

“We train disciplemakers...”



Important lessons in discipleship
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Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Is this the end?

Thoughts on current events in the Middle East and awaiting His return

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Is Genesis History?

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Leaving a mark or a blur - which will it be?

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Learning the important things in discipleship comes early

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Mark your calendars for our Spring Men's Retreat April 12-13, 2024 at Crosswind Conference Center. Special guest speaker is James Carter, Kansas City Ministry Director for The Navigators ©

Fall Conference Recap: A Praying Life

Our Fall Conference was attended by 80 people and was structured a bit differently this year. We had a Friday evening session and a Saturday morning session until about 12:30 pm. We also provided a hot breakfast for everyone for the purpose of having a longer time for fellowship and getting to know each other.

Via personal reports as well as a more formal post-conference survey we learned that people were very pleased and encouraged by the seminar this year. Some of the comments were: “Excellent content. The subject of prayer is very important and the speaker was very good.” “Great! We learned a lot and plan to share what we learned with some ladies here.” “Really enjoyed it and found it inspiring, especially the speaker’s stories about answered prayer.”



One of the main messages we learned was to simply be honest with God and realize that He is a good Father who loves us and wants to answer our prayers. It was also emphasized to track our prayers and see how God responds to them. This is very exciting as we learn to be alert and anticipating how He wants to work in our lives through prayer. Recordings (audio and video) are available for a limited time only at KansasNavs.org/media. **They will be removed at the end of the day November 30, 2023.**

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“But they [all who believe - vs. 22] are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”
—Romans 3:24 (NET Bible)

Is Genesis History?

This excellent documentary featuring Del Tackett examines the question of whether the book of Genesis reflects real events. What is the evidence that the flood was worldwide? What is the evidence that is seen in the rock layers throughout the world? What do fossils teach us about creation? What do Hebrew scholars believe about the creation account?

In this day of challenges to the inerrancy of Scripture, this film brings evidence to bear on the core question of the veracity of the Word of God.

From the website: *“This film is the first step on a journey toward understanding the history of the earth according to Genesis. Follow Del Tackett as he travels across the continent with over a dozen scientists and scholars to see fascinating new evidence for creation and a global flood.”*



This would be a great film to watch with your junior high and high school student before going off to college. It would also be a great film for your church youth group to watch.

While thinking believers are on both sides of the question of the age of the earth, this presents a convincing argument for many of the controversial issues in the book of Genesis.

A sequel (“Mountains After the Flood”) is also available for ordering. Del Tackett is also known for his work on “The Truth Project” several years ago.

Where to watch? Tubi, Amazon FreeVee, YouTube and website: <https://isgenesishistory.com/>

Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“Live life in such a way to leave a mark, not a blur” -Lorne Sanny

— Vol. 3 pages 43-45

Webster’s dictionary defines a blur as follows. “To obscure, soil, or blemish by smearing; to smudge, to make dim or indistinct to the sight. ...” It is something which cannot be depended upon to give information or guidance. It blends in with the background. It is something which is passed over without thought as we look to something of substance to give direction to our thoughts or lives. A mark, on the other hand, is defined as a “thing aimed at; a target; a goal.” It is also defined as “a limit or standard of action or fact,” and as “a conspicuous object of known position serving as an object for travelers.”

In the New Testament, we have two examples of fellow workers in the Kingdom of Christ, one of whom left a mark, and the other a blur. They were laboring together for a number of years, but they parted ways based on the choices that each one made. The choice of one of these was chronicled in Galatians 6:14. “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” The life of the Apostle Paul left a mark. His life has been for many a “thing aimed at, a target, and a goal.” His life was conspicuous, serving as an object for other travelers of the Christian faith. The other choice is noted in II Timothy 4:10. “For Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.” The life of Demas blended into the background of his day; it was “dim and indistinct to the sight.” It could not be depended upon to give information or guidance. He chose to live for self rather than to live for the Lord. His choice echoed the same sentiment found in Peter’s rebuke of the Lord. A.B. Bruce makes these comments regarding Peter’s advice to the Lord in *The Training of the Twelve*. “That advice was substantially this: ‘Save thyself at any rate; sacrifice duty to self-interest, the cause of God to personal convenience.’ For the whole aim of Satanic policy is to get self-interest recognized as the chief end of man.” Self-interest always leaves a blur, not a mark.

A speaker at one of our Navigator conferences once stated that we live our lives in either Philippians 1:21 or in Philippians 2:21. To live our lives in Philippians 2:21, “For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ,” is to make a blur. To live our lives in Philippians 1:21, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain,” is to make a mark. In Christ, Richard Spann

Discipleship: The Most Important Things Were Learned Early

by Larry Beck

I've heard it said that some of the most valuable instructions and lessons a child receives are learned in the first several years of life; probably by the time he or she is 5-6 years old or sooner. And not so much relative toward secular education, but morally, i.e., what's right, wrong, respect for others, etc. This observation is likewise applicable to the Christian.



In the first year of beginning to truly pursue the Lord, God blessed me with an individual who helped me become established in the practice of spending alone time with God in His word and prayer. God used another peer to develop an appetite in me to memorize scripture and I soon completed a scripture memory class. As the class was completed, God continued to bless me with a one-to-one relationship with a member of a Navigator team (Don Henry) who spent time with me, faithfully prayed for me and held me accountable to the spiritual disciplines I was learning.

As part of his training, he had me memorize the Navigator objective (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.) along with several illustrations (The Hand, Wheel, and Bridge). At the time I didn't realize the how invaluable this was in establishing me in some of the foundational truth's requisite to a successful Christian life.

