



Volume 6, No. 3, March, 2018



I Shall Not Be Moved

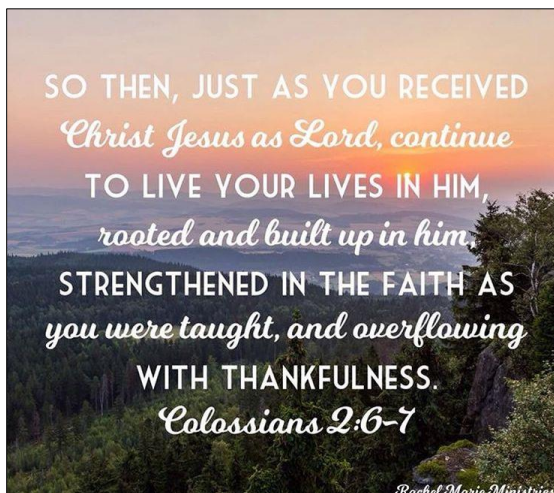
*Glory hallelujah, I shall not be moved;
Anchored in Jehovah, I shall not be moved;
Just like a tree that's planted by the waters,
I shall not be moved.*

*In His love abiding, I shall not be moved;
And in Him confiding, I shall not be moved;
Just like a tree that's planted by the waters,
I shall not be moved.*

*Tho' all hell assail me, I shall not be moved;
Jesus will not fail me, I shall not be moved;
Just like a tree that's planted by the waters,
I shall not be moved.*

*Tho' the tempest rages, I shall not be moved;
On the Rock of Ages, I shall not be moved;
Just like a tree that's planted by the waters,
I shall not be moved.*

Words: Edward H. Boatner
Music: American Folk Melody



RIPPLE EFFECT

I've said it before; I watch a lot of television. Some of the best things are on PBS. "Victoria" is one of the wonderful shows they air. There is nothing sensational or gratuitous. It's just a well written, acted, and directed historical film.

The history created by her marriage resonates with us still. The children born to Victoria and Albert were placed in royal families all over Europe, and their descendants still reign today. I wonder how many of the core values taught to them by nannies in their nurseries have been passed on generation by generation.

In this same way we can affect, in good or bad ways, the people in our lives; and the ripples can be felt for generations.

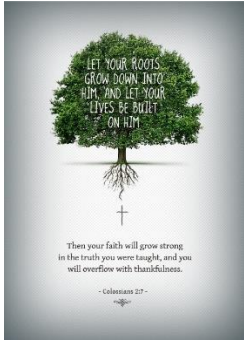
I remember the only time I met Tommy's Granny Beene. It was the day he asked me to marry him. We went to the hospital so he could visit her as she lay dying of bone cancer. That event has stayed with me. It impacted my life as few other things have done, and I have told it to my daughters many times. I have related the story in ladies' classes as well as to perfect strangers.

She was in the last stages of the disease and was pumped full of morphine. Morphine, given at such a high dosage, is known to break down inhibitions and people often say things you never expected them to have said in their "right" mind. I believe the opposite. I think, in that situation, our real, true, basic personality comes out. You know, it's the one we usually keep hidden and covered up.

What came out of Myrtle Mae Beene was so pure it astounded me. She, in her delirium, was singing hymns, followed by prayers for family members, over and over. WOW!! Knowing even one person was capable of that type of love and devotion affected my opinion of our

capacity for love and good. I had not seen that in my family. I didn't know it existed.

The ripples of that event are still being felt in my life. It gave me hope for the marriage into which I was entering. Today, I still think about Granny Beene's true character



and how I see it reflected in my husband. I see that same kindness in my daughters. Who knows how far into future generations those ripples sent out from Granny Beene will remain.

I'm sure all of us have thrown a rock into a body of water and watched the ripples spread out.

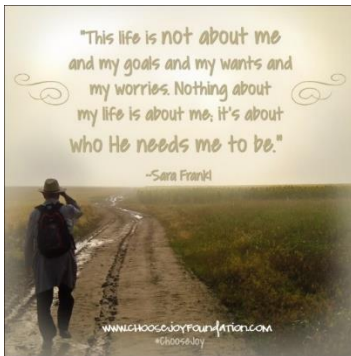
They continue to the edge of the water unless they encounter a stronger ripple. The ripple that remains is the one that is strongest. Think about the ripples you are creating. Should you reinforce them or give way to a better, stronger ripple. Everything is the product of cause and effect. Are you involved in events (cause) effecting Good or Evil? Take stock today and decide if you should follow your ripple or toss a new rock.

