannot be neglected: **For riches are not for ever:** Potiphar neglected his responsibilities. It was easy to see with his eyes the state of his flocks, but he did not know the state of his home. No doubt he neglected to know his wife and her wandering tendencies.

We are told that Joseph was a goodly person and well favored. He was a handsome young man, and his duties required him to be in the house at times along with Potiphar's wife. It appears from the narrative that Potiphar was not fully acquainted with his wife's character. It appears that his heart trusted her without knowing her true character and it appears that he neglected her for she looked for the attention of another.

Because of this neglect on

Potiphar's part, the righteous Joseph was blamed for infidelity and cast into prison. Perhaps Potiphar neglected his responsibilities because he depended too heavily on Joseph. He had a right to give Joseph authority to conduct his business in his name, but Potiphar remained accountable for knowing the state and nature of his flocks and that of his home. Potiphar fell into the trap of his own making, not knowing his wife and as a consequence losing the best servant he ever had. Joseph also greatly suffered because of his master's neglect. Potiphar assumed that things would continue as they were. Without personal diligence, things will not continue as they were.

This proverb applies to the riches of the crown, the vast riches of a king, his flocks, and his herds. It indeed applies to the poor as well as the rich. God has so ordained it to be. The inference in this proverb is that there will come a time in every generation where due diligence and attention is not paid, and flocks and herds will be lost. God requires those who have stewardship over material blessings to exercise due diligence in knowing the state of

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those blessings. He does not provide automatically continuing blessings.

Solomon reminds us that although we may be heavenly minded, we must also address our earthly responsibilities and know the state of our earthly things. We are to give reasonable attention to temporal interests for riches are not forever. We are to know the state of those things that God entrusts to us. We are to take care of our homes, our personal effects, and our material blessings.

As parents we are to know the state of our children. How are they doing in school? What does their room look like at home? Who do they pal around with? What do they like? What is their relationship with God? As husbands and wives, we are to know the state of our mates and their welfare.

Beloved, how is it with you? **Riches are not forever.** In the spiritual realm we are also to know the state of ourselves. 2 Corinthians 13:5 tell us to **examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?** And 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us to, **Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.** Who are we to show? God already knows our state. We are to examine ourselves by comparing ourselves to the Word of God. In this, we will be studying to show **ourselves** whether we are approved unto God and not ashamed.

Ω

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-Idolatry

-Ignored the preaching of the Prophets – did not listen when God spoke.

-Refused to repent of the wrongdoing.

2. Daniel sought the Lord with **an understanding** of what is **due** unto God from a nation (vs. 7-19).

-Fearing God

-Recognition of His righteousness and goodness

-Listening to His voice.

-Receiving the wonderful gift of His Word, Covenants, and prophets.

-Recognition of His might and power.

3. Daniel desired for God's name to be great within the nation of Israel and therefore made great among the nations surrounding Israel because of His **great compassion** (vs. 18-19).

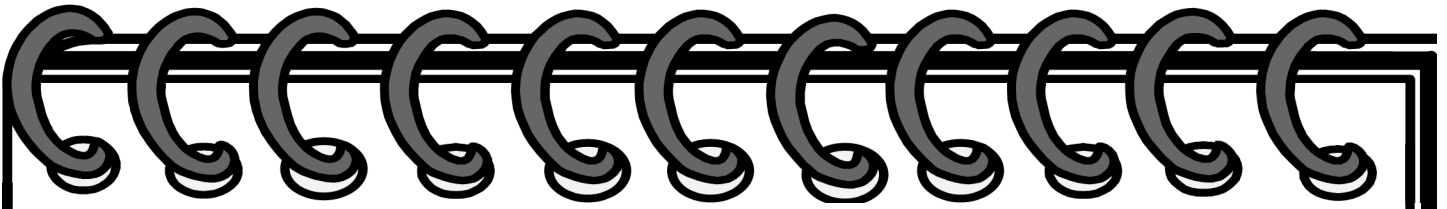
-This is the most striking aspect of Daniel's prayer. He sees God's compassion upon Israel as a game changer among the nations of the earth. The nations would see His great compassion and respond by bringing glory to His great name.

