



NOVEMBER 2023

# The ENCOURAGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY  
1575 W. STATE ROUTE 571 • TIPP CITY, OH 45371 • 937-669-3090 • CFFM.ORG

## JESUS A Friend Who Sticks Closer Than a Brother

**M**i Friends!  
Proverbs 18:24

A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that sticketh* closer than a brother.

Although the translation of the first part of Proverbs 18:24 is disputed, there is much agreement on the second part which is what I want to focus on.

Before we go there, let's address the first part: "A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly." We know this principle is true even though it is an inexact translation. Many proverbs and other examples in the Bible teach us the importance of friendship and being loyal friends (Ruth 1:16; I Samuel 18:1-3). "The Golden Rule" also makes the point that "all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12). These things, and common sense, verify the importance of being friendly if you want to have friends.

More recent translations render the first part of verse 18

Proverbs 18:24  
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differently. "He that maketh many friends *doeth it* to his own destruction" (ASV). "A man with many friends may be harmed" (CSB). "There are 'friends' who destroy each other" (NLT). "One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin" (NIV). Nearly every translation emphasizes the plu-

rality of friends, making the point that even someone with an abundance friends may still have problems. A large number of friends does not guarantee help in the time of need.

That being said, let's move on to the second part of the verse on which there is much more agreement. The friend referred to in the second part of the verse is an allusion to our Lord Jesus Christ. He indeed is the friend who "loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17) providing "hearty counsel" and never forsaking us (Proverbs 27:9-10). This indi-

rect prophetic reference points to the one who described himself as a friend (John 15:14-15) and was described by others as "a friend of publicans and sinners" (Luke 7:34).

We show ourselves to be a friend to Jesus when we do as he commands (John 15:14). Our ready obedience allows

(continued on page 2)

"... I have written to you briefly, *encouraging* you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it." 1 Peter 5:12 (NIV)

(continued from page 1)

us to own and develop our friendship. Deuteronomy 13:6 describes a friend as one “which is as thine own soul.” Such was the friendship of Jonathan and David who were of one heart and soul. We also see it in the book of Acts where the believers moved as one with one accord (Acts 2:41-47). So, our friendship with Christ should be expressive of the close union we have with him for truly he adheres to our cause and interests, being constant and continuing as a friend at all times.

**The other [true] friend exists due to genuine love and is like an extension of your own soul.**

The 14 uses of “friend” in Proverbs show that there are two kinds of “friends.” One is the friend who exists because you have something to offer such as a material gift or some other benefit of association. The other friend exists due to genuine love and is like an extension of your own soul. Proverbs 18:24 offers a contrast between the two. We can amass as many friends of the first type as we want but still come to ruin; however, even one friend of the second type is a great advantage.

**Christ cannot love us less.**

Genuine, authentic friends can be counted on. They are steadfast, trustworthy and will be there for us, at times even more reliably than that of a family member. Our friendship with Christ can be that way. He proves to us that he will not deceive us, convincing us that we can unreservedly put our confidence in him. Christ’s faithful and fathomless love assures us that it’s impossible for any cause to arise which could make him love us less.

Is it not written prophetically of Judas in Psalms 41:9, “Even my close friend [a foreshadowing of Judas], whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.” Yet in Matthew 26:50 when Judas acts as guide to them that took Jesus, Jesus greets Judas saying, “Friend, do what you came to do” (ESV). Jesus remained the consummate friend. Right to the end, Jesus held out the possibility of friendship between himself and his betrayer, but Judas rejected the opportunity. Everyone one of us has the opportunity to receive or reject his friendship. What will we choose?

Do we want a friend who’ll never let us down, never disappoint, fail, or give up on us? Do we want a friend who’ll never

tire of us? Jesus Christ wants to be the dearest friend we could ever have, and he has the wisdom and ability to see us through the most difficult situations.

Oh, the wonder of the intimacy to which he invites us! In Eastern culture a host would not normally eat with a guest. He would prepare and serve the guest food but would only eat with them if they were family or the most intimate of friends. Because so much of the food was prepared and preserved with salt, eating salted food together involved entering into a *salt covenant*. That is why Revelation 3:20 uses eating together to show the closeness of the relationship that the Lord wants to have with us.

