

KANSAS COMMUNITIES MINISTRY UPDATE

"My objective is to know Christ in my own life in ever-increasing depth and to make disciples and develop laborers at all times, under any conditions, in every place I go."

Psalm 32:7-8

"You are my hiding place; you protect me from distress. You surround me with shouts of joy from those celebrating deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you about how you should live. I will advise you as I look you in the eye." (NET Bible—used by permission)

Growth in Christlikeness

"My objective is to know Christ in my own life in ever-increasing depth..." This is the beginning of a statement adopted by the Kansas Navigators under the leadership of Jim Morris many years ago, and which still guides our lives. In part this means to come to a greater understanding of what it means to be "in Christ."

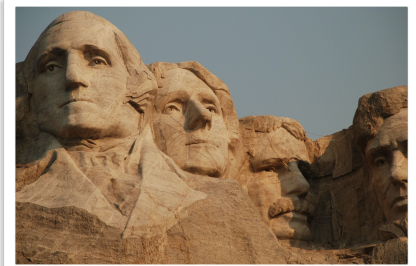
Many verses teach us that when we have believed in Jesus for eternal life, at that moment we are "in Christ." 2 Cor. 5:17: "So then, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation..." 2 Cor. 5:21: "God made the one who did not know sin [Jesus] to be sin for us, so that **in Him** we would become the righteousness of God."

He took our sin upon Himself and in exchange we received His righteousness. That mystery is great. But remember that exchanged life. We can live in newness of life because we are **in Him**.

The Biblical Response to Authority

by Richard Spann

Today is November 3, 2020. It is election day. It will be a greater turnout for voting than we have ever seen before. Many issues concerning our nation are before the voters. The personalities and their lives have been under close scrutiny by the press. We are told many things that will happen in the future to our country if the right people are not elected. A sense of anxiety and foreboding prevails among many.



In our country, we have the privilege of openly supporting candidates for office without fear of reprisal. The freedom to cast our vote is assured. Honesty in counting the votes and reporting is the norm. Over the centuries since society, cultures, and nations have existed, our situation is a rare privilege. Throughout the history of the world, kings, dictators, and tyrants have ruled with no regard for anyone but themselves. In the first several centuries after Christ, the Christians were scattered. They faced abuse and persecution from their own countrymen. Their nation was ruled by a foreign power. They were hunted down, imprisoned and many retreated to the catacombs. It was during these early years of the church that the Apostle Paul was used of the Lord to give direction to the church in regard to their response to the governing authorities. These principles are still relevant today. "The counsel of the LORD standeth forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations." (Psalm 33:11) KJV

The first of these principles is given to us in the letter to the Romans. "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities which exist have been established by God." (Romans 13:1) *(Continued on page three)*



Goads and Nails

Excerpt from *Goads and Nails*
Vol. 1, pp 105-107

"Do the Right Thing"

"People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered: forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives: be kind anyway..." – Mother Teresa

"Our spiritual walk may be hindered by others in at least three different ways. It may be through their criticism, their failures, or even their success.

"We have all been subject to the criticism of others. Even well-meaning remarks may divert us from the path to which we are called by the Lord. I have been advised, for example, that to share the Gospel of Christ with my patients would destroy my medical practice. Others have questioned the emphasis on individuals and suggested that more could be accomplished by focusing on a group ministry.

"Although criticism must be evaluated as to its validity, the strength we need to find in these times is in the Lord."

– Richard Spann

Kansas Communities Ministry

Living in Peace with One Another

by David Dennis

One family member votes for a particular candidate. The rest of the family strongly disagrees. Another family member is very concerned about Covid 19 while someone else takes Covid 19 less seriously and says, "God is in control. He'll protect me." Yet another member of the body of Christ feels the church isn't doing enough about "X" and other believers feel the emphasis should be on "Y." It seems conflicts tend to arise around the holidays, and this year it is likely to be even more pronounced. What does Scripture tell us about living in peace with one another in the body of Christ?

Here are some verses that have been instructive to me:

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil; consider what is good before all people. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all people." - (Rom 12:17-18). Paul is speaking to believers in Rome but also applying this to the believer's relationship with the world. We are to consider what is good and not repay evil (not argue back). What is good about the other person's viewpoint? What is their heart? Find the good and dwell on that. And ... we aren't responsible for other people's viewpoints or positions. "As far as it depends on you..." Focus on a loving, positive attitude toward others and leave the rest to God.

"Let the peace of Christ be in control in your heart (for you were in fact called as one body to this peace), and be thankful." - (Col 3:15). I can't achieve any real peace on my own. It is the peace of Christ which must be in control in my heart. How do I appropriate that peace on a practical basis? I walk by faith in Jesus, keeping my eyes on Him. I trust Jesus to live his life through me as I focus on Him.

"For the kingdom of God does not consist of food and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. For the one who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by people. So then, let us pursue what makes for peace and for building up one another." - (Rom 14:17-19). Do I focus on our disagreements over a political candidate or do I pursue the big picture of the kingdom of God? Do I pursue argument and demanding that everyone agree with me or do I pursue peace and the Holy Spirit? Let the little things go and major on God's kingdom, pursuing what makes for peace and for building up (edifying) the other person.

