

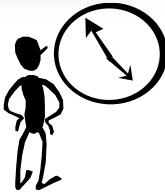
## THE BATTLE CREEK BULLETIN

### Inside this issue:

<i>What America Needs</i>	1
<i>Just Telling What I Feel</i>	3
<i>God's Promises to the Faithful</i>	3
<i>A.M. Sermon Outline:</i>	4
<b>Do Not Drink</b>	
Duty Rosters	7
Announcements & For the Record	8



### Time of Assembly



<b>Sunday:</b>	
Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.
(Or every other week)	
Bible Study	4:00 p.m.
Worship	5:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday:</b>	
Bible Study	7:00 p. m.

## What America Needs

By Ken Weliever

During the past couple of days, I've been listening to politicians, political pundits, and experts from various fields discuss the "why" of the recent school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, that snuffed out the lives of 19 innocent little children.

This occurred just 10 days after a gunman went on a shooting rampage at a Tops supermarket in Buffalo, New York, where 10 people were shot and killed whose only crime was going grocery shopping.

### **Why are there so many of these mass shootings in America?**

Of course, the point is made that in some of our larger cities, murder is a common occurrence every weekend. According to Chicago Police, 178 people have been killed in 2022 through the end of April.

Why? And what can we do to stop these senseless crimes?

Predictably, calls are made for stricter gun laws. Many have said we have a mental health crisis in America that needs to be addressed. Others suggest more armed security officers in schools and even allowing teachers to carry guns. Most are demanding hardening soft targets like schools.

While there is some validity to all the various reasons and suggestions given by the experts, our problems go beyond gun control, mental health, or greater security.

### **So, what's the answer?**

I could not help but reflect on a statement made by our 30th President Calvin Coolidge in his 1921 commencement address at Wheaton College.

"We do not need more material development, we need more spiritual development, we do not need more intellectual power, we need more moral power. We do not need more knowledge; we need more character. We do not need more government; we need more culture. We do not need more

laws; we need more religion. We do not need more of the things that are seen; we need more of the things that are unseen.”

## **We are facing a spiritual crisis in our country.**

The farther people get away from God and the precepts and principles of His Word, the more wicked, corrupt, and lawless they become. This can be seen all the way back to Genesis when “*every intention and thoughts of man’s heart was evil continually*” (Genesis 6:5). The sad state of moral putridity during the period of the Judges is encapsulated in a single statement, “*Everyone did what was right in his own eyes*” (Judges 21:25).

We live in a country of broken homes where there is no moral guidance from a father and a mother. Where same-sex marriage is celebrated. Where the sanctity of human life is devalued. Where 63 million babies have been murdered since 1973 when Roe v Wade became law. Where there are more pornographic websites than McDonalds. Where drug and alcohol abuse are rampant. Where God is mocked. And where Christianity is ridiculed.

Add to this the incessant drumbeat over the past 50-60 years that there are no moral absolutes. That Truth is decided by what’s best for me and that your truth may not be my truth. And the humanistic view that religious considerations should be excluded from civil affairs and public education.

Mix in these issues, the problem of insolation, loneliness, devaluing social interaction and relationships, and an inordinate amount of time looking at a screen, and here we are today.

Bill Bennett’s observation in his 1990’s best-seller, “The Book of Virtues,” is more applicable than ever. “I submit to you that the real crisis of our time is spiritual.” Furthermore, Bennett asserts “A human being without faith, without reverence for anything, is a human being morally adrift.”

There is no doubt that America needs a course correction. Of course, in an election year, we’re assured electing the right candidate will solve our problems. But as Cal Thomas once wrote in *Christianity Today*, “Real change comes heart by heart, not election by election, because our primary problems are not economic and political, but moral and spiritual.”

While the tone of the post, may sound rather bleak and our problems insurmountable, there is help. And there is hope.

It begins in my heart. My home. My community. And my church. I cannot solve all the problems of the world, but I can be accountable to God. Take personal responsibility. Commit to Biblical values. And do my best each day to practice the Golden Rule and the two great commandments.

You and I may not change our country, but we can change our own little corner of the world.