-Compassion is the Hebrew word **racham**, which is in the absolute plural intensive and is the idea of **brotherhood, brotherly feeling, of those born from same womb.** That is the kind of compassion God has for His children.

When we pray for the United States especially in this election season, may we pray with earnest to own the iniquity of the nation and repent, understand what is due unto God, and to seek His compassion upon us that His name may be great here and among the nations of the earth.

The Psalmist David wrote of this national desire that Daniel would have years later in Psalm 86:9-10, **All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.**

Ω



Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

Your Kids

PK's (Preacher's Kids), MK's (Missionary's Kids), TK's (Teacher's Kids), SK's (Staff's Kids) – think about this – what do they all have in common? They are all kids! They are no better, no worse, no smarter, no more privileged, no more righteous, no more spiritual, no more deserving of anything than any other child at school. They all have parents who have chosen to serve God, but are still human with faults and frailties, strengths, and weaknesses – (as do all parents.) It is not right to set these “kids” up on any pedestal. When they fall, and they occasionally will (they are children!) – they must be treated fairly!

Consider Eli, God's prophet. He did not do such a good job with his sons who dishonored the Lord with their actions. Consider Samuel, God's prophet. He didn't do any better than Eli with his sons. Consider any other person mentioned in Scripture. When we look to God's Word, we see many verses on bringing up children. It is our responsibility to treat all children in a Christ-honoring manner. Jesus said, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not. For of such is the kingdom of heaven.” When God allows you to teach any child whose parents are in the Lord's service, you have the opportunity to treat them fairly with love and respect. We, as teachers, should desire to help those faculty/staff parents as they bring up their children in “nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

We cannot show respect by treating these children any differently. There are two problem areas that often arise with these children.

- 1) We hold them to a higher standard (often with judgment).**
- 2) We hold them to a lower standard (and often excuse them).**

Suggestions for the parent of faculty/staff children:

When God created Adam and Eve, a home was established. When children enter our homes, we must keep our priorities straight and never let our “job” take precedence over our family.

Keep your parent and teacher hats separate at times. At school be the teacher, and at home, be the parent. Realizing you are a parent 100% of the time, there will be situations where you will need to leave your child alone and at the mercy of others to face their consequences. Your children need to see that they, themselves, are responsible for their actions at school. Allow them the opportunity to just be “one of the group of kids.”

Discipline your children privately.

Do not make excuses for your children. Just deal with the issues as they come.

Your children need to learn to take their papers home to be signed just like other children. Don't take away their need to develop responsibility by giving in to their procrastinations.

Make sure your children know how much you love serving God. We do not want our children to feel that serving God takes away from the family. This will cause your children to have a bad taste for becoming God's servant in the future. Our children should enjoy opportunities to serve God – this should be considered a blessing (not a curse).

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Children's Bible Club Corner

By the late "Aunt Carolyn"

The Lower Lights

A Song Story as shared by Evangelist Dwight L. Moody
 Edited and retold by the late Aunt Carolyn Hobbs

A few years ago, at the mouth of Cleveland harbor there were two lights, one at each side of the bay, called the upper and the lower lights. To enter the harbor safely at night, vessels had to sight on both lights. Those western lakes are more dangerous sometimes than the great ocean. One wild, stormy night, a ship was trying to make its way into the harbor. The captain and pilot were anxiously watching for the lights. By and by the pilot was heard to say, "Do you see the lower lights?" "No," was the reply; "I fear we have passed them." "Look, over there are the lights," said the pilot; "they must be from the bluff on which they stand, the upper lights. We have passed the lower lights and have lost our chance of getting into the harbor safely."

