



Let's Get Better! Let's Do Better! Let's Be Better!
Helping Developing Christians Grow!

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David's Devotional A Psalm of Praise

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 100

This psalm commands us to SERVE and to PRAISE. It also gives us the reasons to do it!

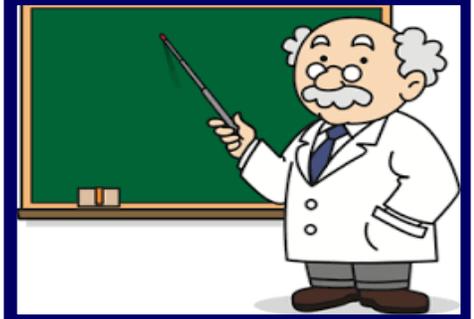
Commands to Serve: "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord";
"Serve the Lord with gladness"
"Come before His presence with signing"

Reasons to Serve: "The Lord, His is God"
"He who has made us"
"We are His people"

Commands to Praise: "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise"
"Be thankful unto Him"
"Bless His name"

Reasons to Praise: "The Lord is good"
"His mercy is everlasting"
His truth endures to all generations"

David Conley



An Interesting Quote:

"Outstanding people have one thing in common: An absolute sense of mission. Zig Ziglar

"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple" Psalm 27:4

If we could have one thing, what would it be? A million dollars? Perfect health and happiness? World peace?

David had an absolute sense of mission. He wanted *"one thing"*! What was it? He wanted to get to know God better!

God knows us, do we know Him? It is the one thing we should be seeking! Everything else will fall into place (**Matthew 6:33**).

David Conley

Did You Know?

Thanksgiving was supposed to be a *"Fast"*, not a *"Feast"*, according to history professor Ken Albala.

Ken notes that thanksgiving in Puritan culture is associated with fasting and prayer, meditating on God and His rich blessings He has given to us!

Today, *"Thanksgiving"* is a day to eat a feast with family and friends!

Ken also authored 25 books on food! His interest is on food history, cooking, and culture. I wonder if he found a good recipe for sweet potato pie?

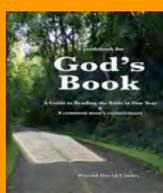


Left to Right:
Ed White; Harlon Hallmark;
Jacob Walker; Bo Gooch;
Bruce Blankenship; & David Conley

What Happened? Valdosta Church of Christ Gospel Meeting

It was great to be a part of the Gospel Meeting at the Valdosta Church of Christ! Wayne Scott preached Sunday and Wednesday. We were there Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

We saw some wonderful people!
Paula Blankenship made this *"Preacher Picture"*!



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Once Upon A Time ...

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven"
Ecclesiastes 3:1

**Commodities**

We can rightfully complain about a lot of things our government does or does not do, but when it

comes to commodity cheese - they got it right!!

Mama and Daddy took us regularly to a building somewhere. They would go in and leave us kids in the car. After what seemed like hours, they would come out with boxes of commodities. I didn't know what the word "commodities" meant, but I knew there would be good eating that night! There were several food items, but I only really remember three: The cheese, the powdered milk, and the peanut butter! The peanut butter came in a can - like paint. When you took the lid off, the oil had risen to the top - like paint. You had to stir it to get it mixed back up - like paint. Then you would eat it on a spoon ---- not like paint!

I didn't particularly care for the powdered milk, but it was better than no milk at all! The cheese, on the other hand, was my favorite! I'm not sure I have had better! Why was it so good? Was it because we were hungry? Was it because that was the only cheese we had? Maybe it was because it was just that good!

Why were we getting commodities? We needed them! Mama and Daddy did not abuse drugs or alcohol. They did not beat each other up. They worked hard. They loved us kids. We kids got along. We obeyed the rules (or got whipped if we didn't). We had something to eat everyday. We stayed clean for the most part. We just needed help, we appreciated it, and we were happy!

Solomon was absolutely right when he wrote in **Proverbs 17:1** *"Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife."*

David Conley

"The Towla Worm"

King David had a lot to say about the Messiah. He even called Him a WORM!



" But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people."

Psalm 22:6

The common Hebrew word for "worm" is "rimmah," and it is defined as a maggot or a worm considered to be a low form of life. However, in **Psalm 22:6**, the word for "worm" is "towla' or tola'ath". This is a crimson, scarlet, worm. The scientific name is COCCUS ILICIS.

It is round and looks more like a grub worm than a long worm. It is about the size of a pea and is harvested to make red dye.

This worm is common to the Middle East, and predominantly in Israel. The colors of crimson and scarlet are a very deep, blackish-red, which is the color of blood. It will attach itself to a tree and lay its eggs, protecting them under its body. The worm then dies. The larvae will feed on the dead worm sustaining their lives. When it is crushed, it leaves a permanent stain!

Jesus is not just a lowly "worm"! This is a specific worm and is a "shadow" that speaks of Christ on the blood stained wooden cross, dying so we may live!

Thank you Lord Jesus!

David Conley

A Funny Thing Happened ...

The preacher had an older friend. He was very old! The friend had talked to an old widow woman one night. During the conversation he asked her to marry him. To his delight, she said "Yes"! The next morning, the old gentleman remembered that he had asked her to marry him but could not recall what her answer was! He just could not remember if she had accepted his proposal or not. He had to call her back to find out.

The older lady said she had indeed said, "Yes". The old fellow was so happy! Then the lady said, *"I am so glad you called, I couldn't remember who had proposed!"*

The preacher thought about **Isaiah 49:15** *"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee."* No matter what happens in our life, rest assured that God will not forget about us!