

“In Everything with Thanksgiving...”

Rev. David J. Bauer

The small cell was dirty, damp and dark. As the weather changed, to the dampness was added a constant chill brought about by winter winds. He was unjustly accused of a something that was not really a crime. Visitors were few; at his first arraignment no one stood to help represent him, and he had no legal counsel. Except for a couple loyal friends, most of his acquaintances had deserted him; prison was clearly not what they cared to experience. Food was scarce, his clothing was inadequate, and basic necessities were sketchy indeed. Yet he would write to a supporting church that he was joyful in the Lord and fully content. He had learned to be full and to suffer hunger, and in all things to be content and thankful. He even urged this church to not send him anymore care packages, for he declared that he was thankful and had all he needed!



Rev. David J. Bauer, Director
& Dolores Bauer, Secretary
Office Assistant

Such is expressed in the final chapter of the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Philippi church. He was instrumental in organizing and nurturing this local church during his final two missionary journeys. Paul tells them about the keys to his contentment, joy and thankfulness.

Be anxious for nothing at all –Philippians 4:6. Yes, most of us could not survive a prison experience, where the end would be a probable death sentence. We get into anxiety attacks each day, over many things that we have no physical ability to change. Yet each of us realizes many more daily comforts and conveniences in our lives than first century prison experience would afford the Apostle Paul. Yet he can say to be anxious for nothing. This is a very important key to our happiness, physical, emotional and spiritual health. Be anxious for nothing at all.

But in everything with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God -4:6b. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything give God our requests! “Nothing” and “everything” are exclusive and inclusive words at the same time. Yet we must realize that the Savior we serve has created all things and holds all things together by a word of his power (Hebrews 1:2-3). He is the giver of all gifts (James 1:17), sees when even a sparrow falls, and already knows what we have need of even before we would ask. Yet our responsibility is to not be anxious, but to give our requests to God for everything. Let us be thankful to a God so big and so mighty, yet one who personally cares about our daily needs. Indeed, each of us living in this nation has much more at our disposal than what would have been available in the first century Roman world. Yet we are remiss in our lack of thankfulness to God for our surroundings and fail to confess our dependence on Him for everything that might come our way. It is no wonder our modern generation suffers so much from anxiety!

And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus –Philippians 4:7. Is there a price that can be put on the “peace of God?” Many Christians would understand the “peace with God” we are given by being justified by faith –Romans 5:1. This is the miracle of being saved from the penalty of sin unto a position of righteous holiness simply through a declaration of God. None of us deserves this, but by grace we receive it through simple faith (and faith alone –Ephes. 2:8). Most of us realize and claim this free offer of salvation, even though we cannot fully grasp the complexity of the transaction from God’s perspective. Yet even though we can claim peace with God, most of us lack the supernatural “peace of God that passes all understanding...” Sad but true. We don’t get this “peace of God” at the time of our salvation.

No, unfortunately this is a discipline in our present tense sanctification that we must learn. The Apostle Paul had learned to be content in the midst of his trials, sufferings and imprisonments. Contentment is a learned discipline that does not come easily for most of us. Anxiety causes us to want instant gratification in the here and now. When we find ourselves powerless to control the circumstance, it just leads to further anxiety.

And yet we have the command from Paul: “Be anxious for nothing; but in everything with thanksgiving...” He would further assert: “I have all and abound, I am full...” –Phil. 4:18. But in order for this to not be misunderstood as an apostolic virtue only, Paul turns it around and says: “And my God shall supply all your need according His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” –Phil. 4:19. Friends, let us put this principle into practice. Fallen nature wants to grab all we can. But Scripture tells us: “Be anxious for nothing but in everything with thanksgiving make your requests known unto God.” It is our key to the “peace of God.” And isn’t it so stress-free to simply submit to God’s desires for us?

The Lighter Side: “Thanksgiving Turkey”
Ducking into confession with a turkey in his arms, Brian said, “Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. I stole this turkey to feed my family. Would you take it and settle my guilt?”

“Certainly not,” said the Priest. “As penance, you must return it to the one from whom you stole it.”

“I tried,” Brian sobbed, “but he refused. Oh, Father, what should I do?”

“If what you say is true, then it is all right for you to keep it for your family.”

Thanking the Priest, Brian hurried off. When confession was over, the Priest returned to his residence. When he walked into the kitchen, he found that someone had stolen his turkey.

RECIPES

Sunshine Glow Apricot Cake

- 1 Pkg. Yellow Cake Mix (with Pudding in mix)
- 1 Can Apricots in heavy Syrup (do check for pits)
- 3 Eggs
- 1 Tsp. Vanilla
- 1 Jar of Apricot Preserves

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease a Bundt Cake pan with baker's spray. Beat Cake mix, Apricots, Eggs and Vanilla in a large mixing bowl until apricots are broken down. Pour mix into Bundt pan. Bake until golden brown and a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven and let cool 10 minutes or until sides come away from pan. Invert onto a cake dish or plate. Heat Apricot Preserves in a microwave-safe bowl until melted and pour over the cake. Slice and serve.



