

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

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A Call to Pray for Our Association

By Jeff Herring, Executive Editor
Baptist Trumpet

Do you agree that prayer is the key to any spiritual endeavor? Larry Barker shared, “We need more prayer individually, as churches and as an association because Jesus set the example of a life and mission fueled by prayer (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:19).

The theme of the Scriptures is to pray without ceasing and don’t ever stop!” Prayer should be at the heart of all we do individually, as a church and as an association.

With the approaching 75th annual meeting of the BMA of America (April 16-18), we encourage you to make a special effort to pray for our association.

Even if you cannot attend the meeting in person, will you join other individuals and churches and spend a season praying for our association and the meeting?

We ask every church in our association to commit to praying for our association, and invite you to devote a specific time of prayer during the morning worship services on April 7 and 14 (the two weekends before the meeting).

If you are led to do more, other possibilities would be to organize a dedicated time of prayer (i.e., a special prayer service, all members commit to pray at the same time every day, 24 hours of prayer, etc.) outside the morning service sometime during one or both of those weekends — whatever would work for your church.

Prayer should be foundational to everything we do, and prayer strengthens unity.

Larry Barker often says, “I’ve never heard anyone complain that they were praying too much.”

He also loves this quote from E.M. Bounds, “The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods but through men! He does not come on machinery but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men — men of prayer!”

Prayer has always been part of the culture of the BMA. There have been significant moments marked by prayer at national meetings.

Some include prayer breakfasts, evening meals and prayer meetings, huddles of older pastors praying with younger men and, through it all, consistent prayer from leaders at the podium over the work of the association being aligned to the gospel mission of Jesus.

We open and close in prayer and aren’t opposed to stopping in the middle to pray.

Larry Barker also stated, “We talk about prayer, encourage others to pray, but do we pray?”

Because of the supernatural element of prayer, it is an unnatural lane for us. That is why we must learn to pray, and the greatest classroom for prayer is praying. God believes we need to pray with no intermission (I Thess. 5:17), ‘never’ stop praying and constantly be in fellowship with Him.

Prayer in our spiritual life should become as normal as breathing is in our physical life. The key to your spiritual life and ministry is to maintain uninterrupted time in prayer with your Lord.”

Henry Blackaby stated it well, “Prayer is not getting God to help us with what we are to do; it is getting us in line with what He is about to do!” God desires to do great and mighty things through you, your church and our association.

Are you willing to commit to a laser-focused season of prayer for all the above? The heart of Jesus, while He was here on earth was to learn His assignment in communication with the Father (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12; Luke 22:42) and to reverently surrender to it.

Henry Blackaby also reminds us, “Knowing the heart of God is to know the will of God.” Jesus taught us to pray “Thy name,” “Thy kingdom” and “Thy will.”

This prayer emphasis is an extension of Healthy Church Solutions’ direction since 2018, when they began to focus heavily on prayer initiatives and look for ways to point pastors and churches to prayer.

They created a three-part prayer training with content covering how to build a prayer culture and began to suggest that every pastor and every church, no matter what the need, begin with prayer.

What Can You Do?

Using the **PRAY** (Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield) acronym as a guide, we are asking for Sunday, April 7 (or sometime during the weekend) to focus on **Praise** and **Repent**.

Will you, personally and/or corporately, focus on **praising** God for Who He is (holy, faithful, etc.) and how He has blessed our association over the last 75 years?

Then, focus on a time of **repentance** to prepare hearts to line up with the will of God.

On Sunday, April 14 (or sometime over the weekend), the focus will move to **asking** God to help in your walk with Christ, His continued blessings and guidance for your local church and community, our association, missionaries and the gospel mission around the world.

Then, move to a time when you **yield** to His will and proclaim with faith that His will is better than your will.

There will also be a prayer space set up at the national meeting where those in attendance can practice these steps of Jesus’ model prayer.

