HIGHWAY NEWS



TFC Global January 2020

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A Word from Our President

I have been learning a lot lately about "Spiritual Greatness" —what it is and what it isn't!

I started reading through the New Testament again and recently read Matthew 5:19-20, where Jesus said, "Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the king-

dom of Heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of Heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will CERTAINLY not enter the kingdom of Heaven" (emphasis mine).

What caught my eye and started me thinking was the word "surpass." Note that Jesus did not say you need to have a righteousness equal to that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law or even similar to them. He said you need to have a righteousness that surpasses them. "Surpass" here means greater than or different from that which exists. So for me to understand what it is that God desires of me I first need to have a clear picture of the kind of righteousness He was referring to in regards to the Pharisees and teachers of the law. Obviously, as knowledgeable as they were of the law, they were not measuring up to God's standard of greatness. So here is what I found.

Jesus pointed out in Scripture that the Pharisees and teachers were EXPERTS on the law but they did not understand it. They memorized it and figured out imaginative ways and excuses not to practice it. They abused it, and the kind of righteousness they possessed was useless. As a result they would be considered the least in the Kingdom of Heaven.

In contrast, Matthew 5 teaches that those who practice, from their hearts, the principles of the law as redefined by Jesus will be called great in the Kingdom. Getting the picture: Head Knowledge vs. Heart Attitude and Practice; Obedience vs. Disobedience in respect to God's commands. So what should that mean to us as His disciples? The answer is that we need to see the world through God's eyes and allow our standard of greatness to be determined by God's Word, not by the world or even by some great Bible scholar or the church. God's standard begins with obedience to Him and His commands, and obedience comes through faith.

Jesus said that faith is like the man who built his house on the rock (Matthew 5:24-25); so the question we should be asking is, how do we build our house on the rock? How do we position ourselves and prepare to live for Him? Simply stated, the choices and the way we position ourselves is called faith. Nonfaith, we are told, is when people build their lives on the wrong foundation. When trouble comes, the false foundation crumbles beneath the weight of life. Head knowledge isn't enough; faith becomes real only when we obey God's commands. Only then, Matthew 5 tells us, will we be great in the Kingdom of Heaven. So the question that I would ask is, as a man or woman, how is your walk with God? What is your spiritual life based on? Are you positioning your life to finish well or are you not going to finish at all? The choice is really up to you.

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Executive Editor
Ron Fraser

Director of Communications
Joanna Maart

Editor Inge Koenig

Copy Editor
Ruth Martin

Photographers for this Issue
Doris High
Donald Hollinger
Jason Shelly

Contributing Writers in This Issue
Ron Fraser
Donald Hollinger
Fred Jacobi, MA
Chaplain Peter Kaunda
Joanna Maart
Rev. Kevin Scott

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Jason Shelly

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International Office

PO Box 117 Marietta, PA 17547-0117 717-426-9977

Canada Office

6242 Route 105 Lower Brighton NB E7P 1B3 506-375-4841

Overseas Office

5 Sugar Maple Lane Wasaga Beach, ON L9Z 1P4 705-606-0092



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On the Cover:
This truck, from
Dunne's Towing
out of Souderton,
Pennsylvania,
caught a lot of
attention at the
BucksMontgomery
Truck Show with
its oversized
rollback (see
page 8).



Motocross for Christ: Connecting MXers to God's Love through Motocross!

By Jason Shelly

When Ron Fraser, president of TFC Global, found out that I was not only a trucker, but also that my family facilitates a Motocross Ministry, he asked me to share what that looks like.

Our children started riding and racing dirt bikes at young ages. After a few races, we started looking for ministries for the Christian MXer. I found an organization called "Motocross for Christ" and we attended one of their camps—basically, VBS with dirt bikes. We became close friends with the founders and served as volunteer staff members.

A few years later the founder stepped down and asked if we would take over the ministry. At that time all three of our children where racing. It was a great way to serve in ministry together. We would hold multiple camps each summer and facilitate track-side chapel services at weekend races.