He wants to be part of our lives in a most intimate way.

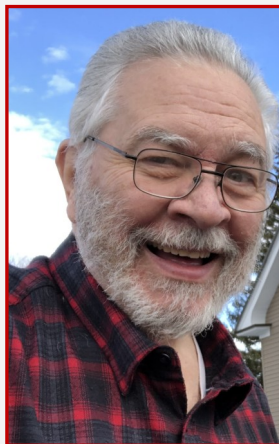
Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

**Everyone one of us has the opportunity to receive or reject the friendship of Jesus. What will we choose?**

The salt covenant dates back to antiquity and was a most solemn and binding agreement. One would never break a salt covenant. The consequences for doing so was death. With this understanding one can see why Judas, refusing to accept Jesus’ offer to tarry in Jerusalem and be endowed with power from on high under a salt covenant, would go out and kill himself.

Indeed, in Acts 1:4 Jesus took salt with all the apostles. He guaranteed and bound his friendship with them with a covenant of salt which he will never break. He has extended the same invitation to us. Let’s not let it slip away. He has promised, “I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20). Let’s enjoy his friendship.



*Wayne Clapp*

Staff Minister  
CFFM Past President  
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

## CHRISTIAN

When we accept Jesus as Lord, we receive his Spirit within us. Having Christ in us makes us Christians and children of God our Father. As we explore the Bible’s promises and walk by the Spirit’s direction, the character of Christ within begins to transform us from the inside out, revealing Jesus to the world through our lives.



## FAMILY

The Bible describes the followers of Jesus as God’s sons and daughters. We are born again into an eternal family of the Father’s love. He has uniquely gifted each of his children and called us to stand together in compassion, encouragement, and forgiveness. The spirit-inspired kindness that we share in our faith communities works to heal relationships and restore families.

## FELLOWSHIP

Christian fellowship is relationship. It is an intimate partnership of spiritual connection, association, and involvement. God calls us to a personal relationship with himself, with Jesus Christ, and with fellow believers so that our joy may be full (1 John 1:3-4). Our faith community is devoted to encouraging and cultivating these healing partnerships for everyone involved.



# CALENDAR

[www.cffm.org](http://www.cffm.org)

We encourage all of God's people to get together freely and often in order to minister God's love and truth to each other, to cultivate spiritual maturity, and to develop a meaningful faith-community

## THANK YOU!

... for your prayers, encouragement, input and financial support that make all our ministry services possible, cultivating a healthy spiritual family

Join our live or archived 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Fellowships by Live Streaming at [cffm.org/live-streaming](http://cffm.org/live-streaming)

Also enjoy past teachings on our website, podcast or YouTube channel

|   |   |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>As Announced</b>                       | <b>MEN'S FELLOWSHIP</b><br>HOSTS: Jeff Shroyer & Mark Harbert   | <b>CFFM</b><br><b>Tipp City, OH</b> |
| <b>On Going</b>                           | <b>THE MESSAGE: A DAILY DOSE OF GOD'S WORD</b><br>Daily Email Subscription / EDITOR: Wayne Clapp  | <b>Worldwide</b>                    |
| <b>11/3-5/23</b>                          | Join Bobbie Blair, Tonia Shroyer & Jan Rawlins for a <b>Women's Weekend of RESTORATION &amp; RELAXATION</b> & Optional Men's Gatherings                       | <b>Waco, TX</b>                     |
| <b>12/10/23</b>                           | <b>CFF Sunday Morning Fellowship &amp; Christmas Party Luncheon</b><br>Sign up with Sarah Mullens to bring a dish   | <b>CFFM</b><br><b>Tipp City, OH</b> |
| <b>Open Mtg. Saturday 2/24/2024 10 AM</b> | <b>Low Country of SC ~ 2/24 Open Fellowship</b><br>Guests: Kevin & Sara Guigou<br>Hosts: Daryl & Lauren Sturre  | <b>Hilton Head Island, SC</b>       |
| <b>3/15-17/24</b>                         | ~ STRENGTHEN ~ TRAIN ~ ACCOMPLISH ~<br><b>A Weekend with ROBERTS LIARDON</b><br>SPIRITUAL LEADER ~ CHURCH HISTORIAN<br>HUMANITARIAN ~ AUTHOR ~ PUBLIC SPEAKER | <b>CFFM</b><br><b>Tipp City, OH</b> |
| <b>3/31/24</b>                            | <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b><br><i>Celebrating the Outpouring of the Gift of Holy Spirit</i>  | <b>Worldwide</b>                    |
| <b>5/17-19/24</b>                         | <b>JOYFEST! Connect~Refresh~Ignite Weekend Fellowship at Camp Allen</b><br>Hosted by Robert & Sheila Hitchcock<br>Among Speakers: Kevin & Sara Guigou         | <b>Navasota, Texas</b>              |
| <b>5/19/24</b>                            | <b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b><br><i>Celebrating the Outpouring of the Gift of Holy Spirit</i>   | <b>Worldwide</b>                    |
| <b>7/30-8/4/24</b>                        | <b>27th Annual YES CAMP 2023 Youth Excelling Spiritually!</b><br>Camp Director: Tonia Shroyer   | <b>CFFM</b><br><b>Tipp City, OH</b> |