Going on a trip? When traveling with prescription drugs, make sure they are in original containers. Also carry a copy of the prescription in case you need a refill or have some explaining to do at customs.

Put identification tags on both outside and inside of suitcases. Bags without tags will be opened after three days if they haven't been claimed.

Evening House Party? If you are expecting guests who have never been to your home, put a colored light bulb in your yard or porch light fixture and tell them to look for the house with that color light.

Under lock and Key? Take digital photographs of household valuables, furniture, and other items and keep them in a safe-deposit box. In case of fire or theft, you'll have evidence for your insurance claims. And make photocopies of your credit cards in case they are misplaced or stolen.

Make your own **greeting card** in a flash by taking a digital pic of the whole family holding a sign saying "Happy Anniversary" or any other message.

Leave a **legacy** for your family & favorite ministries. When planning a **legacy**, give Terry Balko a call at 404-229-1645 or email Mr. Balko for forms and details at terry@terrybalko.com. **Don't let your hard earned life-savings go into a probate bureaucracy! NOT PLANNING is a plan, but it is NOT a very good plan!**

Bible Related Ministries keeps Church doors open and good men behind our pulpits! We are supported 100% by friends and church donations. Gifts to BRM can be sent to our PO Box or made **online** with any **charge** or **debit card** using the **Paypal button** on the **left side** of website page at: www.biblerelatedministries.org. It is so easy to use! Thank you for your faithfulness to this ministry!

Bible Related Ministries

www.BibleRelatedMinistries.org

Like us on Facebook

Post Office Box 272 - Hinsdale, Illinois 60522
708-579-3800/3801 djbauer101@gmail.com



***Bible Related
Ministries
Newsletter***

Rev. David J. Bauer, Director



2019

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." -1 Thessalonians 5:18

www.BibleRelatedMinistries.org

Like us on Facebook

**P.O. Box 272
Hinsdale, IL 60522**

***Rev. David J. Bauer's
November Itinerary***

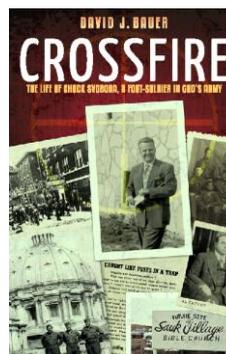


Nov. 21 12:00 Noon Pacific Garden Mission, Chicago, IL

Nov. 24 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Harrison St. Bible Church, Oak Park, IL

(Rev. Bauer will be visiting supporting churches, other Sundays, or preaching as calls come in.)

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own." Abraham Lincoln-1863



**From Cicero
Gangland, to Enemy
Gunfire, to Church
Organization, to
Arbitration in
Churches... and
beyond! The Chuck
Svoboda Story &
Bible Church History**

--- CROSSFIRE ---

Author David J. Bauer - Grace Acres Press
Crossfire is currently available for a Donation
www.BibleRelatedMinistries.org
Box 272, Hinsdale, IL 60522
708-579-3800/3801

BRM Field Report #11

It is the time of the year to reflect on God's abundant goodness to us and to be thankful for the many things He has blessed us with.

We visited two churches recently where there was no strife at all. This is a rarity in today's world. We commented on the peaceful state of both of these churches. Dolores stated that it was so good to be in a fellowship where the people actually liked each other.

One particular pastor, who has spent the past six years contemplating a ministry in another church, has not yet found the perfect place. We talked with him a couple weeks ago. He reported that all things in his church are going well: he has a building full on Sunday morning, they are debt free and everybody seems happy. We asked if he was still thinking of leaving. "No," he said, "Things are going very well here. I believe we are better off staying." -Good choice! Grass on the other side may look greener, but someone has to mow it and take care of it!

A pastor was accused of heretical doctrine by a church family simply because he disagrees with their particular interpretation of Scripture. However, the pastor was upholding the church doctrinal statement and the historical Christian position. Why is the pastor the heretic in this church? Hmm...

But pastors are being baited these days with controversial questions to which there is no absolute right or wrong answer. "Is it ever right to lie?" "Is it ever right to practice birth control?" "Which came first, God's election or His foreknowledge?" "Didn't God die on the cross?" "Can a person commit suicide and be saved?" These are samples of controversies where the leadership can be called heretical if they happen to differ with someone else's opinion. But here is what God's Word says: *"But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strife."* - 2 Tim. 2:23. We have so much time on our hands we fight over foolish things that do not matter in eternity.

Pastors and Board members: Don't get moved from your primary purpose in ministry: Winning the lost, and training them to serve God. It is a shame to do otherwise! And look daily for our Lord's soon return!

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer -Colossians 3:17