Within 4-5 months of starting to meet, after I had memorized the Bridge Illustration, Don had me share it with him, as a kind of trial run for an actual evangelistic opportunity. He also had me review my own testimony with him, first saying it within 5-8 minutes and then in less than 2, so that I became more skilled and comfortable in doing so. It seemed awkward at the time, but I soon learned the value of it.

Within a few weeks, we were at a Navigator Fall Conference, and I was seated next to a man Don had invited who was not a Christian. During the break as we talked, I was able to share the Bridge Illustration with him. I drew it out on a napkin, quoting and writing out some of the verses and shared my testimony as well; it seemed valuable to do so as he and I shared similar religious backgrounds. Sadly, he was murdered two weeks later to the day and to my knowledge was never brought to faith.

I share this story not because it didn't end well for the man I witnessed to, but to illustrate the value of the discipline which prepared me to share my own testimony and an illustration of the salvation message. In addition, the other illustrations, along with the Navigator Objective, have equipped me with the ability to quote them, impromptu, at Bible studies and other church gatherings where it was requested or appropriate. They have also formed the basis upon which I view and teach the principles in these illustrations as fundamentals for beginning the Christian life, as well as for sustenance and success thereafter.

The time Don invested in me in those early days has proven invaluable for literally decades. But it didn't start with him. I can trace the lineage of his influence back to Loyd Wilson, Dick Grant, Jim Morris, Gene Warr, Charlie Riggs and ultimately to Dawson Trotman, whom God used to establish the Navigator ministry, and through which many others as well as myself have been eternally blessed. These were faithful men who taught others also and by God's grace, this ministry will continue through me as well.

"Soul winners are not soul winners because of what they know, but because of Who they know, and how well they know Him, and how much they long for others to know Him."

—Dawson Trotman, Founder of The Navigators ©

Are you eagerly awaiting His return? (excerpt of script for recent podcast at *Making Disciples Naturally*) by David Dennis

With the recent increased activity in the Middle East, many people are asking, "Is this the end of the world?" "What does all this mean in terms of Biblical prophecy?" Preachers and teachers who are respected are asked to give their viewpoint on major networks and programs. People are curious and want to know the truth about the current situation. Our hearts break with the bloodshed and hatred shown. In countries not only in the Middle East but around the world, there is conflict, hatred, fear and bloodshed.

We are told in Titus 2:13 NKJV - "... looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" and in 1Corinthians 1:7 NKJV - "so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

Do you and I eagerly await his return? If that is not on our thoughts and even lips, what might be some reasons that we don't eagerly await his return? There are three main Biblical understandings of what the "end times" will look like:

1. Some would say that Scripture teaches a literal rapture (1 Thess. 4:17), where believers are caught up to heaven like Enoch and Elijah, followed by 7 years of extreme difficulty where the whole world and particularly the nation of Israel is severely oppressed. After that the Lord Jesus returns to sit on a literal throne in Jerusalem, ruling over His kingdom for 1000 years, followed by a new heavens and a new earth.
2. Others would say that the 1000 year reign of Christ, the millennium, is happening right now in heaven in a spiritual sense. They would say that the kingdom of God is slowly developing here on earth in an "already, not yet" fashion. At some point in the future, Christ will return to set up his eternal kingdom.
3. There are others who say that almost all of Biblical prophecy was fulfilled by AD 70 at the destruction of the temple and of Jerusalem by the Romans. They would say that through the church, Christ is working even now to redeem people and to make the world a better place. Things will get better and better gradually over time. The millennium is thus a gradually-developing time, not limited to a literal 1000 years and at the end of that time, perhaps 10,000 years from now, Christ will return to establish His eternal kingdom.

And there are many variations on these three major themes.

Whatever one's view, we should all be eagerly awaiting His return, not primarily to escape our current troubled world, but because we truly want to see Him and live eternally with Him. Here are some verses that remind us of the importance of eagerly awaiting His return:

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"We are not primarily called to do something or go somewhere; we are called to Someone. We are not called first to special work but to God. The key to answering the call is to be devoted to no one and to nothing above God himself." Os Guinness, author

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- **Romans 13:11** NKJV - “And [do] this, **knowing the time**, that now [it is] high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation [is] nearer than when we [first] believed.”
- **1 Cor 1:7** NKJV - “so that you come short in no gift, **eagerly waiting** for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,”
- **1 Cor 16:22** NKJV - “If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. **O Lord, come!**” (*Aramaic “Maranatha.” Many scholars believe this is how the early church greeted each other as they came together to worship. The idea is that the return of Jesus was on their mind and their lips all the time.*)
- **1 Thess 1:9-10** NKJV - “For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and **to wait for His Son from heaven**, whom He raised from the dead, [even] Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:18** NKJV - “Therefore **comfort one another with these words.**” (context is Christ’s return)
- **Titus 2:13** NKJV - “**looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing** of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,”

What should we be doing while eagerly awaiting the return of our Savior and Lord?

1. Keep seeking the Lord and **grow in Christlikeness**: 2 Peter 3:18 NKJV “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him [be] the glory both now and forever. Amen.”
2. Keep our focus where it always should be: **making disciples!** Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the age.” Amen.
3. **Be at peace** - God has this all under His control: John 14:1-3 NKJV -“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, [there] you may be also.”

And remember:

“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.”

In these uncertain days, we must be about our Father’s business!