# THE Messenger

a daily dose of God's Word from Wayne Clapp & CFFM

## Sign up for daily emails of teaching & encouragement from Wayne Clapp & CFFM

Since May of this year, staff minister Wayne Clapp has blessed us with rich sharings from God's written Word in our email inboxes every day. They've been fresh and full of insight for a better understanding of God and the Bible for practical Christian living.

Subscribe by emailing Wayne at [wgccff2@aol.com](mailto:wgccff2@aol.com), identifying the email address where you'd like to receive *The Messenger*.

Anyone can opt in or out whenever they prefer. Inspiring back issues of *The Messenger* studies are also available at [www.cffm.org](http://www.cffm.org).



*Let's enjoy spirit-filled days in the Scriptures together!*



Join Us For

# A Weekend with Roberts Liardon

Author | Public Speaker | Spiritual Leader | Church Historian | Humanitarian

**FRIDAY, MARCH 15 – SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024**

**CHRISTIAN FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY**

**1575 W. STATE ROUTE 571 • TIPP CITY, OHIO**



Dr. Roberts Liardon was called into the ministry at a very young age, preaching his first public sermon at the age of thirteen and lecturing on God’s Generals in Christian colleges and universities at age fifteen.

From age sixteen, he has utilized every platform to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bring maturity to the Church, and encourage those in ministry. He has produced radio, television, and Internet programs and has also authored over eighty books which have been translated into over sixty languages and to date have sold 16.5 million copies.

**Strengthen**  
Believers

**Train**  
The Next Generation

**Accomplish**  
The Great Commission

## SCHEDULE

|                |          |                   |
|----------------|----------|-------------------|
| FRI., March 15 | 6:30 pm  | Doors Open        |
|                | 7:00 pm  | Session Begins    |
| SAT., March 16 | 9:00 am  | Doors Open        |
|                | 9:30 am  | Session Begins    |
|                | 12-2 pm  | Lunch on your own |
|                | 2:00 pm  | Session Begins    |
| SUN., March 17 | 9:30 am  | Doors Open        |
|                | 10:00 am | Session Begins    |

## REGISTRATION

**\$45 per ATTENDEE**  
**\$49 per LOCATION FOR LIVE STREAMING**

*Register online at [www.cffm.org/events](http://www.cffm.org/events) by the registration deadline, **February 28, 2024***

*For more information or assistance, contact  
Christian Family Fellowship Ministry  
at [sarah@cffm.org](mailto:sarah@cffm.org); phone (937)669-3090.*

**HOTEL INFORMATION :** Holiday Inn Express -Tipp City (937) 667-5161 (ask for CFF rate); Comfort Inn - Tipp City (937) 667-1574; Residence Inn -Troy (937) 440-9303; Hampton Inn - Troy (937) 339-7801; Fairfield Inn - Troy (937) 332-1446



**H**aving spent much of my life living at the beach, I developed a real respect and fondness for the sea. We lived on the intercoastal waterway and spent peaceful days watching vessels of all sizes traveling past us. Despite the varying sizes of these vessels, they had several things in common. One thing that caught my attention was their anchors. Every boat had one and they were all different. Some were iron, some steel, some with a long shaft and two hooks and some with short shafts and four or five hooks. Regardless of their differences they were all tethered to the vessel with a cable or linked chains. They also had the same job to do. They were, when lowered into the water and disappeared, to grip the ocean floor, hold fast the vessel and provide security regardless of weather conditions. When at anchor the vessel was both sure and steadfast.