Peggy Bailey, Crosby County, TX



WHEN LIFE IS NOT ABOUT ME

When life is not about me, I see things differently. When life is not about me, food is not an indulgence but a blessing to share. Clothes are not a status symbol but



rather a way to demonstrate good judgment. Every day is a gift, not a reward. When life is not about me, my work is an opportunity to be an encouragement, a privilege rather than something to complain about. When life is not

about me, exercise and taking care of my body is for higher purposes not for being admired by everyone else. When life is not about me, pain helps me understand the hurts of others, sorrow helps me feel the sadness of others, sickness teaches me how to meet the needs of others and death reminds me that life is fragile. When life is not about me, it has more meaning... deeper, substantive meaning... meaning defined by God himself. Life is not about me.

Chuck Hicks, Searcy, AR



LESSONS LEARNED FROM PADDLE BOATING

On a recent trip, we stopped at the beautiful Mammoth Spring in northern Arkansas. It is our favorite place to walk and stretch our legs before proceeding. On a whim, we rented a paddle boat and enjoyed a wonderful half hour paddling around the spring. The attendant gave us a quick course in paddle boating and warned us not to chase the ducks and geese residing at the spring. After learning how to go forward and how to go in reverse, we learned to change our course by using the rudder.



At first, we paddled in unison and progressed slowly up to the main part of the spring. If we paddled continually, we could make slow progress. When we stopped paddling, however, we drifted with the current. It didn't take long to learn how to paddle against each other if one wanted to go quickly and the other wanted to slow the pace and enjoy the scenery. At times, we found ourselves trying to avoid—sometimes successfully and sometimes not—the algae, water lilies, and ferns that were growing in the water. God's beautiful creation is so full of life lessons, and we couldn't help but make several applications between our physical activity of the moment and our daily Christian walk.

Teamwork: Christians working together make progress in the Christian life. Sometimes the progress is rapid, but often it is quite slow and is hardly noticeable from day to day. Just as with paddling the boat, it is much easier to make progress when working side by side with a fellow traveler.

Stay Focused: As with the paddle boating, when we get distracted and take our eyes off the goal (prize), stop working to get there, and start enjoying the world around us, we begin to drift with the current of the world. Paul tells us how to avoid this trap when he said in Philippians 3:14, *"...forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."* We must not get lackadaisical; rather, we must stay focused and **press** toward the prize.

Hindrances: Sadly, Christians sometimes work against each other and hinder one another's progress—just as we did in the paddle boat. The cause may be jealousy,

rivalry, or spite—none of which are good or productive. Paul asked, *“...Who hindered you from obeying the truth?”* Jesus warns in Mark 9:42 that hindering anyone, especially a “little one,” is very serious indeed. In Galatians 5:7, Paul said, *“You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?”* Do we really want to be responsible for hindering another in his/her Christian walk?

Be Alert (Watchful): Avoiding obstacles in our Christian walk is very important. We must be watchful for hidden snares along the way lest they trap us into a life of sin.



As we found with the paddle boat, some obstacles are easily avoided but others are more difficult to avoid. The turning radius of the boat, the current, and our inexperience with the

rudder were contributing factors to our difficulties with obstacles at the spring. The current of life often moves so quickly that we are snarled in temptation and sin before we realize it. Jesus warned us to *“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation,”* (Matthew 26:41). Paul exhorted Christians to *“Watch, stand fast in the faith...”* (1 Corinthians 16:13), and in 1 Thessalonians 5:6, he said, *“...let us not sleep, as other do, but let us watch and be sober.”*

Beware of Pride: As our inexperience with using the rudder found us sometimes going in the wrong direction, inexperience in living the Christian life often leads new Christians into trouble. Even experienced Christians get off track at times. Some of those times are brought on by our own sense of self-sufficiency and pride. In 1 Corinthians 10:12, Paul warns, *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”* To overcome sin and avoid its pitfalls, our confidence must be in Christ rather than in ourselves. The Hebrew writer put it this way, *“...we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.”*

What is our Rudder? The rudder of our paddle boat was very important to determining our direction in the boat, and the Word of God is essential to our success in the Christian life. Romans 10:17 tells us that *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,”* and we know that *“without faith it is impossible to please God”* (Hebrews 11:6). Without the guidance of God’s word, we drift at the mercy of circumstances. With His Word as our guide, our path is made clear. *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path,”* (Psalm 119:105).

