



In order to live in a worthy manner before God, we must walk, "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, *forbearing one another in love....* And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:2, 32). "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; *bearing with one another*, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (Col. 3:12, 13).

As Christians we should patiently tolerate peculiarities that we may find irksome or irritating. That is what love does-"beareth all things." No marriage can survive without it. I do not like all of my own ways, let alone all of yours, but does that mean we must be at odds with one another?

Personally, I do not favor a woman who keeps a sloppy house, but maybe she does not approve of a preacher who drives a dirty car! Therefore, let us "love as brethren," and "be patient toward all men." — Selected

**NAVARRE NEWS AND NOTES:** Please remember in your prayers: Starr Wilkins, Jim Wetzstein, Debbie Kingsmill, Carrie Hare, Sister Gerry Wiemert, Kenny Cauley will be having back surgery on August 1st. Continue to remember Houston Perry as he serves in military duty in Iraq.

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre. Call us for directions and more information (850) 939-8109



Navarre church of Christ  
8490 James M Harvell Rd  
Navarre, FL 32566

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
Sunday

Bible Class for all ages.....9:00 AM  
Morning Worship Service.....10:00 AM  
Evening Worship Service ..... 6:00 PM

Wednesday  
Bible Class for all ages.....7:00 PM

**VISITORS ARE  
WELCOME!**

**If you know of someone who would like to receive this publication, please let us know.**

**For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.**

# Navarre Messenger



*"Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Matthew 11:1*

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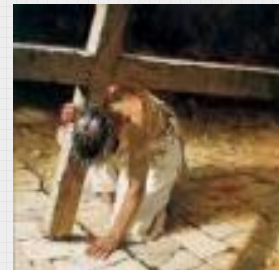
AUGUST 6, 2006

## SECURITY

### Thought To Ponder

**Let us always keep in mind that the first word from the cross was a word of forgiveness.**

*"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."  
(Luke 23:34)*



### Inside This Issue:

Pages 2 and 3 - **"When To End a Bible Study"**

Page 4 - **"Forbearing One Another In Love"**

Jim Bell  
Evangelist & Editor

An old European proverb says, "If you can swallow a toad every morning before breakfast, you have conditioned yourself for the troubles of the day." We live in a world of frustration and despair whose greatest problem seems to be that of security, or rather the lack of it. The history of man is a history of combat and a struggle to survive. And even now the possibility of a nuclear war or some other cataclysmic event dims our hope for survival.

Added to this is a future threatened by inflation, higher taxes, and the snare of easy credit. With all this it is difficult not to worry, to be anxious about the outcome of it all. But Jesus said, "Do not be anxious, saying: What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we clothe ourselves? . . . But seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Mt. 6:31-34).

Engineers, in planning a structure, make provision for an ample reserve factor (or safety factor); they design it to be able to withstand a strain ten

To fifteen times as large as anything to which they expect it to be subjected in the ordinary course of its existence. Man also needs a reserve factor that he might keep from reaching a breaking point. He has a tremendous need for courage, patience, and faith. Such strength is available in God. Peter said,

**"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you"  
(1 Peter 5:6,7)**

God heard the ancient Israelites when they cried from Egyptian bondage and delivered them. He heard them again when they cried to Him because of their oppression by the pagans in the land of Canaan and He sent men like Gideon, Samson, and Samuel and delivered them. God delivered the three Hebrew children from the fiery furnace and Daniel from Lion's den. *Do you serve the same God?* Then what greater security do you need?.....

by Mason Harris

Check us out on the internet: [www.navarrechurchofchrist.net](http://www.navarrechurchofchrist.net)

## WHEN TO END A BIBLE STUDY....

Several years ago I brought a brother with me to meet a man who was convinced that all churches were “filled with hypocrites” and because of that he no longer attended anywhere. In my optimism I thought that an open Bible would, in time, convince this man to change his attitudes and practices. After three hours of patiently struggling with a man who displayed open dishonesty, irrational anger and had plainly stated that he would never change his mind, my brother pulled me aside and made a comment that I never forgot. “Larry, my abilities and efforts are not highly valuable, but they are more valuable than to be used like this! Brother, it is time to go home.”

