

This morning I would like to read to you from the 35 ch of Isaiah.

In v. 8 we read ~~and~~ an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

The way of God is the way of holiness. ~~He~~ He is a holy God, which means He is pure, clean, just, faithful and righteous."

Not only is God holy, but he expects holiness of his people. "Be ye holy; for I am holy; for I am the Lord your God, and ye shall keep my statutes, and do them; I am the Lord which sanctify you." Lev. 20: 7, 8. and in Lev. 11: 45. "For I am the Lord that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy for I am holy."

God never excuses sin or uncleanness in our walk with Him, as we noticed in our lesson text. The unclean shall not pass over it."

Tuesday

Coming now to the New Testament
II cor 7:1 "Having therefore these promises
dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves
from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit
perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

The way we go through life determines
where our final destiny will be.
Paul in his letter to the Hebrews ch 12
Verse 14 wrote "Follow peace with all
men, and holiness, without which no
man shall see the Lord."

then Peter wrote in 1 Peter 1:16 "Because
it is written, Be ye holy; for I am
holy." and 11 Peter 3:11 "Seeing then that
all these things shall be dissolved
what manner of persons ought ye
to be in all holy conversation and
godliness."

We must not fool ourselves into
thinking that we can get by on
less than God requires. Be not
deceived God is not mocked for what-
soever a man soweth, that shall he
also reap. He that soweth to the flesh
shall of the flesh reap corruption, but
he that soweth to the spirit shall of
the spirit reap life everlasting.

We are living in a day of impurity 3
unfaithfulness and sin, but God can
cleanse and make you holy and
help you to walk in the way
of holiness through the power of
the Holy Spirit.

Some seem to believe this way of
Holiness is too hard to stay on.
But our text says "a wayfaring man
though a fool need not err therein."
The ~~only~~ reason why we do not
walk in this excellent way is because
we are not willing to make a
complete surrender to God.

When a couple marry they vow to
each other that they will love cherish
and be faithful and true to one another,
keeping themselves only for the one,
they love and forsaking all others.

So God simply wants us to
surrender our self to him. unsundered
self is the cause of all our spiritual
problems. Just as the fingers are
rooted in the hand, so our sins
are rooted in the palm of unsundered self.

Let me
close myself
unsundered self is manifested in
many ~~ways~~ different forms. Sometimes
it manifests itself in self-seeking.
The person instead of seeking first the
kingdom of God and His righteousness
seeks his own pleasure, position, plans
and prestige. Look at the two disciples
James and John, who requested Jesus to
permit them to sit on the right and
left when He established His kingdom
on earth. They were seeking for thrones
and scepters to glorify themselves
while Jesus was on His way to the
Cross to give himself for the redemption
of the world.

Sometimes it is self-love that is the problem.
a person instead of loving God supremely
and his neighbor as himself, is actually
in love with himself. a university
professor was so conceited and infatuated
with himself that the students jokingly
referred to him as "a self-made man
who worshipped his creator."

Sometimes it is self-assertion. The person
likes to be the center of the group. He
likes to dominate the conversation. He likes
to talk about himself.

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at times the unsundered self is manifested by self-indulgence. This may lead to excess, gluttony, enslaving habits, or even immorality.

Then there is the person who justifies himself, he finds it difficult to admit mistakes. He is slow to apologize.

Self-sufficiency is the problem of some. Like Peter, who on the night of Christ's arrest and trial boasted that, if all the other disciples forsook the Master and fled, he alone would be faithful to the end, but when the time of testing came, he miserably failed and denied his Lord three times. He thought he was strong enough on his own.

Then again, the unsundered self is manifested in self-will. The individual, instead of seeking God's will in every decision and area of life, often desires to go his own way.

The self is usually the last thing we are willing to surrender. It's easy to give to Christ, to give things. It's hard to give up to Christ, to present ourselves

We will give anything to Christ, money & possessions, even service everything ~~but~~ our own selves.

