



## “Open Our Spiritual Eyes”

David J. Bauer & Gerald Paloski

*Think about what our lives were like as young children just a couple years old. Did we know the consequences of disobeying our parents? Did we know real danger? Did we know what pain we would suffer if we touched a hot stove? What could happen if we crossed the street without looking? Or if we got lost and separated from our parents? There was very little we could know without life experiences (good or bad). Our parents gave us orders and expected us to obey; we mostly did not understand the “why” of them, but the rules were in the best interest for our welfare. Our minds were not capable of discerning moral, spiritual or practical “rights” or “wrongs.”*

Parents would tell us: “Do this” and you will experience comfort and peace. Or “Do not do this,” if you do you will experience discomfort and pain. Parents with many years of experience were there to protect us inexperienced foolish children, teaching us that disobedience to the rules has “consequences.”

The very first adults on earth were created full grown and with great intelligence, though they were not more than a few days old upon this earth. They did not have an earthly father or mother to instruct them and keep them from the folly of their inexperience. Their Father was God Himself, and their instruction came directly from Him, commandments like: “Be fruitful and multiply;” “Tend this garden;” and “Eat all the fruit thereof (with only one noted exception).” There were not many commandments to follow back then. Adam was instructed directly by God as to what he “could do” and what he “could not do” –Genesis 2:16, 17. The full meaning of the consequences of disobedience was not in his experience. But what he could do and could not do was made perfectly clear to Adam by God.

The woman is usually blamed for the fall of the man when he ate the forbidden fruit. But the Bible clearly explains that the man was not deceived by the serpent; only the woman was deceived -1 Timothy 2:14. We have no knowledge that Eve received the commandment directly from God naming the forbidden fruit. Her knowledge may have come only from what Adam had told her. However, the Genesis record clearly informs us: “when the woman saw the tree was good food...pleasant to the eyes...to be desired to make one wise, she took...she ate, and gave to her husband (who was) with her; and he did eat” -3:6. Notice men, “he was with her...” when this happened! Adam rejected God’s command and instead accepted Eve’s tempting offer of the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:16). Instead of asserting his lead as head of his family, Adam watched Eve eat the fruit and then listened to the voice of his wife, eating the fruit himself. The role of headship was lost in the garden, and men have been struggling ever since to be leaders in their own families, with their wives many times in resistance!



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

But there were personal consequences in their own lives. “The eyes of them both were opened, they knew they were naked (before the presence of a holy God [inferred]) –Genesis 3:7. “Eyes were opened...” Adam felt separated from God’s presence; this separation has passed upon all humankind. “For as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin; so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned” –Romans 5:12. Death would come upon Adam 930 years later; there was a lot of time to reflect upon the consequences of his sin. To the woman there would be the pain of childbirth –Genesis 3:16. The man would be consigned to the toil of working for a lifetime (930 years for Adam?), his eyes opened to sin’s consequences every day of his weary life! –Genesis 3:17-19. And in the end Adam died. But the first person to die was Adam’s son - sad.

God provided animal skin clothing for Adam and Eve to cover their sin by sacrificing an animal. Our own spiritual eyes are closed many times to sin and its consequences. Like Adam, we morally weakened human beings are sinners deserving God’s righteous judgment. Our eyes need to be opened to the fact that we are all in a category of “condemned already” and need a Savior –John 3:18.

The only cure is to quit making excuses for our rebellion against God, open our spiritual eyes to the fact that God’s perfect Son entered the human race in time and space to live among sinful humans, and to die on the cross for our sin. “For as through one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One (Jesus Christ) many will be made righteous” –Romans 5:19. Obedient to His Father’s plan of redemption the perfect Son of God died on the cross for our sin, making it possible for us to be clothed with God’s perfect righteousness. Jesus came “to seek and to save lost sinners” –Luke 19:10. It is our responsibility to call upon the name of Jesus to be saved from the condemnation of sin. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” –Romans 10:13-THE most important decision of our life! There are also consequences for daily sins. But God has provided a Savior willing to forgive each of our sins: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” -1 John 1:9.

Today marks a bit of an important blessing in our mutual faith lives. Give this a thoughtful bit of your precious time in meditation in the morning, afternoon and evening:

These six words from Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not for I am with you...”

A great result: Fearlessness! How is it attained? By being convinced that God not only is there, but He is with you, working on your behalf.

Really??? Yes, really! And absolutely! Lois Lane had Superman, always there to stop the train, fire or a bullet. Comic book fiction...