The closing verses in Hebrews 6 have always been fascinating to me. The nautical references and their ties to the hope becomes a magnificent study filled with imagery and inspiring thankfulness for God's redemptive plan through Jesus Christ. It is difficult to delve into these scriptures and not come away with a clear and concise understanding of just exactly what our Lord and Savior has provided for us.

Hebrews 6:18-20 KJV

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

<sup>19</sup> Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

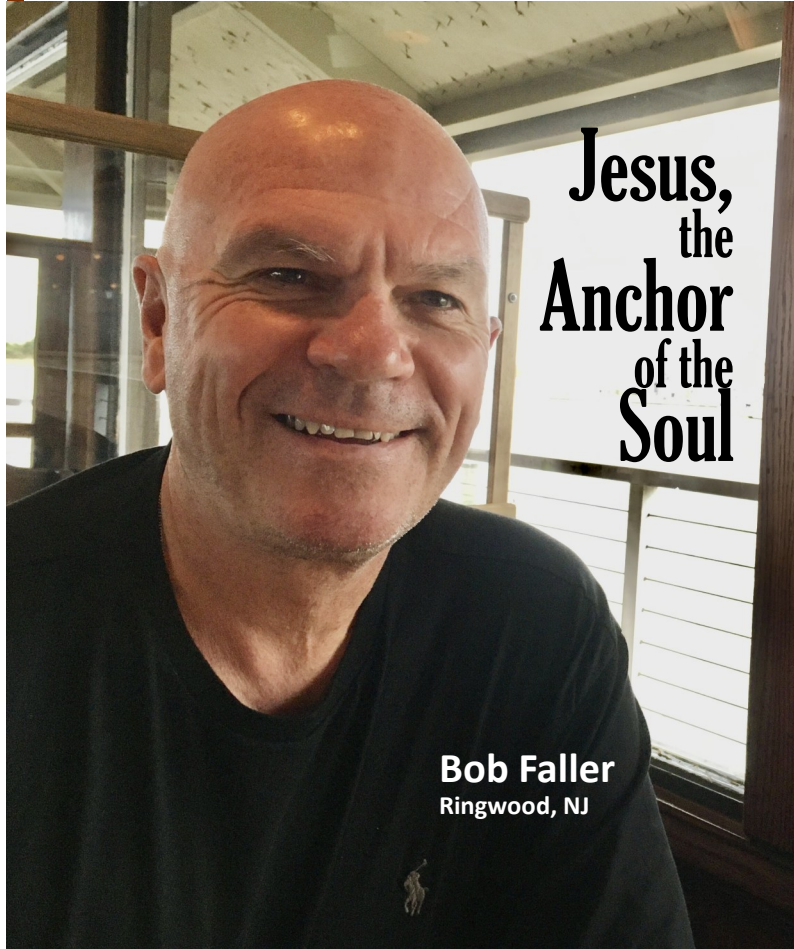
<sup>20</sup> Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

The word "consolation" in verse 18 is interesting. E. W. Bullinger's

*Lexicon and Concordance* says it means, "a calling near, a summons to one's side, an encouraging exhortation or invitation." God is making available a strong calling, an ardent invitation to tether ourselves to our anchor, the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Coffman's Commentaries* on the Bible contains a wonderful explication of these verses:

"Hope is the great anchor, or stabilizer, of the human soul; and that hope for the Christian is Christ the Lord, who has entered into that which is beyond the veil, that is, into heaven itself; and this corresponds to the actions of the ancient high priest who was typical of Christ in that he went into the Holy of Holies, behind the veil, in the tabernacle. The apt-



ness of the figure of an anchor appears in the fact that an anchor is not doing any good at all as long as it is visible. It is only when it disappears in the deep beneath that it stabilizes and protects the ship; how beautiful is the imagery of Christ's also being out of sight from Christians, having disappeared into the unseen world, but who is nevertheless connected with Christians by the strong and effective cable of his love, just as the anchor, though unseen, is connected to the ship by a mighty chain. The absolutely necessary disappearance of the anchor, if it is to do any good, also suggests the necessity of Christ's physical separation from his

followers which was accomplished when he ascended into the unseen world. That this was truly necessary is plain in the light of Hebrews 8:4, where it is shown that Christ would have been no priest at all if he had remained upon the earth. Christ's qualification as high priest was upon a higher level; on earth he could never have been any kind of priest, because he did not belong to the tribe of Levi; therefore, in order for him to function as the great High Priest of Christians, he of necessity entered that higher, unseen sphere. Thus it is literally and gloriously true that the Christian's hope is in heaven where the Lord has already entered; and, with that hope, all else that really matters is also there. For the Christian, his treasure is there (Matthew 6:19), his citizenship is there (Philippians 3:20), his name is written there (Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3), his Lord is there (as here, and in John 14:1-6), and his affections should be there (Colossians 3:2 KJV)."

This commentary is very clear and concise. It is such an anchor to our souls to know our Savior, our hope, is seated at the right hand of God and we are tethered to him. Regardless of the storms of life we all go through, we can be at peace knowing we will always be steadfast and sure as we stay at anchor with him.

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**W**e've got the joy, joy, joy, down in our hearts – where?  
Down at YES Camp, that's where!

Christian Family Fellowship just wrapped up its 26th annual Youth Excelling Spiritually (YES!) Camp. This year, the theme was “The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength!”

That line comes from the book of Nehemiah, who became a Jewish cup-bearer of a secular king after his people were taken into captivity. Years later, God worked through Nehemiah to return to his homeland and rebuild Jerusalem (see Nehemiah 1).

Nehemiah organizes the people to build back the wall and re-establish the city (not an easy task!). Seven chapters and almost a full year later, those people of Israel are gathered together “as one man” in the heart of the city.

Ezra the scribe and priest reads from the book of the Law of Moses (their Bible) – and the people weep. Their response upon hearing the Word that they hadn't necessarily followed was to be filled with sadness and likely shame.

But God through Nehemiah has a different exhortation for them:

“Then [Nehemiah] said to [the people of Israel], ‘Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord.

## Experience the JOY of YES CAMP!

By Joyell Nevins / San Diego, CA

Photos by Camp Photographer, Debi Pilot

Art image above courtesy of Leisa Flynn

Memories from July 2023 in Tipp City, Ohio ...



### From Coast to Coast

CFF hosted 72 campers and 30 crew from 22 different states – literally from coast to coast!

Some of those campers were brand new, and some of them have grown up at camp. Some of them had just recently met Jesus, and some of them have been his friend for years. But almost all of them received a refreshing, renewed joy, and – if they desired it – an even deeper connection



And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength....And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.”  
Nehemiah 8:10, 12 ESV

The people are exhorted to rejoice and have a party! They are even encouraged to “send portions” to those

who have none, meaning to share their food and drink with those in need so that everyone can participate. Rather than wallowing in condemnation and shame over what happened in the past, they were to be filled with the joy of the Lord and to celebrate what was to come!

That's the same concept with YES! Camp. No matter what past mistakes or worries the campers carried in, they were able to experience the freedom and joy of the Lord *together*.

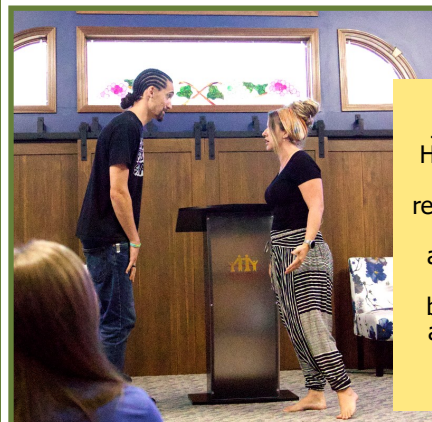
with our Father God and his son Jesus Christ.

Every morning began with affirmations about who we are in Christ, often taken straight from the previous day's teachings. Every evening ended with what we call “soaking” – spending quiet time in worship with specially chosen songs.