We pray that this Thanksgiving and Christmas season you can experience the peace that only Christ gives. John 16:33 reminds us that true peace is found only in Him!



The Biblical Response to Authority (continued from page one)

“Give everyone what you owe him: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.” (Romans 13:7) The spirit of grumbling and complaining is to be avoided, because ultimately it is God that we grumble about and to whom we complain. “Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.” (Philippians 2:14-16a) Living as light in a crooked and depraved generation, without complaining or arguing, is greatly used by the Lord as we hold out the word of life. It is in this setting that the Gospel is advanced. “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.” (I Peter 2:13-16) If there is a conflict, however, between the authorities and God, then we must answer as Peter and the other apostles did. “We must obey God rather than men!” (Acts 5:29b)

The second of these principles is given to us in I Timothy 2:1-4. “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives – in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” During Ronald Reagan’s presidency, my wife and I were invited to attend the Presidential Prayer breakfast in Washington DC. At one of our meetings, Dick Halverson, former Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, spoke to our small group. His message focused on this passage and he challenged us with the thought that, to some measure, the advancement of the Kingdom of God is dependent upon our faithfulness in prayer for the authorities. Our prayer, for example, for the president should be that the Lord would guide his decisions, his selection of those in the cabinet and direct (like a watercourse) his agenda for our country. We need to ask that the legislation and court decisions would be those which would glorify God and allow His work to continue in our country. We need to ask that the Lord would turn our country and its people to Him...

The third principle which is given to us throughout the scriptures, is that our trust is not in our governing authorities but in a sovereign God who rules over all authorities. This is what Isaiah saw during the days of absent and ineffective leadership of Judah and Jerusalem. “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.”...

Ray Stedman relates the following thoughts regarding the Lord’s control of authorities. “What was the best way to spread the Gospel in the first century? It was to appoint Emperor Nero as chairman of the committee to evangelize the Roman Empire!” Under his direction, two sons of Roman noblemen were chained to the Apostle Paul every six hours! Every twenty – four hours eight soldiers heard the Gospel. You might say that they were the captive audience! The effectiveness of this approach was such that entire legions (7,000 men) became followers of Christ during the first several centuries. Paul reflects this success in ministry with his comment in Philippians 4:22. “All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar’s household.” ...

The short journey that each of us has during this lifetime is one of preparation. Jerry Bridges once remarked that we, during this journey, are looking for comfort, whereas God is looking that we be conformed. God’s work in us is to conform us to the image of Christ. His work through us is to bring others to Christ and be used by him to transform their lives as well. During this journey, there are no accidents, only incidents. The Lord is in control of all circumstances, including any authority that will touch our lives, whether it is to our liking or not. (See the full blog on our website)

Spotlight on Online Resources

◆*Kansas Navigators Media:*

Dr. Jerry White shared in our Fall Conference in 2016 [three messages](#) on the topic of work and the worker entitled “Biblical View of Life in Christ.” These are very helpful and encouraging in our daily walk.



◆*Kansas Navigators blogs:*

You read an excerpt from Dr. Spann’s recent excellent blog in this newsletter, “A Biblical Response to Authority.” The complete blog is [found here](#). Check out all of his archived blogs on our www.kansasnavs.org website. You’ll be blessed!

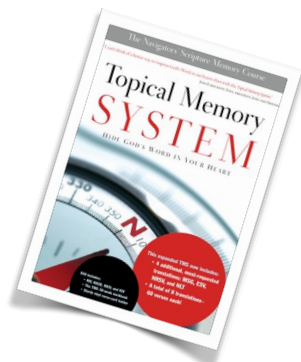
◆*Podcast “Making Disciples Naturally”*

We hope you are enjoying our current podcast series with Rev. Philip Wood. Following that, we interview Mr. Ken Ham, CEO of Answers in Genesis beginning December 19. He shares some thoughts on how we can disciple young people today. A complete index to all our podcasts is found [here on our website](#). We think you’ll be encouraged by these podcasts found on Apple Podcasts, iTunes, Overdrive, Spotify and [on our website](#).

Featured resource: Topical Memory System

by David Dennis

One of the best Scripture memory systems around, many in the Kansas Communities Ministry of the Navigators have used the Topical Memory System. The course encourages memorization of two verses weekly, initially focused on the Wheel Illustration (Christ the Center, Obedience to Christ, The Word, Prayer, Fellowship and Witnessing).



My wife and I recently started a TMS (Topical Memory System) class in our church. We meet every Sunday evening (at first in person but now via Zoom) for encouragement and accountability. We have six in our class. Realizing that God doesn’t want us just to memorize a bunch of words but rather to apply them and have them deeply change our lives, we complete and discuss a “meditation form” for each of the verses.

The verses are grouped in sessions that last 6 weeks long. This allows us to keep inviting new people to join us every six weeks to learn the next series of verses. This is very impactful and encouraging and we hope to find individuals who would want to continue to grow in a 1:1 discipling relationship out of this group.