We continue to run camps each summer. Up to five hundred participants go through the camps annually. Riders are at camp for four days, along with parents and non-riding siblings. We've tried to create a family camp atmosphere, where all are welcome. We offer the camps for free and provide three meals a day, as well as snacks and drinks to participants, volunteers, and their families. The campers start off each day with a short workout, followed by breakfast and biblical teaching.





Riders are separated into groups according to ability, and spend four hours each day riding on the track under trainer supervision. Evenings are filled with group games, worship, and testimonies. We also offer elective teaching for older campers and adults, covering deeper biblical topics.

We have participants from all walks of life and our team is humbled by the opportunity to sow into so many lives. Our volunteer staff is so passionate about their faith and the opportunity to share it with the campers. Current and former pro riders serve as trainers. They can really connect with the kids, inspire them, and help them to keep a perspective on what really matters for eternity.

The Gospel is clearly presented and we offer water baptism on the last night of camp. We have had the privilege of welcoming many young and old into the family of God. Baptisms have been done in creeks, ponds, and front-end loader buckets. Jesus said that we are to be fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). Motocross for Christ uses the sport to connect riders with God's love.

We never imagined God would take us from truck stop ministry to trackside. There are a lot of crossovers and the time I spent as a TFCG chaplain prepared me for this season of ministry in many ways. If you ride and would like to participate, serve, or contribute, please reach out to me or get more information from our Facebook page, Motocross 4 Christ.

Blessings, Jason & Renita Shelly, humbly representing Motocross for Christ

"Now I know why I have this job!"

By Chaplain Peter at the Copperbelt

As I was preaching to truck drivers who were waiting to offload at the Chambishi Copper Smelter plant, I noticed Benjamin Chitoma, a checker at the plant and a Christian brother, watching me. He approached me wanting to know what my mission was all about. I explained to him about our ministry to highway truck drivers, and he was amazed to hear about a ministry that was dedicated to preaching the Word of God to truckers. He asked if he could be part of it and help distribute the *Highway News* magazine to drivers who pass through his office for clearance before offloading at the plant (about 90 to 120 drivers pass through his office every day). This was a great ministry opportunity God was opening within the plant, since it is not easy for an outsider to do so due to regulatory restrictions. Benjamin's office is right inside the plant, just before the offloading bay. I told him that he was welcome to join us, and for a start I left a few magazines with him.



Seated is Benjamin in his office; standing on left is driver James, who gave his life to Jesus; next to him is a driver who had just come in and was talking to Benjamin when the photo was taken.

Recently, an excited Benjamin called me and said, "Chaplain, you have no idea what God is doing here. Since I started to share the Word of God with the truck drivers, I have seen the hand of God in everything I do here! Before I met you, I used to complain inwardly that my work was taking so much of my time, I had no time left to do anything for God. The nature of my work is such that I miss many church programs, and I wondered why God gave me such a job, but now I understand why. After our meeting, my eyes were opened and I realized that it was in this job that I had both the opportunity and time to do ministry for God and to enjoy His fellowship. My experience in sharing the Word of God with truck drivers in these past few weeks has been awesome. The few minutes I spend with each driver are enough for me to share the good news and experience the joy of doing so." Benjamin also told me that he has been emboldened to take his ministry outside the office as he now sees preaching opportunities everywhere, which he did not see before. "Until now, it was the company policy not to preach the Word of God on company buses that transport workers from home to work and vice versa, but now the platform has been given to me to preach on the bus. I can only attribute this to the Lord's doing," he concluded.