However you choose to participate, we would love to know that you will choose to do so. Please email Heidi Sorrels with Healthy Church Solutions at heidi@bmaglobal.org and let her know you will join in and how you plan to participate.

She can also provide you with resources for organizing your church’s prayer times, if needed.

"From the Pastor's Pen"

By Wearthy Shank

"...Press Toward the Mark, continued"

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.
Colossians 3:8-9

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.
Colossians 3:12

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.
Colossians 3:14

Continuing our thoughts and prayers on pressing toward the mark, I mentioned last month about experiencing a spiritual renewal and used the analogy of remodeling a house, comparing that to renewing our relationship with Christ.

In redoing your home, there needs to be a removal of some old, rotten, broken

material. In fact, with our home, there seems to be a constant challenge keeping it in good condition. It seems like every time we look around, there's another task at hand; a cracked window pane; a tear in the carpet; a leak in the roof.

Our spiritual life faces the same situation: deterioration of our spiritual testimony with a bundle of clutter that's weighting us down.

It seems like as soon as we think we've got it all together in our daily walk with Jesus, Satan throws a new

enticement into our lives.

This ol' earthly tabernacle needs some remodeling. Paul said in the text above to "put off" some stuff that we've tended to gather as we travel along. Kinda like the dust that gathers on our car traveling a country road.

Then, the text says to "put on" new stuff. When you replace wood in your home, you put on a good coat of paint to protect it from the elements.

In like manner, when we put off those sinful things in the text, we are then instructed to put on the protecting "coat of paint", those attributes mentioned in verses 12 and 14.

Think about it!!



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Invites applications for the following position

Executive Vice President

Primary Responsibilities: Day-to-day operation of the institution, including budgetary and personnel management.

Qualifications:

- 1) Earned doctorate from a regionally accredited institution;
- 2) Administrative, organizational, planning and communication skills at the executive level; and
- 3) Active membership in a Baptist Missionary Association church.

Deadline for Submission: May 31

To be considered for the position of Executive Vice President, interested candidates must send a cover letter, resume (including references), and a statement of faith as PDF attachments to Board Chair Kirk Shelton at pastorkirk@icloud.com.

Electronic submissions only.
Background check required.

"I Was Just Thinkin'"

By Narita Roady

"Quitters Never Learn!"

One winter, a country pond was frozen over. People of all ages came to enjoy themselves skating or participate as onlookers.

One in particular caught the eye of many along the bank. A young boy carefully strapped on his skates and walked to the ice.

Gingerly, he slid his blades onto the slick surface, only to fall flat on his back! This was his first time, and he was determined to master this slippery sport.

Over and over he fell in various positions, landing on various parts of his body. In fact the young athlete spent more time lying on the ice than skating on it!

After a while, he had fallen so many times that his face was cut, and the blood and tears ran together, not to mention many bruises that could not be seen.

A man that had been watching the entire time could stand it no more. With great pity and compassion he walked over to the youngster lying near the bank after his last tumble.

As the kind man gently helped the youngster up, he said, "Son, why don't you quit? You are going to kill yourself!"

Looking defiantly at his rescuer, the lad brushed the tears from his eyes and answered with great conviction, "I didn't buy these skates to learn how to quit!! I bought them to learn how to skate!!"

Oh, that all who profess to be born again Christians would have the same conviction and determination in serving Christ as this sweet child! How quickly we give up in the face of the smallest difficulties!

Christ did not give His life to save us, just for us to give up when we face trials, obstacles, or the opposition of man!

Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

1 Corinthians 7:23-24

Think of all the ways we quit in the Lord's service. How often do we neglect our Bible reading and prayer because of interruptions, conflicting activities, fatigue, or just being "too busy"? We quickly cling to our excuses rather than accepting the challenge before us to make God our closest and most important relationship.

He gives us clear instruction concerning this.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of

truth.
2 Timothy 2:15



Our prayer time not only keeps us close to God, but protects us. It is not something we can do without.

Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

Mark 14:38

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
Luke 18:1

How many folks quit visiting and witnessing because someone has rebuked them? Maybe they were spoken to sharply to, or had a door slammed in their face.

How easily we use the unkindness of someone who does not understand the need to accept Christ as an excuse for us to quit obeying His command to spread the gospel.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen
Matthews. 28:19-20

We should use the unkind treatment we face to create an urgency in us to tell more people about Him.

How many Christians quit attending church and serving God because of problems within the church? Too many find it simpler to use Satan stirring up contention in the Lord's house as reason to quit worshipping God in His church.

("Quitters Never Learn," cont on pg 7)

The bottom line is
God did not save us to quit when we are tired,
when things are uncomfortable, when problems arise,
or for any reason Satan might help us conjure up!
He saved us to carry out His will here on earth.

CBC President Planning Retirement & more Central Baptist College news updates

Terry Kimbrow, who has served as the president of Central Baptist College (CBC) since 2004, announced Monday afternoon his plans to retire in May 2025.

Kimbrow's announcement comes after serving as CBC's ninth president since 2004. Kimbrow's decision to step down comes with a heartfelt message of gratitude and optimism for the college's future.

"I have been so blessed to serve as president for the past twenty years. I'm convinced it's time for someone to come in with a fresh vision and renewed heart for CBC. God has someone, and it's my prayer that He will reveal that to the search committee."

During his time as president, Kimbrow has been a driving force behind the growth and success of CBC. Under his leadership, the college has experienced significant achievements, including the construction of the Ratliff Bell Tower in 2008, which symbolizes the college's mission to transform lives through education that integrates Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

Kimbrow's visionary leadership has been instrumental in spearheading a comprehensive rebranding effort, attracting million-dollar gifts, multiple capital campaign fundraising efforts, and significantly increasing the college's endowment by over 300%.

In 2011, he led his most successful capital campaign, Vision 2020: A Miracle in the Making. His dedication to fundraising peaked when a historic \$5 million contribution, the largest single gift in the college's history, kicked off the campaign. Vision 2020 raised over \$18 million.

Under Kimbrow's leadership and guidance, CBC has witnessed unprecedented growth and expansion,

including the construction of the Watkins Academic Building (2012), the Story Library (2013), and Dickson Hall (2014).

He also was instrumental in the renovation of Burgess Auditorium (2015) and the establishment of the MaryNed Foster Band Rehearsal Hall (2018).

During his presidency, academic excellence was a main priority. He successfully led the continuance of regional accreditation and the establishment of the Teacher Education program, which has helped significantly expand the college's bachelor degree offerings to over forty.

In 2009, Kimbrow was able to secure a Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant enabling the establishment of several science degree programs and the construction of the Judy Gabbard Science Center.

Kimbrow has also been instrumental in the growth of the Mustang Athletics program. During his presidency, athletic teams have expanded from five to 16 in the American Midwest Conference (AMC) and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

Kimbrow is currently serving his third term as Chair of the AMC Council of Presidents.

Kimbrow has also been active in his community, serving on multiple boards and committees including Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC), Arkansas' Independent Colleges and Universities (AICU), Baptist Hospital Patient Safety Committee, Conway Police Department Chaplain, Conway Area Chamber of Commerce, Conway Rotary Club, Faulkner County Leadership Institute, Bank of America, and Haven House.

During his career, Kimbrow has also been awarded or participated in the following:

- FBI Citizens Academy,
 - Faulkner County Leadership Institute,
 - Dan Nabholz Leadership Award,
 - Conway Area Chamber of Commerce Business Executive of the Year,
 - Central Baptist College Employee of the Year,
 - Central Baptist College Alumnus of the Year
- along with many others.

As Kimbrow prepares to step down, CBC Board of Trustees expresses its deepest gratitude for his exemplary leadership, unwavering dedication, and profound impact on the college.

