

Saved Today Ministries  
E-Newsletter  
II Cor. 6:2

MONTH OF: August 2009

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**MEDITATE ON THE WORD** (*Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119:148*)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This month I have chosen a sermon I preached a couple years back entitled “God Understands” You will find that below. Also, you will find an interesting article entitled “Reputation or Character”. Please note that last month’s article “Christ and the Pope contrasted” was from the 05/09 issue of the *MBC Watchmen*. I neglected to mention the source last month.

I have some huge news! In this months issue and Lord willing each month hereafter there will be a childrens column entitled “Children for Christ”. This will include either a devotional, puzzle, trivia, or a game. It will depend on the issue. It will also have a memory verse. It is my desire that it helps your children grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**GOD UNDERSTANDS**

I WAS READING THROUGH A HYMN STORY BOOK ONE DAY AND CAME ACROSS A GREAT POEM IN A SONG CALLED GOD UNDERSTANDS:

God understands your *sorrow*. He sees the falling tear, and whispers “I am with thee,”  
then falter not, nor fear.

God understands your *heart-ache*. He knows the bitter pain; O, trust Him in the  
darkness, you cannot trust in vain.

God understands your *weakness*. He knows the tempters power; and He will walk beside  
you however dark the hour.

He understands your longing, your deepest grief he shares; then let him bear your burden,  
He understands, and cares.

I DECIDED TO BREAK THIS SONG DOWN INTO AN OUTLINE AND FIND SCRIPTURE TO EACH PART OF IT...WHAT THE LORD ENABLED ME TO DISCOVER WAS AMAZING!...AS WE GO THROUGH TRIALS AND TROUBLES. WE OFTEN WONDER, DOES JESUS CARE? DOES GOD UNDERSTAND WHAT AM I GOING THROUGH? THE ANSWER IS YES.

A. God understands your **sorrow**. (John 16:20 – *These words spoken by Jesus show that God understands our sorrow and will someday turn it into joy*).

1. He sees the falling tear (Isa. 38:5 – *Here we see God saw the tears Hezekiah shed*); (Isa..25:8, Rev. 7:17, Rev. 21:4 – *These passages show that God will someday wipe all tears from our eyes*).

2. ...and whispers “I am with thee” (Isa. 41:10 – *God tells us in this passage that He is with us and we should not be dismayed. God tells us He will strengthen us, help us, and uphold us.*)
  3. then falter not, nor fear. (2 Cor. 6:10 – *Here we see that even in sorrow, we should be rejoicing in the Lord. We should not worry, falter, or fear what might happen. We must trust in the Lord.*); (Psalm 42:5 – *This passage tells us we should not be discouraged or cast down. We should trust in God and praise him.*)
- B. God understands your **heart-ache**. (*An example of heartache in the Bible is in Romans 9:2 where the apostle Paul Says “..I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.” God knew what Paul was going through.*); *When we go through heartache:*
1. He knows the bitter pain (Romans 8:22-23 – *Here we see that God knows our pain and our desire to be in glory, the redemption of our bodies. Jesus cares? He knows the bitter pain of our heartache and like the song we sing, Jesus is always there*)
  2. Trust Him in the darkness (Psalm 112:4 – *Those that trust in God in the dark times can find light for God is gracious, full of compassion, and righteous. He is a loving, caring God who wants us to trust in Him and do his will at all times of our lives.*)
  3. You cannot trust in vain. (Prov. 3:5-6 – *We must trust God with all our hearts and lean not unto our own understanding. We need to acknowledge him and he will direct our paths. Any other way than God’s way is vain.*)
- C. God understands your **weakness**. (II Cor. 12:7-9 – *Here we see Paul seeking God’s healing power for infirmities he was suffering from. And God teaches him in this passage that God’s grace is sufficient and His strength is made perfect in weakness. We must not murmur and complain when we go through trials and storms in our life, and that is hard. God does understand our weakness and he allows it in our lives for a reason. We must trust in Him.*)
1. He knows the tempter’s power (*In Matt. 4:3-4 we read about the devil tempting Jesus by asking Jesus if He was the Son of God and to turn the stones to bread. Jesus said, “man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” And the temptation of Christ did not end there. To overcome the tempter’s power we must live by God’s word.*); (*1 Cor. 10:13 says There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*) *This teaches that when we go through temptation, God knows our weakness and will not allow us to be tempted above that we are able and will help us escape.*
  2. He will walk beside you however dark the hour. (Heb. 13:5-6 – *Here the Apostle Paul is teaching that Jesus said he will never leave nor forsake us. Even in our darkest hour, Jesus is always there and will help us through it.*)
- D. He understands your **longing** (*Psalm 107:8-9 says “Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness” God will supply all our needs as the Bible says in Phil. 4:19. He does understand our longing.*)
- E. Your deepest **grief** he shares (Lam. 3:31-33 – *Here we see that God shares our grief. And often God allows it for those who are not in fellowship with him to accomplish a beneficial and purifying work in their lives that they might confess and forsake their sin. No matter what the situation is that causes us to grieve, God is there and he understands and cares.*)
- F. Let him bear your **burden** (*A good example of this is in Deut. 1:9-12 – Here Moses is speaking to the children of Israel about the choice of leaders. He realizes he can’t bear the*

*burden he is going through alone and needs God and tells them how God will bless them. We read in Psalm 55:22 "Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Moses cast his burden upon the Lord and the Lord sustained him. Let's take our burden to the Lord and leave it there as the song goes.)*

G. He **understands**, and **cares**. (1 Pet. 5:6-7 – *This teaches that we need to be humble before God and cast all our care upon him for he cares for us. God's care for the afflictions of every one of his children is a truth emphasized throughout His word.* ); (Matt. 5:4 says "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." Jesus says here that those that mourn are blessed for they shall be comforted. Jesus does care. God does understand and care for us with great love, an agape love.

