



Publishing Peace

A quarterly journal published by West Virginia School of Preaching under the oversight of the elders of Hillview Terrace Church of Christ, Moundsville, WV 26041 (304) 845-8001 (dirwvsop@aol.com).

Vol. 19 No. 5 January-March 2022

“Behold on the mountains the feet of him who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace!...” (Nahum 1:15)

Next On-Line Class

Andy Robison

Our next online class will be in the third quarter of this school year, running January 24-April 1, 2022. This class will be a textual study of **1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus.**

There will be lectures, tests, and assignments, as outlined on a syllabus presented when one enrolls for the class. The class will be different from former classes, though, in that it will be administered through Google Chat rather than via a series of e-mails. Students will need a Gmail address to participate. Here are some highlights of the way things will work.

- 1) Students will have to send their Gmail address to us in order to be invited into the class-specific chat room.
- 2) Tuesday of each week, a link to the prerecorded class will be posted in the chat room.
- 3) At the same time, notes will be presented in the files portion of the chat room for students' download.
- 4) **Students will have opportunity all week to ask questions, make comments, and discuss in the chat room. The instructor will participate to guide the discussions. This is the main difference from previous classes.**
- 5) Each Friday (following the previous Tuesday's class discussion), a test link will be posted in the chat room.
- 6) Assignments **will still be turned in by e-mail to the instructor.**

Andy Robison will be the instructor. To register, send the following information to him at wvschoolofpreaching@gmail.com.

Name

Mailing Address

Gmail Address

Phone number.

You will then get an invitation to the chat room and be notified of all class happenings.

If you have any questions, please contact us at the above e-mail or by calling the office at 304-845-8001.

Work, Labor, Patience

by Andy Robison

When Paul, with Silvanus (Silas), and Timothy wrote the first epistle to the Thessalonian church, they were impressed with the faithfulness of the church through persecution. The Thessalonian church started with persecution from envious Jews (Acts 17:1-8). Some Jews, Greeks, and leading women of the city were persuaded (Acts 17:4) and this stirred up the angst of the Jews who wanted to keep their traditional status quo. They ran the missionaries out of town.

It is likely these incidents to which Paul obliquely refers in his statement that the Thessalonians had “received the word of God in much affliction (1 Thess. 1:6).

In the midst of several compliments regarding their steadfastness and evangelistic nature in chapter one, he specifically notes an intriguing trifecta—their “work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope” (1 Thess. 1:3).

Some have noted the parallel between 1 Corinthians 13:13. There, Paul is highlighting the virtues of love among brethren, prodding the Corinthians to exercise love rather than selfishness in the exercise of their gifts in the worship of the local church (in the broader context of 1 Corinthians 12-14). He speaks of how the temporary spiritual gifts which were miraculous would eventually fade, but faith, hope, and love would remain.

Some have also suggested a progression in this 1 Thessalonians 1:3 wording that suggests an increase in intensity. The work of faith is the beginning. Faith demands works; without works, faith is dead (James 2:14-26).

This one great truth has volumes written on it, deservedly so, for many say that works have nothing to do with faith. Even a subtle three-word reference like the one in this opening chapter of the Thessalonian epistle proves that it does. Sarcastically, James challenged, “Show me your faith without your works...” (James 2:18). Such can’t be done.

If there is going to be faith, it must be accompanied by works, behavior, and obedience

The Thessalonians started with a “work of faith,” but then progressed to a “labor of love.” When persecution makes life difficult, it is no longer enough to simply obey; work becomes laborious in the face of opposition.

That then, progressed to the “patience of hope.” Labor requires patience when there is no immediate relief from the opposition and trials one encounters.

The tentacles of the pandemic are far-reaching, testing the physical capacity of individuals and patience of the populace. Christians are not immune from the disease, the grief, the divisive politics. Many sorrow like they’ve not sorrowed before in their lifetimes. It is not uncommon to hear the expression, even from the eldest, “I’ve not seen anything like this before.”

It might be good, therefore, to take a reminder from the early Christians that not only is steadfastness possible through such circumstances, abounding can still be a goal. Later in the first chapter, following that trifecta, Paul compliments as being joyfully exemplary in evangelism:

And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything (1 Thess. 1:6-8).

There is no need—and really, no excuse—to wait until trials pass before resuming zealous activity in the cause of saving souls. Though not easy, hearts must be stalwart and encouraged to exercise the “patience of hope.”

Student Spotlights

By Andy Robison



Mike Bisson, born in Ravenna, Ohio and raised in Streetsboro, Ohio, served in the United States Marine Corps towards the end of the Viet Nam War. Versatile, he worked in many areas, including combat photographer. After leaving the Marine Corps he worked at different newspapers as a printer and drove truck some.

Mike and his wonderful wife, Charlotte (Lively) have been married for almost twenty-eight years. When they both retired in January 2020, Mike was free to finally pursue his desire of learning more about the Lord's word so that he could be more helpful in the many preaching and teaching opportunities he was receiving.

He has been enrolled as a student here on a "sort-of, almost" full-time basis. He takes three-four classes per quarter—auditing some and taking others for credit. One can tell by observation that he thoroughly enjoys being in the Bible-learning atmosphere.

We enjoy having him around. His effusive positivity is a great influence on all of us—faculty, students, and staff alike.



Noah West grew up in Grafton, West Virginia, overcoming many obstacles in life with great optimism and tenacity. During his time in school, he attended our Future Preacher Training Camp several years, and always shined with his Bible knowledge and ability to present a lesson. His personality also won him many friends.

A graduate of Grafton High School, Noah came here relatively young, but with much promise. His knowledge of the Scriptures was apparent even in everyday conversation. He is studious and teachable, taking suggestions well, learning, and growing.

Growing up in the Wilson Ridge congregation near Grafton, Noah developed a love for spending time with not only his physical family, but also his spiritual family in the church. He is also an avid reader.

Noah is on course to graduate in June 2022. We have much confidence, Lord willing, in the good he can do as a minister of the Gospel of Christ. He loves to teach and preach; he wants souls to be saved.

Presently, Noah is preaching about every Sunday, as well as doing some regular work with the church in Carrollton, Ohio.

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Thank you!

News

The 27th Annual Victory Lectures, held October 24-28 at the school, were highly successful. The attendance was good all week, but Monday and Tuesday were especially high, perhaps the most the lectureship has ever seen. We had visitors from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Alabama, and Texas, at least. There were online viewers from other countries.

The lectures, our fourth in a series on the Psalms, can be viewed on our website, wvsop.com, under the Victory Lectures tab. A book is available with the manuscript lessons. We work on a donation basis. About \$25 covers the cost of the book as well as shipping, with maybe a little left over.

Our next big event is Graduation, scheduled for Friday, June 17. We hope many will make plans to attend.

2021 Lectureship Books are Available!

***We ask a \$25 donation for book
and shipping.***

***Call 304-845-8001 or e-mail:
secwvsop@aol.com***

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Thank you!