"It is with sorrow that the CBC Board of Trustees heard the news of President Kimbrow's plans to retire in May 2025. President Kimbrow informed the Board of his intentions at their meeting on March 2. We had begun to work with Bro. Terry last year on a succession plan but had hoped that it would still be a long way off," said Kirk Shelton Board Chairman.

He added, "The college has been blessed with solid, visionary leadership for almost 20 years. I believe I speak for the entire Board when I say we would like to have him for 20 more."

The 20-member Board of Trustees has formed a committee to head the search for his successor to ensure a smooth transition for the college.

Alumni News and Updates

The Central Baptist College Alumni office wants to hear from you! If you read social media, you will see have seen our posts asking alumni of the college to update their contact information.

If you haven't done so already, please visit cbc.edu/alumniinformationupdate.

Are you looking for a way to give back to CBC? Legacy Leaders was created to help alumni and friends of CBC give back.

CBC News Updates *continued*

Legacy Leaders is a monthly sustainable giving program geared to Sustain, Restore, and Connect Alumni and Friends of Central Baptist College. Your donation has a big impact on the future of the college and in the lives of our students.

For more information, visit cbc.edu/legacyleaders.

Do you have a child, grandchild, or even friends with kids? Consider joining our Mustangs in the Making program.

As children enter your family, we want to welcome them into ours as well. We want to pay special attention to our "Future Mustangs" and help them build a love for CBC early. Children enrolled in the Mustangs in the Making Legacy Program will receive gifts from CBC on milestone birthdays.

To enroll, please visit cbc.edu/makingmustangs.

Looking for a gift that builds a legacy? Then consider the Legacy Walk at Central Baptist College.

Each brick is \$100 and can be personalized to honor a graduate, a teacher, or someone special. Each brick sale goes back into the alumni fund which supports the Kenneth Brown Endowed Scholarship.

Honor someone special and create a lasting memorial. For more information visit cbc.edu/legacybricks.

Are you a current member of the Alumni Association? Single memberships are \$35, and a membership for a couple is \$50.

The Alumni Association helps support the Kenneth Brown Endowed Scholarship through membership dues, sponsors the Student Alumni Association, and builds relationships with current students through events like Exam Treats during the semester.

Complete your membership application today at cbc.edu/alumniassociation.

For more information on any of these alumni programs and services you can contact Mallory Guyton Alumni and Digital Communications Coordinator, at 501.205.8875 or mguyton@cbc.edu.

Follow the Alumni Association on social media

For current information from the Alumni Office and to connect with other CBC alums, follow the Central Baptist College Alumni Facebook page, @Central Baptist College Alumni and the Instagram page @cbcalumni.

CBC Fine Arts Spring Schedule

It has already been an eventful semester for the CBC Fine Arts department, and there are still many more music events coming up.

This February, CBC students participated in the Arkansas Intercollegiate Band and Arkansas Intercollegiate Choir in Hot Springs.

The band members representing our school included Emily Gentry, Faith Grantham, Julian Lilly, Alejandro Mendoza, and Aubrey Rogan.

The choir members included Anna Battenfield, Caleb Claiborne, Heidi Maxwell, Jesse McGarrah, Joy Murdock, Olivia Solano, and AJ

Woodraska.

Senior Music Education major Julian Lilly presented his senior recital on tuba on



March 5. After seeing Jeremiah Dodson receive his degree in December as CBC's first Music Education graduate, we look forward to two other Music Education majors graduating at the end of this semester: Alejandro Mendoza and AJ Woodraska.

The CBC Singers also traveled extensively over the school year. This year's Singers consist of the following talented students: Caleb Allen, Jaclyn Burroughs, Nathan Dodson, Mary Grace Hall, Heidi Maxwell, Drew Tiner, Abby Wilson, and AJ Woodraska.

After finishing a performance at Garrett Memorial Christian School in Hope, AR, the band and choir will be performing on Wednesday, March 27 at Columbia Christian School in Magnolia, AR; and they will perform on Friday, April 5 at Westside Christian School in El Dorado, AR.

