



## *The Lord's Mountain Mover's* **NEWSLETTER**

*"If you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."*  
(Matt. 17:20)

March 2015

Issue 0017

### **What is Your GPA?**

Of course my great concern is not how well you are doing, or have done, in school. My great concern is not what your Grade Point Average is, but what your Growth Potential Attitude is!

In school we studied and strove to attain the highest grades we could. All of our academic course grades were added together and then divided by the number of courses to give us our GPA (Grade Point Average) over the semester, school year, or through our academic career. The problem with these GPA's is that they can be deceiving. There are some teachers or classes that grade on what is called a "curve." It works like this. A test will be given to each student in the class and then the tests are graded. Instead of using a perfect score of 100% as the threshold, the test with the highest score will be the threshold and all the other grades will be measured off of it. This type of grading awards students according to their peers and not according to what should be attained.

**NEWS FLASH!** God does not grade on a curve. Scripture clearly points out that Christ is our example to follow, not another man or woman. Our goal is holiness, nothing less, and by the way there is nothing more.

The apostle Paul warns us about comparing ourselves to others in his second letter to the Corinthians, "*For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.*" (2 Corinth. 10:12 NASB) Notice Paul's assessment of those who compare themselves with others, "*they are without understanding.*" In the King James Version it is translated, "*are not wise.*" I don't have to tell you what the flip side of being wise is called.

Just as those grades we get based on "curve-grading" can be deceptive, so can our self-evaluation of ourselves as Christians when we grade ourselves against so-and-so. Christ is our ultimate model of what we are to attain to and strive for. We can see the Christ-likeness in others and follow their example and that is a good thing. The Apostle Paul also wrote, "*Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*" Notice that he says, "*Be imitators of me*", he does not say, "Evaluate yourselves according to me." He is pointing to how he imitates Christ because Christ is his goal as He should be our goal also.

So next time you look to someone else to evaluate where you are as a Christian, stop! Let's not be unwise in who we are. Using someone else as our standard will create a false sense of attainment leading to unfulfilled potential and a poor attitude about our possibilities and God's standard for all Christians. If God has called us to holiness and Christ-likeness, then we should believe it is possible. Let's make sure our GPA (Growth Potential Attitude) is that of God's. Are you "all-in?"

In His service,  
Pastor Pete

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## THE WORD IN MOTION message

In last month's issue we began a series of messages based on the things that Jesus spoke while hanging on the cross. As I said last month, the fact of where these things were said is as powerful as the person who is saying them. Reading the words of Jesus and picturing Him nailed to the cross in an unspeakable condition helps to bury these truths deep within my heart and bring them out in my daily life.

Lesson one dealt with forgiveness in the midst of the pain and anguish. That forgiveness is not something we offer when we feel like it, but when it is needed the most. It dealt with the knowledge that those who act in ignorance need to know God and experience forgiveness if they are ever to change their ways. This month, in lesson two, we move on to the next truth that Jesus spoke while hanging on the cross.

### **Lesson Two** (Luke 23:39-43)

Jesus was not crucified alone. There were two other men who had received the same sentence. These two men hung on crosses, one on the right of Jesus and the other on the left. One of the criminals blasphemed Jesus, saying, *"If you are the Christ, save yourself and us."* The other criminal rebuked him, saying, *"Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we received the due reward for our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."* The man who had just rebuked the other then turned to Jesus and said, *"Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."* Jesus' response was, *"Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise."*

Jesus was teaching us of our assurance of immortality, life after death, a hope beyond this life and all its experiences. A life with Christ, eternal, where there is neither pain nor sorrow.

Jesus had spoken about His pending death and resurrection several times. He had demonstrated this power over death when He raised the widow's son, Jairus' twelve-year-old daughter, and His friend Lazarus. Jesus also taught about life after death in some of His parables. Parables that explained His future return. What it would be like for those who were busy about the things concerning the kingdom of God. He even taught about the separating of the sheep from the goats, the goats on His left and the sheep on His right. How prophetic that there were two criminals, one on His left and the other on His right. I have often wondered if it was the man on His left that blasphemed Him and the man on His right who received the promise of paradise.

Why was this one man given this promise? I see at least three reasons based on the things he said. The first, and I believe the foremost, was that he feared God. Remember what he said to the other criminal, *"Do you not even fear God."* He had some personal knowledge of God and the power He possessed. He may have even realized that there was another judgment to come, one way beyond what he was presently experiencing. It was a judgment where he would need Jesus to remember him in a favorable manner. This man's focus was also on what laid ahead of him, a hope for the future over relief from the present. He needed and wanted God's mercy.

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The second reason is that he realized that he was receiving the just punishment for the crime he had committed. He knew full well that he did not deserve relief from the consequences of his sin. He accepted this physical punishment and looked at the Man hanging next to him and realized the difference between them. How he must have contemplated Jesus' attitude about receiving this same sentence, and not crying out against the injustice being done to Him.

Lastly, this man realized who was hanging on the cross next to him. He knew that He was a king, and that He had a kingdom. The man also knew Jesus' position over him when he called him, "*Lord.*" This man seemed to set aside all the agony he was enduring and focus on what was to come, and to receive the very promise he asked for, "*Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.*"

So why did he receive the promise of being with Jesus in paradise? He had a healthy fear of God, he realized that he was a sinner and deserved what he was getting, and he knew that the innocent man hanging next to him could resolve his current condition and his eternal destination.