Stories of God's Amazing Grace in the Lives of Canadian Truckers

- → From Chilliwack, British Columbia: I talked to a driver from Toronto who was waiting on a load. He told me he grew up in church but walked away from God. We had a good talk and I gave him a Bible.
- ♦ From Salisbury, New Brunswick: A driver came in and told about financial stresses over a truck he purchased. He was wondering why he ever got his CDL. I was able to provide him with some food and told him that God knows what is going on and would provide for him. I prayed with him before he left. He was very thankful, saying he felt better.
- ♦ From St. Liboire, Quebec: I got a phone call from a man who came to the Lord three years ago at the chapel. He came to join me at the restaurant with a fellow worker who doesn't know the Gospel. We talked and shared the Gospel. I also had the visit of a brother in the Lord who is an instructor and trainer in a transportation company and who needed to talk.
- ◆ From Woodstock, Ontario: A driver came in to talk. He just lost his 20-year-old grandson due to suicide. This has been very difficult for him, as the two enjoyed being together. His employer flew him home to to be with his family during this difficult time. I listened to him talk, gave him a Bible, and asked if I could pray for him. He said, "Would you, please!"
- ◆ From Pass Lake, Ontario: A gentleman stopped in to encourage us and thank us for participating in the ministry here.



Legacy of Faith

A word from Joanna Maart, Director of Communications

During my commute to work, I try to take advantage of the time by singing along with my radio station. I can't say I am doing more than making a joyful noise, but by singing out loud, I am able to concentrate on the message of the songs that I am singing. It is easy to just listen to music and not allow God's pruning and encouragement to flow into us.

Recently, my heart was challenged by a song called *Edge of My Seat*. The lyrics point to the excitement we should have toward our life with Christ, anticipating, on the edge of our seats, what He will do in and through us. What about you? Do you anticipate what God can do in you through your giving to ministries that further His work throughout the world? Do you, as the song says, lean forward, go the edge of your seat, to richly bless people around you with your financial and prayer support?

Legacy of Faith continues to chip away at our mortgage debt. As a ministry, we are eagerly anticipating the end of this debt and the freedom in planning this milestone will give us to reach a greater and greater circle of trucking industry people with His message and love.

Get on the edge of your seat with us!

Do You Have What it Takes?

TFC Global is currently in need of chaplains at seven key locations around the country: Dade City (FL), East St. Louis (IL), Shrewsbury (MA), Omaha (NE), Nashville (TN), and Seattle (WA). Could it be that God is calling *you* to serve at one of them?

These are the traits we are looking for in our chaplains:

- 1. Saved by grace and through faith in the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, and called to ministry
- 2. Works and communicates well with a variety of people
- 3. Willing to relocate to needed ministry areas
- 4. Available for full-time work
- 5. Passionate about the trucking industry and their families
- 6. Willing to complete mandatory and continued training



We will provide you with the training, resources, and support to do effective ministry, should it be His will for you to serve as a chaplain with TFC Global.

For more information and to schedule an initial interview, please contact our office by phone 717-426-9977 or email info@tfcglobal.org.

NEWS FROM GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

This month, our FaithLife center highlight is from the Great Lakes region—Grand Rapids. Chaplain Chad Roedema has served there for 10 years. In that time, he has seen growth in himself as well as in the ministry. At first, Chad admits that his focus was on the number of encounters and the money raised. Now, faithfulness to God, his family, and the people he talks with have become top priorities.

A story that sticks out does not have a happy ending, yet it is a reality. He encountered a prostitute in the lot and had a conversation about how she is a daughter to her earthly father. Chad continued, "If your dad knew you were doing



this, it would break his heart." He also let her know that her Creator and heavenly Father was heartbroken with her choices as well. Although Chad shared the horrific statistics about trafficking, her only concern was the amount of money she could make. Chad offered her prayer; she turned away. Chad would like prayer for this woman, named Kate. He himself also needs prayers at this time, as the family grieves the loss of his father, Lee. Thankfully, they "do not grieve as those who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13), as his father was a committed follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The logs below are an additional glimpse of how the Lord is using the witness of the ministry in Grand Rapids:

- ◆ A driver from New Jersey came in to share some things that were on his heart. We talked for a bit, then I asked him if he knew he was going to heaven when he died; he said no, but that he would like to know for sure. I had the privilege of sharing Jesus with him and he prayed the prayer of salvation. We prayed before he left.
- ◆ A driver stopped in wanting prayer for his marriage. We talked about the specific issues and had prayer before he left. He said he would stop in whenever he is in the area so he could update us on his marriage.
- ♦ A driver from Georgia stopped in. We had a great time of fellowship and ended our time in prayer.
- ◆ A female driver came in in tears, saying that her nephew died yesterday. She has endured a lot of loss the last two years. I listened and shared Scriptures with her. I prayed and she left feeling a bit better.
- ◆ An owner operator from Alabama came in to visit and spend some time. We exchanged our testimonies and had a time of prayer together.
- ♦ A driver from Houston came in brokenhearted and alone. His daughter committed suicide and he was bitter and upset at God. I shared the love of Jesus and he put his trust in Him.
- ◆ A driver from Mexico stopped in for prayer. His girlfriend is still in Mexico and is trying to come to the United States so they can get married. We had a time of prayer.
- ♦ A driver from Fort Wayne came in brokenhearted. He walked away from the Lord for about 10 years, but the Holy Spirit called him back. What a powerful night listening to him putting his trust back in Jesus!
- ♦ A driver from North Carolina came in very sad and lonely. I listened and then shared Jesus with him. He was eager to accept Jesus; seeds had been planted in his life and God used me to water those seeds.
- ♦ A driver from Indiana stopped in for a Bible and other Christian reading materials. He stayed for an hour sharing his salvation and what the Lord has done in his life.

A Bit of History

The Bucks-Montgomery Chapter Truck Show has gone through several changes in the past sixteen years. The show began in 2003 at the Family Worship Center in Lansdale, at the encouragement of Pastor JR Damiani because he wanted to feature a truckers' weekend—with a truck show and banquet on Saturday afternoon and evening, continuing through Sunday morning when TFC Global (then Transport For Christ) was honored as a ministry supported by the church. This continued until 2011, when the Truck Show was moved to Jason and Renita Shelly's truck garage and lot near Telford, with the banquet at the nearby Family Heritage Restaurant. A few years later, the truck show was moved to the parking lot and lawn at Family Heritage Restaurant, with the banquet continuing in one of the restaurant's banquet rooms.

Bucks-Montgomery Truck Show Highlights

As Reported by Doris High





I was impressed by the large rollback (above and on the cover), from Dunne's Towing out of Souderton, Pennsylvania.
The driver (standing, talking to Cerwin and another visitor, photo on left) said that it once even hauled a plane!

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It was a relaxing and fun afternoon and evening as we visited with drivers and enjoyed the trucks that came to the truck show and dinner concert this year. There were even some motorcycles, as Jason Shelly (in black sweatshirt) and his wife, Renita, minister with Motocross for Christ (see page 4).

The Brunner Family presented a beautiful gospel concert following a delicious meal provided by Family Heritage. Ron Fraser, TFC Global president (left), gave an informative ministry update before the Brunner Family closed the evening.



As I look back through my childhood memories, it seemed like I had to fight my way through life. I was raised in a dysfunctional family; my father was an alcoholic and my mother did the best she could to raise me. At the age of nine, I found a special kind of peace and acceptance in a local church a few blocks away. They didn't care what color I was, how well I performed, or if I was rich or poor. They loved me for who I was. I was a child when I first felt the peace of God. We moved from Texas to Florida because dad got a job offer. So, unfortunately, I had to leave the only place I felt secure and safe.

After we moved, I had to make new friends and try to adjust to a new home. It was then, when I was in 5th grade, that I was sexually abused by a family member and by my best friend's uncle. They made it seem like it was a game we were playing. I was young and I was told that if I said anything to anyone, they would deny it. So I kept this secret to myself until I was in my early 20s. As I got older, I realized that the secret I kept inside caused me to feel unloved and out of place. I felt rejected, abandoned, and trying to fight for that special acceptance in life. As I got older, I found myself staying out late at the bars with friends. I was always trying to please other people, never living life for myself.