But God is there always for you! Truth!

- Thoughts by Rev. Bill Cole, pastor of Maple Grove Bible Church, Marshal, MI



### Taco Pie

- 1 Can Crescent Rolls
- 1 lb. Ground Beef (or Turkey), browned
- 1 Envelope Pkg. Taco Seasoning (use ½)
- 1 C. Sour Cream
- 1 to 1½ C. Shredded Cheddar Cheese or Taco Cheese
- 1 C. Crushed Frito Corn Chips

Brown meat in skillet, add Taco Seasoning. Line pie pan with Crescent Rolls and layer in half of the crushed Fritos. Spread seasoned Ground Beef on top of the Fritos. Spread Sour Cream over the meat mixture. Sprinkle on Shredded Cheese, then the other half of the Fritos. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

-Luan Louderman Moss  
Argyle Bible Church, IL



Pie dough can be frozen. Roll dough out between sheets of plastic wrap, stack in a pizza box. Keep box in freezer. Defrost in the fridge and use as needed. Use within 2 months.

Keep eggs at room temperature to create volume when whipping egg whites for meringue.

Think "outside the bowl." Choose brightly-colored bowls to set off dips, or get creative with hollowed-out loaves of bread, bell peppers, heads of cabbage, or winter squash.

Fresh lemon juice will remove onion scent from your hands.

Separate stuck-together glasses by filling the inside glass with cold water and setting the outside glass in hot water.

To make a simple polish for copper bottom cookware, mix equal parts of flour and salt with vinegar to create a paste.

Cheeses should be served at room temperature.

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## *Bible Related Ministries*

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# *Bible Related Ministries Newsletter*

*Rev. David J. Bauer, Director*



## September

# 2023

*"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." –Titus 3:5*

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## *Rev. David J. Bauer's Director's Itinerary*



Sept. 17 Community Bible Church, Warsaw, IN  
10:15 a.m. Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. Service

Oct. 8 Community Bible Church, Warsaw, IN  
10:15 a.m. Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. Service

### **The Lighter Side – Life after Death**

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees.

"No, sir," the clerk replied.

"Interesting," the boss said. "You see, I never did either but yesterday, after you left early to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you."

### **His Wife's Cat**

A man absolutely hated his wife's cat. One day, he decided to get rid of him by driving him 20 blocks from his home and leaving him at the park. As he arrived home, the cat was walking up the driveway.

The next day he decided to drive the cat 40 blocks away. He put the beast out and headed home.

Driving back up his driveway, there was the cat again!

He kept taking the cat further and further, and the cat would always beat him home. At last he decided to drive a few miles away, turn right, then left, past the bridge, then right again and another right until he reached what he thought was a safe distance from his home and left the cat there.

Hours later the man calls home to his wife: "Jen, is the cat there?"

"Yes", the wife answers, "why do you ask?"

Frustrated, the man answers, "Put him on the phone, I'm lost and need directions!"

## **BRM Field Report #9**

For a summer month there was lots of work to keep up with in August. Our phone lines were so busy that some mornings we spent either answering the phone or following up on phone messages.

An opportunity has opened up for a pastor and family to buy a home near their church. Pastor has been living in a parsonage owned by the church for over 10 years. BRM offered to help his family present a budget to the board and church.

BRM advised yet another church board on the importance of checking on "transfer members" from a neighboring church. Some families are "high maintenance" and some just make trouble wherever they go. It is good to know this early on with new attendees coming into our churches.

BRM has been instrumental in giving help to church boards by reviewing language in their constitutions. Some have requested a "legal review" by an attorney.

We have advised pastors to live close to their church. Farther than ½ hour away will necessitate unnecessary time and expense in traveling to and from the church. Perhaps church members should observe the same principal. Find a Bible teaching church close to home. You will be more faithful and stay more involved in ministry in your church.

On the same subject, pastors should work out of the church office keeping regular hours. Most people know what it is like to travel to and from work each day. When a pastor works "from his home" and merely shows up once a week (Sunday?), he may be treated by the board and people as a "part-time" employee? A word to the wise...

Churches making important decisions should not entertain congregational votes during the summer. On any given week a strong percent of members may be away on vacation. Decisions like a vote on a pastoral candidate, buying or selling property, revising a constitution, etc. should be postponed until the fall, when most of members will be present.

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer Jeremiah 33:3

See pics of many events on BRM Facebook!