## Just Telling What I Feel

By Doy Moyer

That our culture has been trained to act more on feelings than objective truth and reality is evident in so many ways that it hardly needs proving. The outbursts of anger, the murders, the sexual abuses, the lack of civility, the completely irrational denials of reality, and more are ever before us and do not seem to be waning. Feelings have overtaken facts; it is more important that we do not hurt feelings (as defined by ... feelings) than that we deny truth and reality.

Unfortunately, the feelings-over-truth paradigm is also found among believers in God. We define what it means to glorify God by what we like and feel rather than allowing God to define what He wants. This is evident in the worship-for-entertainment industry. Some seem to be more interested in being rock stars for Christ than humbly submitting to God's expressed will.

Humility must control feelings. Feelings can be arrogant, selfish, and demanding of others. What matters is what I feel. Me. Not you. Me. Humility, however, constrains and limits how we allow our feelings to outweigh the need to submit to God and others. *"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves"* (Phil 2:3). This is the mind of Christ.

Feelings are not a proper source of truth. We may feel otherwise, but then we have entered the vicious circle of defining truth by our own desires. That lie can be traced back to the garden. When we allow that to happen, then we will inevitably let the flesh take over the Spirit.

Herein is the difference between letting our feelings take precedence over truth and vice versa: *"For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit"* (Romans 8:5 — really, the whole chapter; and while you're at it, the two previous chapters ... and the whole book).

What will define your actions today? The flesh (your feelings) or the Spirit (God's will)? Feelings are very good followers, not leaders, of truth, but we must first give way to that Truth in Christ so that our feelings will do what they were actually meant to do. Therein will we be set free from sin (John 8:31ff).

---

## God's Promises to the Faithful

By Matthew W. Bassford

No matter how many times I read the Bible, I always find something new in it. Nor are these discoveries subtle or inconsequential. Often, they are magnificent!

So it was with this week's Bible reading. I'm familiar with Revelation. I've

*(Continued on page 6)*

---

*(Continued from page 3)*

taught it several times and read it many more. However, never before had I paid attention to Revelation 7:16-17.

Part of this is formatting. The NASB95, which is the translation I keep in my head, sets those two verses in prose. Yesterday, however, I read out of the CSB, and it divides the text into poetic parallels. Wow! What a difference! (This, by the way, is a great reason to read from multiple translations. Different renderings and even different formatting can help us see different things.)

Anyway, here's the way the CSB reads:

“They will no longer hunger;  
they will no longer thirst;  
the sun will no longer strike them,  
nor will any scorching heat.  
For the Lamb who is at the center of the throne will shepherd them;  
he will guide them to springs of the waters of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation has the reputation of being forceful rather than beautiful, but that's purely gorgeous! Contextually, this applies to the multitude that has come out of the great tribulation, but it is a promise for all Christians to cherish.

Indeed, it's a promise that I cherish. I suffer now, but I know that God never has promised any Christian that life on earth will be free from suffering. In John 16:33, He promises the opposite. Thus, my life now gives me no reason to doubt His faithfulness.

Rather, I endure, and I anticipate the fulfillment of His promises in the life to come. On that day, I will neither hunger nor thirst. God will provide for my most basic needs, and He will fulfill all the others too. Likewise, neither the sun nor scorching heat will strike me. God will shelter me from all external oppression.

The next verse explains why I will receive all these blessings. I love the image here! In this life, human shepherds shepherd sheep. In the life to come, the Lamb will shepherd us.

As with the divine shepherd of Psalm 23, He will lead us to water, but the spring to which He will bring us flows with the water of life. I long for this so much that it hurts! My illness is incurable and terminal. I often have thought about what it would be like to go to Jesus in the days of His ministry and be healed even of this. However, the day will come when He will heal me completely, body and soul.

That day will be as free from sorrow as it is from sickness. God Himself will dry my tears, as He will dry all the tears of the righteous. I struggle to comprehend this. How can it be that we no longer will be grieved even by the memory of sorrow? Perhaps the answer lies in 2 Corinthians 4:17. As we dwell in the midst of God's glory, every earthly affliction will fade into insignificance.

This hope is the only thing that sustains me or could sustain me, on my journey. Without the promises of God, I am a pitiable wretch. With them, suffering only sharpens my focus on my reward.