At the age of 25 I met a man that drove truck for a living. I was a waitress at the truck stop and he swept me off my feet. We got married a year later. He taught me how to drive a truck and we teamed for many years. In 1993 we parted and I drove solo for the same company. At that time, the Lord started really working in my life. When you are in a truck all day long you have plenty of time to talk to the Lord. I started singing on the CB as the Lord gave me the songs. I began to feel again the peace I'd felt back in that small church.

But not long after that the devil started tempting me. Once again trying to fit in, I started hanging around with the wrong crowd; talk about a battle for my soul! I enjoyed hanging out with that group because I finally felt like I belonged, not realizing it was about partying and getting high. I ended up one

day stopped on the side of the road with a large medicine bottle filled with white power of all kinds inside. I threw it out the window of my truck, asking God not to let me die this way; I had two small children and I didn't want the police to have to tell them their mother died from an overdose. God sent an angel that day to help me—a trucker who was also an EMT. He gave me everything in the world to make me get sick, until I felt better. He told me if I didn't get help, I could die. I got back in my truck and headed toward Washington. I had made it just outside of where I was to unload when my body started feeling numb. I was on a dark two-lane road in the country. I heard two boys talking on a base station and I called them to help me. Their mother got on a two-way radio and knew where I was. Soon after, an ambulance showed up to get me. In the hospital, I was asked what had happened; I had to tell them I had done drugs earlier that day so they knew how to treat me properly. How ashamed I felt when I had to call my mom and tell her why I was in the hospital. I flew home because I couldn't drive my truck back to Florida. I was an emotional wreck.

But God never gave up on me. After I recovered, I went back on the road. I also started reading my Bible and listening to Christian radio stations. I remember reading that I was not meant to fit in, because I was set apart for His work and His glory. So, all those years I spent trying to fit in and trying to please everyone—all that was a lie from the enemy. God has loved me from the beginning of time.

I have been in the trucking industry now for over 30 years. I love trucking and I love the people. God has restored me and set me free from drugs and a life of self-destruction. He will do that for you as well. I am now a road chaplain for Channel 21 Ministries and the founder of Trucking Angels for Christ. My heart is for the lost and the hurting drivers that are on the road.

Mona truckingangelsforchrist.com

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Join the ICTA and Change How the World Views Today's Professional Drivers

With all the rules and regulations of the trucking industry and with even MORE rules being implemented regularly, the old style of professional truck driver has been forced out of the industry. A new generation of truckers has taken their seat, and a more modern style of driver now dominates the roads. Now the trend is to control truckers by



means of electronic log books and the trucking companies, who are driven by the demands of the shippers and receivers. Unlike the old school drivers, today's drivers are usually pretty high tech. They're equipped with smartphones, GPS, laptop computers, printers, scanners, televisions, iPhones, fridges, microwaves, generators, and more.

Nowadays, receivers want their freight and they want it now. No exceptions. We live in a high-stress, fast-paced, computer-age society, where instant gratification is just the norm. The expectations and demands placed on truckers today are far too great. Our drivers are under too much pressure to deliver, leaving them with no time to think about anyone else but themselves.

Nowadays, it's not unusual for new drivers that work for the same company to not ever speak to any other drivers at the company. There's often no sense of brotherhood whatsoever. This is true of both the saved and unsaved driver.

The bottom line? Sadly, this fast-paced society of ours, and in turn the trucking business, has no place for the old style professional driver. There's no time for a friendly smile, helping a fellow trucker or motorist in need. It's a thing of the past.

They are a dying breed, almost non-existent.

The International Christian Trucking Association (ICTA) wants to change this. One of the big objectives of the ICTA is to change the image the world has of the professional drivers on the road and the trucking industry as a whole. We want to bring back the sense of brotherhood among the Christian drivers. If the image of today's professional drivers is going to change, it needs to begin with the Christian professional driver and those Christian company owners who can reflect the love of Jesus Christ through their relationships with each other in biblical community and to the world in the way we corporately come together to battle the issues of human trafficking, chemical and physical addiction, depression, as well as divorce and marriage issues.

