



# *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).

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

Come join us for the

## GRADUATION OF

June 13, 2025

6:00 p.m.



*\*Charge  
to the  
Graduate:  
D.J. Curry*



**Jonathan D. Hescht**

**Also, honoring:**



For their long, faithful service to the Hillview Terrace church of Christ  
and the West Virginia School of Preaching

**Dave and Betty (1939-2022) Magers**

# A Jolting Invitation

Andy Robison

Did God ever refuse to let people come to Him? Interesting question, isn't it? It carries extreme implications about the mercy and righteousness of all-loving, all-good, almighty, all-knowing God.

The answer, though, is easy and obvious. Matthew 3 summarizes and highlights the career of God's chosen forerunner of Christ—John the Baptist. He lived an unattractive lifestyle in the wilderness, yet people came to hear him. When they did, he preached, they confessed their sins, and he baptized them. When the Pharisees and Sadducees came to his baptism, however, his words were more of rebuke than invitation, at least at first. As they approached, he met them with these words: "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Matthew 3:7). This does not exactly resemble the prayerful plea so often associated with modern preaching. He welcomed them to services by calling them snakes, then indicated the wrath of God was all but upon them.

His rebuke did finally turn into an invitation, though the cutting harshness of his truthful words was not diminished. "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." (Matthew 3:8-10). The invitation, notice, was not a plea to merely "give their hearts to Jesus;" it was a bold call to action. The Pharisees and Sadducees were required to change their wrong ways before God would accept them.

Luke 3 amplifies the account of John's bold preaching of repentance. When some of the tax collectors came to be baptized, John in-

structed them to collect no more than what was due them (a practice unusual for the ill-reputed publicans of the day). When soldiers asked, they were told to not abuse their military powers. When the general population asked, they were instructed to be generous to one another (Luke 3:10-14). Coming to God involved a change of heart and mind *and action*. It still does.

Yes, God refuses to accept those who do not change their lifestyles to conform to His will. "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3). God still demands the whole of persons be converted to Him, with all practices, ambitions, and desires being willfully and submissively brought under the control of the Creator. Otherwise, His word instructs and elucidates, He will not accept them.

(Luke 6:46) ""But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"

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# 2025 Lectureship

## October 19-23, 2025

This October will mark, Lord willing, the 31st Annual Victory Lectures hosted by the West Virginia School of Preaching. The announced study will cover Genesis 12-50.

In 2011, the Lectures were focused on Genesis 1-11. That rich material is available on recordings and the book in pdf form at <https://wvsop.com/2011-victory-lectures/>. Students of Genesis know well the reason for the breaking point between chapters 11 and 12. Genesis 1-11 tells about the beginnings of the world and the beginning of sin, as well as the need for a plan of redemption. Genesis 12 starts with God calling Abraham to form a new nation through whom the Christ would come.

The rest of the book, then, is given to the ups and downs of human nature, highlighting how God continued to work through his people even when things became very problematic. It is a testament to God's power as well as a provision of the history of some great examples of faith.

The study promises to be full and edifying. Every section of text from Genesis 12-50 is assigned to a fine Gospel preacher who is asked to cover it in an expository manner. The preachers are, at the writing of this newsletter, busy getting their manuscripts ready for the book. The way the lectureship committee has designed the books through the years, the end product comes out being much like a commentary on the particular book of the Bible.

You may contact the office for more information.

### Dedication:

This year, the lectureship committee has decided to dedicate the book to

### Phil & Darleen Grear



Phil and Darleen have been positively impacting the kingdom of God in this area all their lives. They've been married over fifty years and Phil has been preaching over fifty years. The number of souls impressed by their quiet, humble service in so many ways is beyond human measurement. We wish to thank them formally and invite you to join us on this special occasion.

We invite you to join us on Tuesday of the lectures, October 21, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. to honor them. (As we get closer, we will ask for an RSVP by calling the office.)

Please plan to join us for the lectures and this special dedication!



## Sing and Pie Fling

August 29, 2025

Singing: 7-8 p.m.

Dessert: 8-???

## Commentaries Available

We have been blessed to handle our dear brother Gene West's commentaries. These are available (with requested donation prices noted; extra for shipping is appreciated, also.

**Acts (\$20)**

**Hebrews (\$20)**

**Romans (\$20)**

**Revelation (\$25)**

## Lectureship Books Available

From 2019-2023

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