In between, there was a plethora of activity! Sprinkled throughout the week were 18 teachers.

Campers heard preaching from a 30-something out of Florida and exhortation from a 60-something out of Colorado.

They marched and became ‘battle-ready’ for the Kingdom with a former Marine. They learned about relationships from a married couple who have nine kids in their home.



Jon & Sami Hagar shared about relationships & marriage – and showed their own brand of joy at the same time.

Campers were invited to become a member of the Jesus club, and they were invited to sit at the table with the Lord.

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.” Psalm 23:5 NKJV



The youth were reminded of their identity in Christ and taught about what comes in their spiritual tool kit. The power of light versus the power of darkness and the importance of having a spiritual foundation also gave the campers spiritual food for thought.

### Sing and Play with Jesus

Music was another thread throughout the camp. Campers were able to do congregational dancing with a local believer, and they raised the roof through praise with the band, Delighted.



Laced in-between that hot Bible were many ways to laugh and play. They canoed down the Stillwater River, swam and slid at a local water park, and filled a bowling alley.

There were camp games involving refillable water balloons (particularly

difficult to catch!) and vacuuming goldfish crackers with a straw. There was



These ladies were the first ones to make it down the river.

even an opportunity to dress up and get funky with the camp dance, complete with professional DJ.

They got goofy at meal times with songs about frogs and jellyfish, and then got serious about personal relationships and spiritual questions when in their power groups.



### The Power of Community

The power groups were at the heart of YES! Camp this year. Ten different groups, loosely grouped by age, but more so compiled by prayer and the

Many of the songs involved animals and mayhem – like this "Crocodile Song."

spiritual leading of Camp Director Tonia Shroyer and her team. Campers ate breakfast in their power groups and met for almost an hour each day. Those meetings involved play,



Each power group came up with their own name, and these gentlemen called themselves The Ocho Oreos.

laughter, manifestations, and sometimes, tears.

At YES! Camp, both in groups



and outside of them, relationships were developed and hearts were healed. Faith was nurtured and seeds of love were planted.



This young member is experiencing the joy of camp!



**Do you want to join us next year? If you are between the ages of 12 and 25 and want to experience the joy, email Sarah Mullens at [sarah@cffm.org](mailto:sarah@cffm.org) or call 937-669-3090 for more information. Spots are limited to 75 applicants, so save your space early!**

Joyell Nevins blogs for Christian Family Fellowship Ministry and serves on the Pastoral Care Network, along with tutoring secondary school students and leading home Bible studies. She lives in California with her family and 8-year-old niece, Stella. Her claim to fame is attending or working at 23 of the 26 annual YES! Camps that CFFM has hosted!





# ... More JOY of YES CAMP 2023!

Photos by Camp Photographer, Debi Pilot

JULY 2023 / TIPP CITY, OHIO





**Q** number of years ago I began asking to know Jesus better. I had learned about God as my Father, his goodness and generosity. And I had been taught that Jesus Christ was not Father God – but I felt like I didn’t know much about who he was. I saw him mostly as he’d been depicted in pictures – standing still with his arms outstretched, gazing up to heaven; or hanging on the cross with a crown of thorns and a little blood coming out of his side, but otherwise looking all right. There was no life in those pictures – to be honest, he didn’t come across as very interesting.

So I started asking to know him, and one day a vivid picture came to my mind as I was praying. It was Jesus – he had thrown his head back and he was laughing so hard that tears were running down his cheeks.

That was my first glimpse of Jesus, and I’m so happy it was! I’ve come to believe that Jesus was the happiest man who ever walked the face of the earth. Hebrews 1:9 (New Living Translation) says:

...Your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.

Here’s another thing: children loved him – they wanted to be near him. What kind of people do children flock to? People who are joyful and playful.

Some of you might be thinking, “But he was a man of sorrows.” It’s true – Isaiah 53:3 (NLT) says:

He was despised and rejected – a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.

At the end of his life he was abandoned by everyone, even those he had poured into over the course of his ministry. But he was rejected pretty consistently from the very beginning: an “illegitimate” child, misunderstood even by his parents at times (like when he stayed behind in the temple and they scolded him for doing what God had put in his heart), hated by the religious leaders of Israel. I know how much it stings when I feel rejected by someone, especially someone close to me – I can only guess at the depths of sorrow he knew.