It was not until I carefully studied how my Lord Jesus Christ worked with people did I come to understand what I could and what I could not do in my teaching of His word. What was the goal of Jesus when He taught men? Surely He wanted to convert everyone He taught since He came to “seek and save that which was lost” (**Luke 19:10**). But as I looked into His ministry I found that a large majority rejected His teachings (**John 6:66**). Rather than viewing Jesus’ ministry as a failure, I needed to learn what the primary purpose of Jesus’ teachings really was. When I learned that truth, I discovered how successful Jesus was and, as a result, I was then able to properly gauge and evaluate my efforts in teaching.

### To Expose Hearts

When Mary brought Jesus to the Temple a few weeks after His birth, a prophet, Simeon, foretold what the primary work of Jesus’ ministry would be. “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ... that

the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed...” (Luke 2:34-35). This is precisely what Jesus accomplished as He taught others in His ministry. More than just trying to have someone agree on a point of doctrine, Jesus looked to open the hearts the hearts of those who engaged Him in discussion. Once opened, a man could see his own heart and then make an important choice. This one could then either be grieved at what he saw and thus would allow Jesus, as the Great Physician, to operate on his heart bringing the needed change or he could reject Him by slamming the door of his heart in the face of our Lord.

### Some Cases in Point

From this perspective let us look anew at some well-known exchanges in the ministry of Jesus. The rich young ruler appeared to be the perfect prospect to become a disciple of the Lord. He seemed to agree on the “essential” doctrinal components, claiming to have kept God’s written word (**Mark 10:17-20**). Jesus not only heard the words of this man, He also heard his thoughts. He wanted this man to see them too. “Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions” (**Mark 10:21-22**). Jesus opened this man’s heart and then this man chose to walk away. Jesus accomplished what he wanted to in this exchange!

Look at how Jesus turned the discussion from the place of worship to the condition of the heart of the woman at the well (**John 4:1-26**).

(continued on next page)



## The Heart of The Matter

Seeing her own heart she came to know that Jesus was the Messiah, and in turn, she left her water pot and quickly spread that news to others. (John 4:28-30).

### We Must Learn to Open Hearts

While we cannot instantly see the contents of the hearts of others as Jesus did (**Luke 5:22**), we can, however, through wisdom, learn how to open hearts. Why do people believe and act as they do? Even Pilate, through his experience, looked beyond the empty lies of the Jewish Rulers to know that they were motivated by envy when they attacked the Lord (**Mark 15:10**). From personal observation and insight you may come, over time, to know the motivations of the ones you teach.

Several years ago I learned that the best approach in studying with “Jehovah’s Witnesses” was to challenge their personal loyalty to their headquarters, the Watchtower Society. At the beginning of the study they claimed that the Bible alone was the guide of their beliefs, but by the end of our studies I was able to show to them that this was not the case. When their hearts were opened to this truth, one man cried like a baby while another man, while screaming, threw me out of his house. In both of these studies, hearts were opened and decisions made. I believe that the Lord was pleased with both results (**2 Cor 2:14-17**).

### When to End a Bible Study

A lesson that took me years to learn was when to end a Bible study. In the earlier example of the man that was dishonest and plainly proclaimed that he would not change, I should have accepted that he, in fact, had exposed his heart to me. His resounding answer was “No, I will not follow the Lord.” Indeed, it was time for me to move on.

The Pharisees would never accept any proof that Jesus was the Son of God. Any approach to them at that level would bring endless disagreements and arguments. Jesus knew why this was so, for these men in their hearts had put relationships and position above everything else. Jesus said: “But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you ... How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God?” (**John 5:42-44**)”

I have known of men and women who destroyed their marriages through their own immorality or had become bitter with another only to then make a jump into denominationalism, liberalism or even agnosticism. They then tried to put a spotlight on the inconsistencies of brethren and would tenaciously hold on to arguments that are easily answered. Why can’t they see through these empty beliefs? It is because these beliefs are a cover or mask for the real reason for their newfound stand.

### Speak to the Heart

Look again at your approach to teaching and make sure your focus is the heart and not just the head. Peter, having made effective and essential arguments, turned his message to the heart. “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?” (**Acts 2:36-37**)”

May the Lord bless you in this dangerous but rewarding work in the opening of men’s hearts.

— Larry Rouse (Charlottesville Beacon)