The Fine Arts tour will be April 13-18. During the tour, the band and choir will perform at Bethel Baptist Church and at Calvary Baptist Church in Fulton, MS.

After this, they will enjoy two days at Universal Studios in Orlando, FL.

The Music Department Spring Concert will be on Thursday, April 25 at 7:00pm in the Burgess Auditorium. The CBC band, Worship Choir, Women's Chorus, Chamber Choir, Singers, String Quartet, and Handbells will all be performing.

We are very proud of our Fine Arts department and the work that they do to represent our school, and we look forward to seeing their hard work pay off throughout the remainder of the semester.



"That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Comparing Ministries"

I was recently reminded of some of my Grandpa Abney's blessings and adventures as a Missionary Baptist preacher.

When he was about 93 years old, the Paul's Valley Democrat published an article on him listing some of his experiences. He performed a lot of weddings, held a lot of revivals, baptized a lot of folks, and even pastored several part time and half time churches.

He rode horseback to get to many of his preaching appointments and was sometimes not paid, or if he was it was with food items.

Of course, times have really changed in a lot of ways. I've wondered how I would fare as a pastor back in Grandpa's time. But I've also wondered about him in our times.

I'm sure it would take a lot of "retraining" by either of us to fit into the other's era. I don't know which would have the roughest time of it.

The way Grandpa felt about sin and ungodliness of his day, I'm not sure he could even begin to comprehend what is going on today under the guise of religious freedom and politically correct terms.

He was very disturbed about modernism of his day. What would he have to say about what is going on in the Lord's churches of our day? How could he understand rampant adultery, legalized abortion, open homosexuality, and the banning of prayer from public schools?

I don't know how technologically functional my grandpa would be if he lived in our day. From my memories I sort of figure how it would be with him.

He never owned a TV set so forget the computer. In his day, he didn't even own

a car, but if he did he probably wouldn't have locked it. Today, we have cars that are remotely locked and unlocked.

I don't think Grandpa ever had a phone, but if he did, he would have only had one and it would be in his living room. He would have answered it only if he wanted to.

In contrast, today I have an answering machines on my home phone and the church phone so I don't miss any calls (especially from a telemarketer).

I carry a cell phone with me just to make sure someone can talk to me even if I'm off in the backwoods somewhere. I seem to be a man who wants to "stay in touch."

It seems everyone today has a cell phone, so if Grandpa lived in my time he probably would have gotten one. I'm

surprised by some today who have cell phones, so Grandpa having one might not be so strange. One day, not long ago, I had forgotten my phone on my desk. When I checked it, I saw I had missed one call.

I punched the button and dialed it. A man answered, "Hello!" I explained I had received a call from the number on my cell phone. He told me he didn't know how that had happened, but he was in the hay field hauling hay and had his cell phone in his pocket.

He said he probably bumped the buttons to get my number. I didn't know about all that, but it did make me wonder about a farmer in the hay field carrying a cell phone. Times have certainly changed!

Many years ago, a man named Charles Sheldon wrote a book titled, "In His Steps," which posed the question, "What would Jesus do?" in our situation. To answer that question you know what he did in His own situation.

In the case of my grandpa, I think I know how he would manage in our time. He would manage just as he did in his time...by trusting the Lord to guide him

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For more information go to:
www.aaecmi.com



“Quitters Never Learn,” cont from pg 3

“Think of all the ways we quit in the Lord’s service. We quickly cling to our excuses rather than accepting the challenge before us to make God our closest and most important relationship.”

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
Hebrews 10:27

It won’t be cantankerous people we are running from, but Satan and his desire to destroy God’s work.

The very thing the Lord needs us to take a stand toward!

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
Ephesians 6:10-12

One can easily rationalize the spiritual problems of others and their insensitive or unkind conduct to justify quitting services.

Church problems should inspire us to stay, take a stand for truth, be a light for Christ, and be there for the weaker Christians.