# The Joy of Jesus

By Ellen Fowler  
Gorham, ME



Yet the scriptures say he had more joy than anyone. How could both things be true? I don’t know, but I’ve learned that I don’t have to understand everything about Jesus in order to accept it and believe it.

Now I see his sense of fun in so many stories: like in Luke 5, where he tells Peter (an experienced fisherman) to cast his nets on the other side of his boat. I imagine him standing on the shore and laughing, watching Peter calling to his partners to come help, and all of them struggling to get ashore before the boats sank.

Or how about Matthew 17, where he tells Peter (an experienced fisherman) to

go fishing, and the first fish he catches is going to have a coin in its mouth. I can see Peter shaking his head – I’m guessing he’d never caught such a fish before – and then coming back and saying, “I can’t believe it!” And Jesus just laughing...

But my favorite of all is in John 21. Jesus has been crucified. He’s shown himself to the disciples a couple of times, but apparently it’s been a while and Peter’s tired of waiting around. He says he’s going fishing, and several other disciples join him. They fish all night and catch nothing. I wonder if at this point they remember what happened back in Luke 5, when they were just beginning to know Jesus?

Meanwhile, Jesus appears on the shore. Imagine how he must have been feeling at this point. He’s endured the cross, spent three days in the grave, then been seated in the place of honor at God’s right hand, far above every principality and power in the universe. I see him vibrating with life and joy – what an amazing experience!

I wonder if he and his father decided to prank the disciples one more time. So he calls out and asks them if they’ve caught any fish. (As if he doesn’t know...) And he makes the same recommendation as in Luke 5: “Throw your net on the other side.” And they do, and the same thing happens – they can’t haul in the net because there are so many fish in it.

What do you think Jesus was doing all this time? I don’t believe he was standing with his arms outstretched, looking up into heaven. I think he was throwing his head back and laughing.

Of course, I don’t know that’s what happened. But seeing Jesus in this way brings him to life for me. He is alive! And I want to know him in all his life and glory.

Ellen Fowler is a mother and grandmother who finds herself more and more in love with the Lord. Her heart’s desire is to let him live in her and through her. She lives close to her family in Maine, which is a great joy. Ellen also serves on CFFM’s Pastoral Care team.

When it comes to thinking about Jesus, there is much to consider. Who is he to you? The most common aspect that we first think of about Jesus is that he is our **Savior**. This title deals with his humility. But then there's that other title that we must all deal with and that is Jesus is **Lord**. As a matter of fact, he's the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This title deals with his majesty. And there are still many other titles and attributes that describe who he is.

Let me first endeavor to build an image before you of **his majesty**. At his baptism, a voice was heard from heaven declaring, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, born of Mary and the Spirit of God. He is a man who has the DNA of God. He, therefore, had sinless blood so that he could be the Lamb of God that would take away the sins of the world.

In Acts chapter 2 it says that God made Jesus both Lord and Christ. He is the anointed ruler. Later in Acts it says that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. To be a lord is to have a position; to be anointed is to have the power to fulfill the position. Because of his faithful walk and humility to be our Passover Lamb, it says that God highly exalted him and gave him a name above all names: "...that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow" and therefore "every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

In Colossians it says that Jesus is the firstborn of all creation. The nuance of the Greek means he is the holder of first place; he is the superior one. He outranks everyone. He is the commander-in-chief of the universe and as such, EVERYTHING bows before him. Another verse in Colossians says he is the head of all principality and power. From God the Father, Jesus has received all authority in heaven and in earth, and the Father has put all things under Jesus'

feet. Jesus has gone into heaven and is now on the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him. He is Lord. He is Lord of the Sabbath. He is the Lord of peace. He is the Lord of glory. He is the Lord of Lords. He is Lord of all.

This is a quick summary that indicates some of the majesty of Jesus. In our world today, we esteem presidents and prime ministers who wield

the power of their nations. They all pale in comparison to the Lord Jesus. Solomon is an example of the Christ. His wisdom and splendor and glory made all stand in awe of his accomplishments. Many nations that surrounded Israel paid tribute to Solomon. They bowed before him; and yet, he also fails to compare to the riches in glory to God by Jesus.