What would they do? They looked back and saw the outline of the lower lighthouse against the sky. The lights had gone out. "Can't you turn about?" "No, the night is too dangerous for that. The ship won't answer to the helm."

The storm was so fearful that they could do little. They tried again to make for the harbor, but they crashed into the rocks and sank to the bottom. Very few escaped; the overwhelming majority found a watery grave. Why? Simply because the lower lights had gone out.

Now with us the upper lights are set. Christ Himself is the upper light, and we are the lower lights., and the cry to us is, keep the lower lights burning, that is what we have to do. Jesus Christ will lead us safe to the sunlight shore of Heaven, where there is no more night.

*Brightly beams our Father's mercy
 From His lighthouse ever more.
 But to us He gives the keeping
 Of the lights along the shore.*

*Dark the night of sin has settled,
 Loud the angry billows roar.
 Eager eyes are watching, longing,
 For the lights along the shore.*

*Trim your feeble lamp, my brother!
 Some poor seaman, tempest-tossed,
 Trying now to make the harbor,
 In the darkness may be lost.*

Chorus:

*Let the lower lights be burning!
 Send a gleam across the waves!
 Some poor fainting, struggling seaman.
 You may rescue, you may save.*

P.P. Bliss

Dear Bible Club friend,

If you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the "**upper light**," that "**True Light**" (John 1:9). Jesus is the *Light of the World* (John 8:12). Now as a Christian, you are to be a "**lower light**" placed by the Savior along the coastline of the harbor to help point boys, girls, and grown-ups, too, to Him. Your task is to be an **obedient light**, not choosing how or where you will serve, but yielded to His will. You are to be a **clean light**, not having your testimony dimmed or smudged by sins of selfishness, dishonesty, pride, disobedience, naughty words, or thoughts. You are to be a **bright light**, so filled with His Word, so bathed in prayer, so led by His Holy Spirit that everyone can see the light of the Lord Jesus Christ through you. Ask God to empower you to be that "**lower light**" along the shore pointing others to salvation and safety in the Savior. Ask God to help you keep your testimony clean and pure so that no one would ever go astray or be lost because your light was not shining brightly. (Matthew 5:16).



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Be careful that you “vent” in private – never in front of your children. Faculty/Staff children should not know about any work-related problem you may encounter. I’m afraid that Christian workers sometimes complain aloud about pay, responsibilities, and obligations of their service, and their children pick up on the parents’ attitude and look down on Christian service.

Never ever go up to your own children while they are in their lines or directly into their classrooms to hug, kiss, or pat them on the head. Leave them alone to behave just like all the other kids.

Treat your child’s teacher with respect and do not expect extra consideration to be given to your child.

What a joy to serve God. What a joy to have your children attend the school where you minister. What a joy to be in the same location as your child. What a joy to know that your child’s teacher is giving them the same opportunities, rights, and responsibilities that your ministry affords to others from the community.

**There Is Joy in Serving Jesus,
As I journey on my way.
Joy that fills the heart with
praises, Ev’ry hour and every day.
There is joy, joy, Joy in serving
Jesus, Joy that throbs within my
heart;**

**Ev’ry moment, ev’ry hour
As I draw upon His pow’r,
There is joy, joy,
Joy that never shall depart.
By Oswald J. Smith**

Ω

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cial death on Calvary’s cross happened 2,000 years ago. However, God’s story of redemption is still being written today. God is still saving all who come to Him in repentance and faith, trusting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as payment for their sins. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved”* (Acts 16:31).

Have you become part of the Christmas story? Have you seen Jesus Christ as more than a baby in the manger? Have you seen Him as the Son of God who left Heaven and became a man so He could die in your place, bearing your sin? Have you turned to Him and placed your full trust in Him as Lord and Savior? If not, I urge you to do so today! Then you can say, as did Simeon when he saw the baby Jesus, *“For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation, which Thou has prepared before the face of all people”* (Luke 2:30,31). Ω

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