We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.
Romans 15:1

We could continue to think of many more excuses for relinquishing our commitment to the Lord.

The bottom line is God did not save us to quit when we are tired, when things are uncomfortable, when problems arise, or for any reason Satan might help us conjure up! He saved us to carry out His will here on earth.

Next time we fall or stumble, or the hard, cold realities of life smack us in the face, let’s be ready to say, “I didn’t become a Christian to quit; I became a Christian to serve God!”

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

1 Corinthians 4:16-18

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When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder You'll Be Where?

By Chris Gonthier
BMAO Moral Action

Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

Matthew 24:44, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Christians have the mindset that people need to be ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The suddenness of the return of the Lord will happen quickly.

For this discussion I will be referring to the coming of Christ in the air, not upon the earth. Most Missionary Baptists that I know believe in a pre-tribulation rapture, meaning that the saved people will leave the earth prior to the great tribulation.

1 Thessalonians 5:13-17, "But I would not have you be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

We have people that say that there is no such thing as "the rapture" because that word does not appear in the scripture. It is true that the word rapture does not appear, but the word means caught up and we see that concept in the above scripture.

It is important for people to be aware of the suddenness that will occur. There will not be time to make a last-minute decision, as it will be instantaneous. Those who do not know Christ, having heard, and understood the gospel and yet rejecting it will not get another chance. It is abundantly clear that we need to be watching and be ready.

We will meet the Lord in the air, both current and those who already passed. The idea is, when the Lord is ready, whether individually or collectively, we need to know where our eternity will be spent. The saved will go to heaven, and the lost will be destined for the lake of fire.

It is of the utmost importance that we establish our eternity.

Now I want to point out another thing we should all be considering. Where will you be when the Lord returns.

Matthew 24:40-42, Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

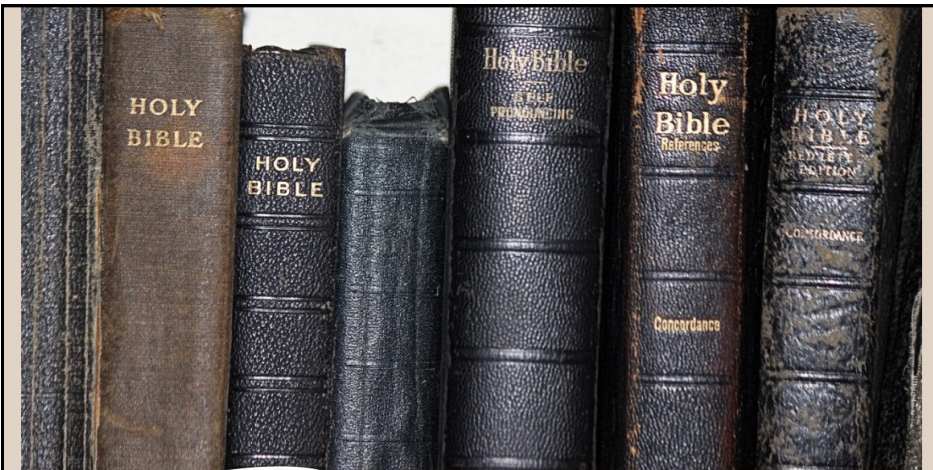
Take note that people were engaged in their ordinary lives when someone was suddenly taken. We do not know where we will be or what we will be doing when the Lord calls. Imagine the embarrassment we will have if we are caught in a bad situation.

Our testimony should drive us to make sure that we can be proud of what we are doing when the Lord returns.

Where will you be and what will you be doing when the Lord returns? Working in the field or grinding food are all noble and necessary activities, but there are many things that we do that are not appropriate for Christians to be doing.

Imagine the time we waste by doing things which are of no value to the cause of Christ. There will be so many things that we will answer for, but we can start now to remain focused on staying in God's will.

When the Roll is called up yonder I will be there, but another important question is where will I be when the roll is called?



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