Won't you consider joining us at the ICTA as we seek to change the trucking industry and the world's view of it? Please go to www.TFCGlobal.org and click on "Read More" under "International Christian Trucking Association" for more information.

an You Guess This Truck?



Send guess to <u>editor@TFCGlobal.org</u>. Last month's truck (below) was a 1972 Brockway.



Considering Suicide?

By Fred Jacobi, MA - Second of a two-part series

(The following is Part 2 of "Considering Suicide." For part 1, check the December issue of *Highway News*.)

them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

OK, let's get caught up: The jailer was ready to kill himself, but he stopped midway through his actions and listened to Paul's words of hope, "We are still here!" Immediately the jailer put down his weapon of self-destruction to check on the truth of Paul's statement. When he saw that Paul spoke the truth and the situation wasn't as dire as he perceived it to be, he recognized the rashness of his actions and the fact that Paul had just saved his life. Let's continue with this account in Acts 16.

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked,
"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

After the jailer looked around, a sense of urgency came as he rushed into Paul & Silas' cell and was trembling before them. He was actually trembling. We can only get a glimpse of the emotional state he was in. The awe, the wonder, the fear, the curiosity, and the realization of what he almost did manifested itself in his trembling.

Next, the jailer brought them out of the jail cell. It was then, I believe, that the jailer realized that he was the one who was in a cell—the cell of his own making. The jailer recognized that Paul & Silas were not the ones who needed saving, but that he was. "What must I do to be saved?" The jailer recognized that they had something he wanted. No, something that he needed in his life.

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before Paul and Silas spoke about the hope of the Gospel...that Jesus died for his sins. All his failures were remembered no more. His worth as an individual was found through God's love for him and Jesus Christ's death on the cross. Jesus defeated death and gave hope for a new life. Whoever believes in Him will live eternally with God, and without sin, forever.

By listening to Paul, the jailer, who was once hopeless, found hope. He who would act under his own perspective acted upon Truth. He who thought his failure defined him found a new definition of his worth. He who was about to end his life chose to live, and by living, his whole family was impacted and saved.

In Jeremiah 29:11, God said, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." In the life of the jailer, a life that seemed insignificant, we see how God worked in his life and brought the message of Christ to his heart, and in doing so, he was saved—not only him alone, but his whole family.

Reader, God has a plan for you. In Him there is hope. In Him there is a good future. If you have been considering suicide, learn from the jailer and follow his path. Listen to that voice that tells you to "Stop" and turn to Him for your worth and for direction. God is not done yet. The future is promising. Do not act on your own perspective. Now you see in darkness, but God's truth found in Christ will shed light on your heartaches and will give hope for your future...in this world, and the next.

Used by permission from Found Christ Counseling Ministries; visit their website at www.foundchristcounsel.org.



Thoughts for the Journey into 2020

Have you ever felt like you're wandering through a desert, day after day looking at the same landscape, longing for a change? You're not alone. At such times, it helps to look at people in the Bible who have faced such times—either literally or spiritually.

Consider with me what chapter 3 of the letter to the Hebrews, in the Bible, calls us to remember. It is a reminder for us today as it was then: "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in... the day of testing in the wilderness'" (verses 7-8). The writer was recounting their history of escaping from Egypt and moving toward the land God had promised them.

Is it too farfetched to think that we also are plodding through a wilderness much as the Israelites who were led by Moses on their way to the land God had promised? In spite of their miraculous escape from Egypt, coupled with the further miraculous provision of food and water in the desert, most of them still followed their hearts in doubt, unbelief, and sin, rather than trusting and obeying the commands of God.

It was Joshua, Moses' replacement as their leader, who challenged the Israelites by telling them to "choose this day whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15). As for himself, he said he and his household would serve the Lord. The Israelites had a choice, and, in the years that followed, many made the wrong one, with some tragic results, as we read in the book of Judges and later in the books of 1 and 2 Kings.

