



Grace Baptist Church, Troy, NY

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ISSUE 21

the Soulwinner

ONE SOUL AT A TIME

Mark 15:16 – King James Version 1611

Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature

Promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Inner City

Illustration, photography, graphic design and journalism by Jim Robinson

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Faith—The Evidence of Things Not Seen

David's Faith In Accepting Goliath's Challenge

There is probably no greater and popular account in the Bible of courage and honor than the story of David and Goliath ([1 Samuel 17](#)). And the one element that makes it even greater is the matter of the *faith* of David in God.

While King Saul was leading his men in the battle against the Philistines in the Valley of Elah, a giant of his enemy came out. The giant's name was Goliath. Goliath challenged the whole Hebrew army to choose a man to fight with him. He said that if the Hebrew wins then the Philistines would be Saul's servants. If he won, however, then the Hebrews would be his servants. The giant presented himself every day with this challenge.

While the army was at a stand still, a young lad named David who was the son of Jesse, had his brothers there on the front line. His father told him to bring cheeses to them and to see how they fared. So David left behind his sheep, for he was a shepherd, and went to see his brothers. When he got to the war line, he saw Goliath come out with the challenge. And David told Saul he would fight with Goliath. Saul disregarded David because of his size, but David pleaded that he had protected his sheep from lions and bears with his sling. So Saul let him go. And David took no weapon other than the sling he had used for his sheep. Saul offered David his armor but David refused it.

When Goliath approached the line, David went out to him. He cursed David and mocked him, but David ran up to Goliath and slung the stone at him. The stone hit Goliath in the forehead, and the giant came tumbling down. Then David took



David and Goliath, color pencil by Jim Robinson. David, just a youth, was *sure* he could conquer Goliath, even when all the other soldiers feared Goliath. [Order print.](#)

Goliath's own sword and cut off his head with it. And King Saul rewarded David with his daughter as a wife.

How was David so sure that he could conquer a giant as big and fierce as Goliath when his bigger brothers and the other army men were afraid of him? David was very close to God as a shepherd, and he was obedient to his father. His closeness to God had built a faith in him, and he was *sure* when God gave him lead to do something. Although the Bible does not say it, God must have spoke to David's heart and told him to challenge Goliath, and David's success with the lions and bears that threatened his sheep fold gave him great courage. And so God had built David's faith, and, as a result, he conquered the giant for Israel.

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Are Angels Still Here Today?

How The Angelic Host Helps the Christian

Angels are ministers of God for man ([Psalm 104:4](#)) and they have appeared many times in the Bible to help or warn man. Has there been an angelic host on the earth since the Bible times, and if so what have they done for us? Do angels help us on an individual basis?

In the same way angelic hosts helped God's people in wars in Bible times, I believe that there were angels on the front lines in all of the major US wars. God loved America enough that He sent His ministers to help us. An angel often comes as a simple stranger ([Hebrews 13:2](#)), and I would imagine he is in-transit. Angels are men, not women, and they do not have wings.

One way we can begin to understand angels in an effort to be aware of their presence, if that is even possible (because the Bible says we entertain them unawares), is to look at angels in the Bible. Very often they came as messengers, as you can see from one of the most important messages of the great angel Gabriel to Mary in [Luke 1:26-38](#) about the birth of Jesus. In other times of the Bible, the messenger angels came with Jesus himself such as the case of Abraham in [Genesis](#)

[18:1-21](#) when the angels came to warn him about the destruction of Sodom. Sometimes Jesus is referred to as an angel. When Moses was at the burning bush with the angel in [Exodus 3:1-8](#) Jesus was the one talking to him.

Sometimes angels came for a watchman such as the one placed in east of Eden to watch the garden after Adam was expelled in [Genesis 3:24](#). Other times angels came to destroy man, such as the angel that had Herod eaten of worms after he made an oration in [Acts 12:20-25](#) and the people said that he was god. Considering all these instances of angels in the Bible, when might an angel come in our life?

I believe firmly that many times we could have had a detrimental accident, such as a car crash, but an angel deterred it. And when we do have that accident the angel makes it not as bad as it could have been. I believe angels protect us when we walk places from robbers or other detriments. I believe angels protect our homes and children. There are many instances, if you look intently, when there is a possibility of angels in our lives.



“If Any Would Not Work, Neither Should He Eat”

The Importance of Labor for the Christian

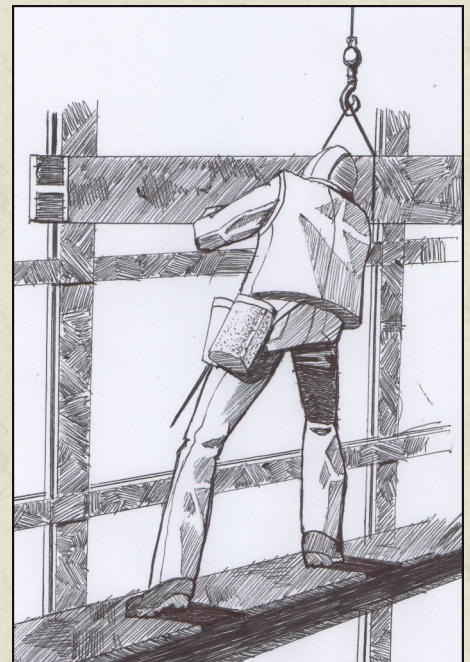
When God created Adam, he put him in the Garden of Eden to keep it ([Genesis 2](#)). Although the work Adam did in the garden was not grievous, God intended man to work since the beginning of time. It was the sin of Adam that made his work grievous ([Genesis 3:17](#)). Today we have to toil an 8-hour day to maintain our household, and there still never seems to be enough. Unless a man comes from a wealthy family or he obtains a large sum of money, he is most likely going to have to work until his retirement age, as is the case for most of us. Sometimes people work smart instead of hard and they often walk away with more than the toiling working class, as would be the case with the middle class. But, in general, most people today have to work to maintain a household, as Paul reminded us in [2 Thessalonians 3:10](#).