In closing, God wants us to and we need to cast all our fears, cares, and concerns upon God.

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### **REPUTATION or CHARACTER ?**

The circumstances amid which you live determine your **reputation**; the truth you believe determines your **character**.

**Reputation** is what you are supposed to be; **character** is what you are.

**Reputation** is the photograph; **character** is the face.

**Reputation** comes over one from without; **character** grows up from within.

**Reputation** is what you have when you come to a new community; **character** is what you have when you move away.

Your **reputation** is learned in an hour; your **character** does not come to light for a year.

**Reputation** is made in a moment; **character** is built in a lifetime.

**Reputation** grows like the mushroom; **character** grows like the oak tree.

A single newspaper gives you **reputation**; a life of toil gives you **character**.

**Reputation** makes you rich or makes you poor; **character** makes you happy or makes you miserable.

*-MBC Watchmen 05/09*

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### **SONG OF THE MONTH**

**SONG** – *The Darker the Night* (I don't need to comment on it for the words to this great, powerful, encouraging and blessed song written by the late Dave Hendricks express it best. They go like this: **Vs. 1-** *The night may be dark, but why fear the darkness? I'm walking with Jesus, the light of the world; Yes, Christ is my Guide, He walks by my side, Though sorrow abounds, and darkness surrounds, In Him I'll confide.* **Chorus-** *The darker the night, The brighter the light shines, I'm walking with Jesus, The Light of the world; Yes, He is the Light, In Him is no darkness, The darker the night, the brighter the light, When I walk with Him.* **Vs. 2-** *The outlook*

*is dark, but bright is the uplook. I lift my eyes upward, and there is the Light; He says, "don't despair, Cast on me your care," The forces of night, just can't stand the light, when Jesus is there. [Chorus]Vs. 3- The darkest of night, comes just before daybreak, soon glory shall dawn and the night shadows flee; but until that day, I'll let come what may, my unfailing Light dispels the dark night, by faith I can see. [Chorus] )*

*"Let us praise our precious Savior in song all the day long."*

## **"CHILDREN FOR CHRIST" ( N E W C O L U M N )**

**Memory Verse** – Romans 3:10 "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one:"

### **True or False** (Answers at bottom of newsletter)

1. Abram traveled with his father away from his home in Uz.
2. God said to Noah, "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed..."
3. Peter baptized Lydia in Philippi.
4. Isaac told people that his wife was his sister.
5. Joseph was 23 when his brothers sold him to the Ishmaelites.
6. Jesus saves ALL who will believe in Him.
7. Moses and Abraham appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.
8. Samson was a judge over Israel for 20 years.
9. The clothes of John the Baptist were made of goat skin.
10. Lazarus had been in his tomb for three days when Jesus called him out.

## **NEWS**

Regrettably, I recently received the e-mail from Yahoo. They mentioned that all web sites on Geocities, including Saved Today Ministries will be shut down permanently effective 10/26/09. After much consideration, I have decided not to recreate the site. However, the STM E-newsletter will continue as long as the Lord leads and anything that was on the site will be available upon request via e-mail. I apologize for any inconvenience this will cause. I want to thank all those who have visited and used the materials on the site since it began in 2002. If you have any questions or comments on this, please feel free to e-mail me.

## **PRAISES**

I praise God for the privilege and blessing of preparing and sending out STM E-news to people all across the land. As I said last month, we need revival and we need "re-Bible" all across this nation and other lands. Once again, I praise God and want to say thank you to each and every one of you who take the time to read this every month.

Again, I challenge and encourage both young and old to take time each week to take a stack of gospel tracts from your local church and get them out to the lost however the Lord leads. Make sure you do not have any left by the end of the month. Maybe, you will need more, praise God! I will be doing the same myself and praying for you all as you do this for the honor and glory of the Lord.

Last month, I again was able to distribute many tracts at work and saw most of them being read! Praise God! If the Lord leads please let me know how this worked out for you.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Salvation of my sister Wendy & her husband Mark
- Salvation of my nephew Jacob
- Wisdom regarding Saved Today Ministries and the e-newsletter
- Unspoken health need for a friend of mine (*NEW*)
- Unspoken request for the STM editor (*NEW*)
- Wisdom regarding FT Christian service for the Lord someday as the Lord leads
- God's blessing upon and growth of Bible believing, Bible preaching, Biblicist Baptist local churches all across the world and for more to be planted.
- Please pray for an upcoming trip in late July with a friend of mine to Atlanta, GA

## **IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE:**

You will find a yet to be chosen sermon and an article as well as another fun activity in the "Children for Christ" column.

Thank you so much for reading this. I praise God for all my dear brothers and sisters in Christ and I greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

His Servant,  
Craig G.  
Prov. 3:5-6

P.S. If you have any ideas on any improvements to the newsletter, I'd like to hear from you. Please e-mail me and let me know. If you know somebody who would like to be added to the newsletter, please have them e-mail me and I will get it out to them as soon as possible. Also, just in case you do NOT wish to continue receiving this monthly newsletter, please e-mail me with "please remove" in the subject line.

*True or False answers:* These are false: #1-Ur not Uz; #3- Paul baptized Lydia; #5-He was 17; #7-,Moses and Elijah; #9-camel's hair; #10-four days in tomb