**God highly exalted Jesus. Do you highly exalt him?** Is he the Lord of your heart? As children of God, we are to worship the Father in spirit and in truth. As servants of the Lord Jesus, we are to bow down before him and give him reverence—reverence due to he who holds such majesty. He is the head of the church, and we as members of his body follow his lead.

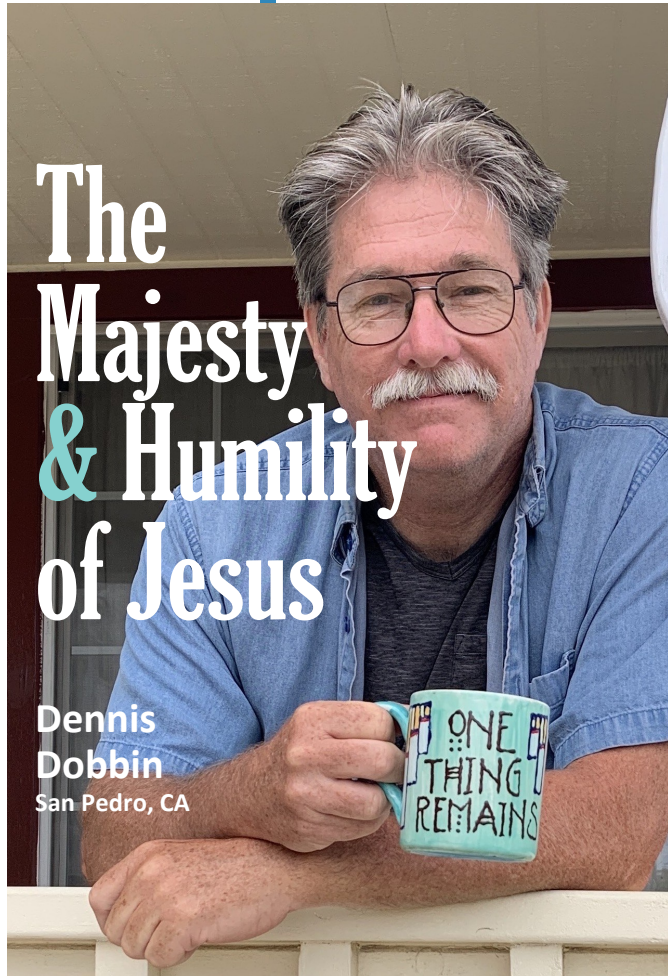
In the world, we have great reverence for those who have accomplished great things. We get excited about meeting someone famous. We cheer for acclaimed athletes with fanatic fervor. What reverence do we have for the Lord Jesus Christ? How does hearing of his majesty touch your heart today?

Luke, chapter two, contains the record of the angel speaking to the

shepherds and saying, "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." This child born that day would be the anointed Lord who would be Savior to all people. In the book of Philippians, it says that Jesus would become a servant, and as a man, he would humble himself and become obedient unto death—the death of the cross. Consider all his majesty.

As king of kings and lord of lords **he reigns; yet, he humbled himself** and gave his life for each individual. In the NKJV in Galatians 2:20 it says, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

There are many soldiers who have given their lives to protect their nations. Most nations honor such as these; yet, the citizens of the nation rarely know any of their names. In this verse, we see the availability of a personal relationship with our Majestic Savior. We can personally know Jesus. The Apostle Paul wrote that Christ loved **me**, and gave himself for **me**. It says in Hebrews 12 that Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before him. **You are that joy.**







**BLOOM WHERE YOU'RE PLANTED!**  
CFFM Supporting Local Activities  
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Summer 2023



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Married 9/23/23



**Seeking God's Kingdom Together**  
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Kevin & Sara Guigou  
San Rafael, CA  
September 2023



**The Coming of the Son of Man**  
INTERACTIVE TEACHING  
Jan Magiera & Sid Helmus  
Kalamazoo, Michigan  
October 2023



**Bay Area, CA Hosts:**  
Brian & Carole Jones  
Elden & Kathy Daugherty  
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**Robert & Sheila Hitchcock**  
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October 2023



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Philemon 1:6 (NIV)





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