We are entering a new year that holds deep spiritual consequences for the decisions we will make or not make. The passage in Hebrews we have been speaking of has often been associated with and used to support the warning to accept God's gift of salvation now; but more precisely it speaks of those who once knew the goodness of God but in their hearts purposely chose to go astray into unbelief and rebellion, much like the Israelites. We cherish "other gods" (idols) in our hearts—that is, anything that takes the place the Lord should hold in our lives.

We are warned by the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:3-4 that "...the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."

The disciples asked Jesus what would be the sign of His coming and the end of the age. Jesus answered them saying, "See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet" (Matthew 24:4-6).

What "gods" have we taken or allowed into our lives that have caused us to be led astray, questioning the life-giving commands we find in God's Word? Driver, don't be deceived, but be obedient to whatever change God is calling you to make. And again, I say you will not be deceived if you hold fast to God's Word on every issue and change you face in 2020.

Gary Nussbaum is Great Lakes District Manager for TFC Global



A New Year's Resolution for Eternity

Hey, Green Onion, what's your New Year's resolution?" asked Mud Flap. "Well, Mud Flap, this year I'm in a state of emotional adjustment between opposing forces that are influencing me." "And what's that, Onion?" "I hate those guilty feelings that come from failing to follow my resolutions. So I decided to make an irresolution to be in a constantly hesitant frame of mind."

I'm going to be 59 this year. Well, not really—I just took off a few years for being sick, sickened with fear and worry of not fulfilling my commitments, promises and vows to God, my family, and accountability care group at church. I don't want to be a closet hypocrite anymore who gives the false appearance of virtue and sanctimoniousness. I'm just going to ask God through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, to forgive me for wasting so much of my (or, rather, His) time. I'm going to say, "Lord, I'm sorry for wasting so many years trying so hard to perform for people so they will like me. I'm tired and exhausted from trying so hard to be a good Pharisee."

I'm beginning to experience freedom by heeding Jesus' words, worshipping Him "in spirit and in truth," and persevering in following Him, depending on His grace and strength

What did I do all those years ago when I first came to know Jesus Christ and all my sins were forgiven because He took my place and died on the cross for me? I did what the poor, blind beggar beside the highway did when Jesus restored his sight; I did what the shunned, diseased leper did when Jesus healed him; I did what the demon-possessed man, who was influenced and controlled by evil spirits,

did when Jesus delivered him and set him free. Like them, I worshipped God, praised God, loved God, and thanked God for all He did for me. I just celebrated in His holy presence. I just enjoyed walking, talking, and sitting at His feet, listening to His voice.

Jesus said to the outcast woman by the well, "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24).

God is here. He is with you and me now. We can worship, praise, and thank Him anywhere, any place, and at any time. We can ask the Holy Spirit of God to help us and teach us how to pray and how to reverence, honor, and adore our Lord Jesus Christ.

The last page of the Bible says, "'Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book'....Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen" (Revelation 22:7, 20b-21).

The first tenet of the Westminster Shorter Catechism states that "The chief end of man is to glorify God (worship God) and enjoy Him forever." Pray for me and I'll pray for you this New Year that we do this one thing!

First published in January 2006. David Roberts is Chaplain Emeritus with TFC Global.

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01/20

Do You Know Your ABCs?

If you were to die today, where would you spend eternity?
You can know for sure.

DMIT YOU ARE A SINNER. "... as it is written, 'There is none righteous, not even one ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'" (Romans 3:10, 23).

ELIEVE IN JESUS FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS AND FOR ETERNAL LIFE. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

ONFESS JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR AND LORD AND TURN FROM YOUR SINS. "... if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved ... for 'Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved'" (Romans 10:9, 13). "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

FIND NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

To give your life to Christ, read the "ABC" Scriptures above and pray the prayer below. Let us know about your decision. We will send you a Bible study designed for truckers.

Come to Jesus Christ today and trust in Him alone for your salvation. Pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross and shed Your blood to pay the penalty for my sins. Please forgive me and come into my life. You are my Savior and Lord."
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