Labor unions in the United States gave greater dignity to the working class by negotiating better wages and benefits. Without a working class, nothing would be built or manufactured, nor matter how

noble the wealthy leadership class is. Many jobs, like the ironworker shown here, were given status based on risk, as an ironworker generally makes more on the hour the higher he goes on the building.

There was a time, (and even today in foreign countries) when workers were exploited in factories, including the abomination of child labor. It led to the rise of laws that protect adults and children and the passing of a minimum wage law. Some would say, however, that the current minimum wage in America is not enough to live on, especially when the worker is raising children.

Since God ordained work at the creation of man, it still stands as an ordinance with Him that we work this day 6,000 years later—even if the work is grievous. Most working class people will tell you that if you keep at it you will eventually succeed in life. And that is even more true if you're saved and serving God.



The working class built America in industrial plants, construction and service industries. God always blesses hard work.



William DeFreest Is Laid to Rest March 7, 1935 to February 12, 2013

Mr Bill DeFreest, a former member of Grace Baptist Church in Troy, NY (shown here), passed away at the age of 78 . He was survived by his former wife and 13 children. Funeral services were held at the Sandvige Funeral Home in Lansingburg Troy.

Mr. DeFreest entered the Navy when he was a young man and he was a cab driver in Albany for many years. Mr. DeFreest resided in the Capital District of NY area at around the time of his death.

I always knew Bill to have laughter when I saw him. Bill suffered from illnesses that put him in a wheelchair towards the end of his life. He was a soul winner and a church goer. Bill's life verse was: *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6)*. May he find peace in his new home in heaven.

False Prophets and Teachers The Last Days Would Be Filled With Heresies

Some people may commonly ask, "Why do 'Men of God' do such wicked things?" The answer to that question comes in two parts.

Firstly, which God (or god) are you referring to? Men like David Koresh who trapped his following into a building that was ripped through and burned by the American government and many (if not all) of his subjects were killed—that kind of man has a different god. Other false prophets claim the God of the King James Bible and wrest the scripture to suit their agendas.

Secondly, the Bible foretold us, and Jesus said himself, that in the Last Days there would be many false prophets, such as in [2 Corinthians 11:1-15](#) and [Matthew 24:1-28](#). It should be of no surprise to the Christian that these false prophets would rise to create a following of people and abuse them. Jim Jones did that when he had his entire following drink a poisonous cool aid. And there will be many more.

You can see then why it is important that when you select a church to go to the pastor have some sort of good reputation in the community and be commonly known.



The Bible is a *sword* that can be used to fight Satan, but how often have men wrested the scripture to suit their own agendas? [Order print.](#)

One Right Protects the Other Nine The Voice of the Baptists Gave America Its Greatest Rights

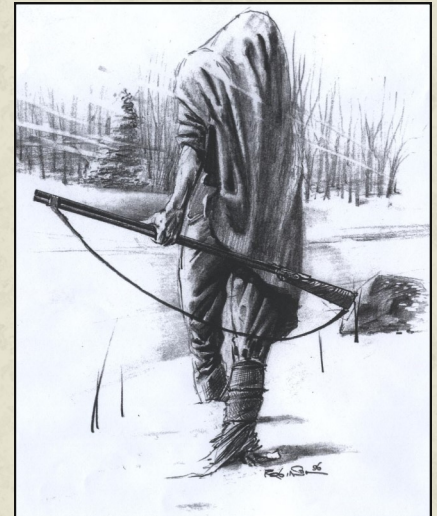
When the Constitution was being formed with the wisdom of our forefathers, they all had a fear of God regardless of their religions [1]. They all agreed that the most important element to the freedom of our new country was the rights that would be protected by the federal government as well as the individual. It was the firearm that the individual had and that he was responsible with that would protect his rights, his home and his family. The day that the government interfered with those rights would be the day that America would start to fall apart, and it might also be the start of a civil war. Americans would not let the government be a tyranny, as was afforded them by the second amendment.

The matter of religion in America was originally addressed by our forefathers by permitting certain Christian churches and excluding others to prevent the persecution of Europe. But it was the Baptists that convinced James Madison to represent them in their plea for the *Freedom of Religion* [1].

And the institution of the Second Amendment would prevent persecution simply with a firearm. This Second Amendment (the right to bear arms) would then protect all of the other 9 rights, especially the First Amendment which is the right to the freedom of religion, speech and the press [1].

The Baptist people had suffered the greatest forms of persecution in Europe at the hand of the Catholic church during the Dark Ages. Then called Anabaptists, they suffered for over 1,000 years from 500 AD to 1500 AD at the pope's whim from his inquisitions where he directed the mass murder of over 100 million of Bible-believing people. America became a safe haven for the Baptist as well as many other groups of people being persecuted for their faith. And we have since been known as a free country. How long we will retain these values of our forefathers remains to be seen.

[1] John Koletas— *The True Reason Behind Gun Control*



The Minuteman, pencil by Jim Robinson. While the British parted, George Washington's army crossed the Valley Forge and attacked them by surprise and were victorious; however, many Minutemen froze to death in the Revolutionary War. [Order print.](#)



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