The question we are left with here is, which criminal are we? Do we question the power and deity of Christ? Do we mock or blaspheme the sacrifice of Christ? Do we seek relief from our earthly judgment, forgetting the judgment to come; the judgment that has eternal ramifications? Do we hang the word "if" in front of our confession and say "if" you are the Christ? Do we predicate our prayers and lives with, "if" you hear me, "if" you love me, and so on? "If" is a profession of doubt, uncertainty, and distrust. It is literally and spiritually the expression of unbelief.

Or are we like the other criminal, the one who feared God? The one who recognized the innocence of Christ and the guilt of himself? Are we focused on the future eternal judgment and asking Jesus, our Savior to remember us? Are we looking for the same promise that he received? Do we acknowledge Christ as our Lord and believe that we have a place in His kingdom awaiting us? Are we asking Him right now, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom?"

What is the condition of our heart today? When we, or someone else, are in the midst of suffering, justly or unjustly, remember that what we are enduring is only temporary? Can you be encouraged and encourage others with the hope of eternal life with Christ, where there is no more suffering ever again?

My prayer for you this month is simple. If you have not realized the three things this man did, then I pray that the Holy Spirit will do His work in your heart so you may receive the same promise this criminal and all true believers have. If you have already received this promise, then I pray that you will place great value in what you have received and be driven to share it with those who have not. God bless you all as He continues to reveal Himself to you.

In His service

Pastor Pete

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## BE A BARNABAS (Acts 4:36)

*“The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want.”* Proverbs 13:25

There was a time in my life as a new believer I seemed to be blessed more than the average person. I was newlywed, had started a business and was slowly building up a cache of stuff. It seemed the more money I made, the more things I wanted and felt that I needed to have. I was never satisfied, so once I got one thing that I desired, I would then find many more things to desire. Stuff was my motivation to achieve. You probably have heard the saying, “keeping up with the Jones’.” Well, I certainly couldn’t keep up no matter how hard I tried.

Paul shares this idea with us like this, *“But godliness with contentment is great gain.”* 1 Timothy 6:6

Christ has taught me, through the word combined with life’s experiences, to be content. This is something that the world has a hard time understanding. I think even more so here in the United States. Our culture here is really good at convincing people that our measurement of success is based on our physical possessions and our employment status among other things. But the wisdom of God reveals that when we work to get rich, we will wear ourselves out. That in trying to get rich, we will stumble and sin more than we would normally.

Commercialization seems to have taken over just about every aspect of our daily lives. It is up to us, whether or not these things will have a strong influence on us. Striving towards godliness will help us guard our hearts from the temptation of physical things controlling our lives. God doesn’t just give us a restriction from desire, but something to replace those desires with.

After going through a divorce and losing my own company, God has shown me what is really important. Godliness. He changed my focus and He changed my desires as I was washed and regenerated by the word. Losing everything was a painful thing to go through, but I have learned that I am far better off now than I ever was before. God can give and He can take away. When He does this, He is using it to transform us into the image of His Son. He is shaping and molding our lives so people around us can see Christ.

*“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”*

Be blessed in Him,

*Brother Daniel Rodney*

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### Word's of Wisdom

Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, cost you more than you want to pay.

Anyone who is reading this knows what sin has taken from us. We who know this have to turn away from what we still keep doing. Allow God to change your heart, thinking, and attitude. When you let God in, and let Him take control of your life He will bless you with all of the riches in heaven.

May God bless you,

Brother Ron White



### *Our Prayer Requests for God's Children*

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ who receive our newsletter through the mail. Due to financial constraints we have to revise the way we do our prayer requests. Starting with this issue we will be posting and maintaining all prayers requested on the Internet so your brothers and sisters all over can continue to pray for your petitions and praise God for the ones He has already answered. For those receiving mailed copies you will be getting all the prayer additions for the month with each newsletter. You can keep the copy of the prayer requests from past issues to continue in vigilant prayer.

We are encouraged by the work that God has already done through so many people praying for the needs of those they do not even know. What a privilege we have to go before the throne of God with our requests and the requests of others. Let's keep praying and seeking His will for our lives and the lives of others. If you have a prayer request you would like added to next month's newsletter and/or posted on the ministry website please fill out the form below and mail it to us. We look forward to hearing from you and standing in the gap as a prayer warrior.

### March's Prayer List

R. White .....That the Lord will open doors for suitable housing upon his being paroled.

Alice S.....Chesapeake VA – prayer for personal issues.

Sheila.....Prayer for her health issues, finances, and God's direction for personal decisions.

Greg.....Praise report; God is in control, using me, and I am being blessed by Him. Woo Hoo!

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Helen &  
Hazel C.....Prayer for their dialysis treatments and recovery from health issues.

Kenny J. ....Requests prayer for living arrangements upon parole.

Gabriel S .....His mom, Rosie needs prayer for recovery from health issues.

Stephen.....Prayer for change in career course.

Justin .....Praise report; finished EMT school and looking for work.

Joshua.....Continued prayer for personal issues.

The C.U.R.E...Prayer for God's guidance and provision.

Greg F .....Prayer for answered prayer in his period of fasting.

J. Jackson .....Needs prayer for his court appeal and his family members. Also for F. Cruz – that he will have God in his life.

The Lord's Mountain Movers - Prayer request

Person requesting prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Place request on Ministry website  Yes  No

Place request in Newsletter  Yes  No

(Use back of request if necessary. You can also use blank paper)

The Lord's Mountain Movers - Prayer request

Person requesting prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Place request on Ministry website  Yes  No

Place request in Newsletter  Yes  No

(Use back of request if necessary. You can also use blank paper)