Necessity of Barriers (Guidelines): At Mammoth Spring, barriers have been placed above the dam to keep unwary paddle boaters from venturing too close to the dam and being overcome by the swift current. God has given us certain barriers in our lives to keep us from being overcome by the world. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 tells us to *“abstain from every form of evil,”* and Hebrews 11:25 commends Moses’ faith for *“choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.”*

Avoid Sin, Grow in Faith: Non-Christians often view Christianity as a bunch of “thou shalt nots.” What they do not understand is that God has not forbidden anything to us that is good for us in the first place. Galatians 5:19-21 gives a long list of the works of the flesh. A few of the unsavory behaviors mentioned in that list are: adultery, fornication, licentiousness, contentions, jealousies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, **and the like**; and it goes on to tell us that *“those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

Contrast that list with the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23, *“love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”* Our awesome God has commanded us to stay away from the selfish, hurtful works of the flesh; and He encourages us to grow in the fruit of the spirit—wonderful character traits to have.



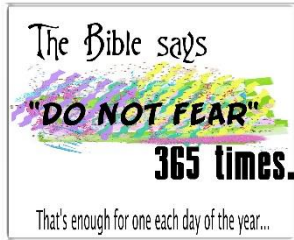
Avoid Foolish Pursuits; Pursue Righteousness: We were warned, for our own safety and that of the fowl involved, that we must not chase the ducks and geese. However, God’s word tells us we should pursue *“righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness”* (1 Timothy 6:11). There is no danger to ourselves or our souls if we pursue and acquire those traits. To acquire these traits, we must study and learn God’s will (2 Timothy 3:16).

A wonderful quick break from our road trip reminded us so well of the principles of Christian living. May the Christian virtues of 1 Peter 1:5-7 abound in our lives that we *“will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Jesus is still asking that question today. Who do you say Jesus is? Some people in the world say Jesus was the



savior of the Christians, the same person as Moses to the Jews, and Mohammed to the Moslems and Buddha to the Buddhists. In the name of being fair to everyone, they claim these

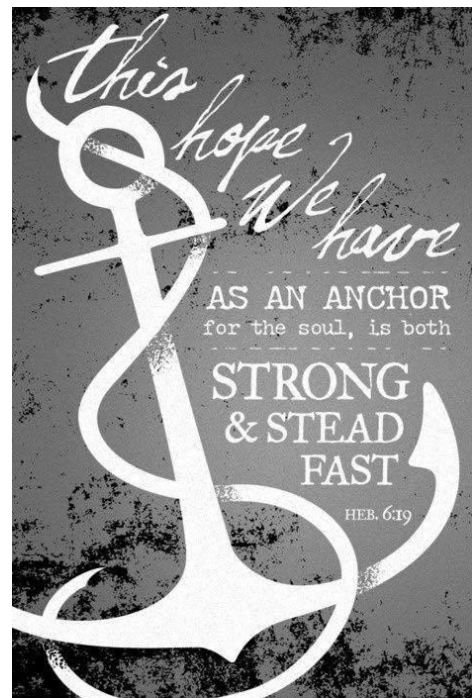
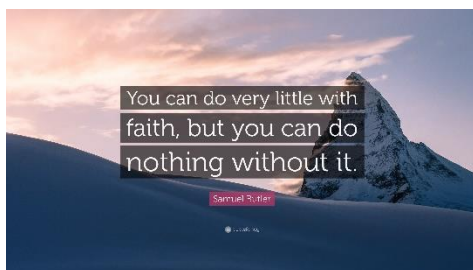
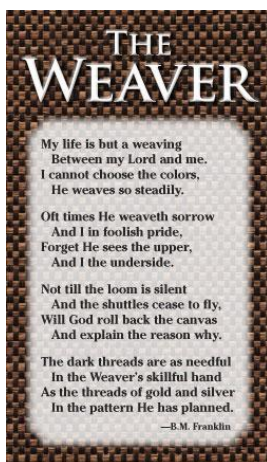
are all saviors of different religions going by different names but of the same God.

Let us not be caught in the web of the New Age Movement that claims all saviors are the same savior and all gods are the same god.

The Bible, the only religious book in the world that can be proven to be divine, says regarding our Jesus, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12).

So stand up for Jesus, THE Savior! Stand up and be counted!

Katheryn Haddad, Arizona



WE HAVE AN ANCHOR

*Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
Will you anchor drift, or firm remain?*

*It is safely moored, 'twill the storm withstand,
For 'tis well secured by the Savior's hand;
And the cables, passed from His heart to mine,
Can defy the blast, thru strength divine.*

*When our eyes behold thru the gath'ring night
The city of gold, our harbor bright,
We shall anchor fast by the heav'nly shore,
With the storms all past for evermore.*

Chorus:

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.*

Words: Priscilla J. Owens (w 1874)

Music: William J. Kirkpatrick (w1882)



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