Self-surrender is a radical shift from self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness so that life is no longer revolving around oneself, but around Christ.

Paul gave the secret of self-surrender in Gal. 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

This is the essence of holiness. The self-surrendered life empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is a life of purity, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, and the way of holiness leads to eternal bliss as we read in v 10 of the Scripture lesson. "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

NOAH AND THE ARK

This Spring we have been having lots of rain and floods, not only in Ky. but in many parts of the World, but the floods we have been having are nothing compared to the one that happened during Noah's time we read about this in Genesis 6:5-22

I would like to make a few observations about this account. First we notice in verse 8 that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. There is no mention of anyone else finding favor with God at this time. The great majority were wrong. It is so easy to go along with the majority even if they are wrong, But verse 9 says Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations and Noah walked with God. It is so easy for us to say well everybody is doing it so I guess I will not try to hold out but go ahead and join them. But we need to remember this, sin is sin and it don't make any difference with God if the whole world is doing it He will never change His mind about it.

The best thing that can happen to us is like Noah to find grace in the eyes of the Lord. After all He is the one that knows all things and He knows what is best for us. We need to notice from this account that God hates sin and wickedness and He will punish those who defy His laws. He hasn't changed His mind about it today He is the same yesterday, today and forever. The evil thoughts and imaginations, the imorality and violence today are just as wrong as they were in Noah's day.

God is long suffering not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. From the time that God told Noah that He was going to flood the earth until the rains came was 120 years. The people had plenty of warning, Noah was a preacher of righteousness but His message went unheeded except for His wife, his three sons and their wives. By today's standards He would not be considered a great soul winner, but just remember this if it hadn't been for Noah, you and I wouldn't be here today.

Noah lived close enough to God so that He knew what God wanted him to do. He didn't argue with God and try to reason that what God said was impossible. It would have been easy for him to have done that for it never had rained a drop of rain since Adam and Eve had been placed on the earth, The Bible says a dew watered the earth, how can you believe in something that no one has ever observed. I can imagine as Noah preached to the people they must have laughed and scoffed at the crazy preacher. The Scientists and weather men must have said Noah there is no way for rain to fall from the sky, it never has and never will.

Tho they didn't believe his message he never seemed to doubt what God had said and began building the ark just like God had told him to build it. You know faith and works go together so a lot of time and effort was put into it. If you are tired of well doing and obeying God, think of Noah. Finally after 120 years God said it's time to ^{go to} the ark. The animals went on first then Noah and His family. I imagine Noah gave one last invitation for anyone else that would like to get on board, but his message seemed to them as crazy so God shut the door. Not one drop of rain had fallen yet and the ark was setting on dry land. No rain fell until 7 days later. The people outside must have said, well I wonder when the crazy fool will give up his idea and get out of that thing. Then it began to rain and proved the majority wrong, many people then tried to get in the ark but there was no way because God said you have had your chance the door is shut. We need to remember that tho God is long suffering there comes a time when He says I have shown mercy long enough now comes judgement. People need to realize that today is the day of salvation now is the accepted time, putting off the day of salvation is a dangerous thing to do.

Noah's faithfulness paid off, His family ^{and} were all saved even his daughter-in-laws. He must have lived his religion well enough around ^{for} them to believe in him. He must have lived so close to God that they had real confidence in His God.

Because of his faithfulness he inherited the whole earth. Can you imagine what it would be like to have the earth to do with as you pleased. No more wickedness, violence and

all is peacefull and beautiful. Many people think God's way is too hard but there are great rewards for those who will go His way and be faithful to Him.

Noah spent a year in the ark he and his family must have been very busy taking care of all the animals. I guess God knew he needed something to do to spend such a long time in it, for he could have made new animals couldn't he.

When Noah got out and made an altar to the Lord and offered a sacrifice he saw a rainbow and God said, I promise you that never again will I bring a flood such as this upon the Earth. So today when I see a rainbow I often think of God's promise. But this does not mean that God will not punish the wicked now, He says he will distroy the Earth with fire. The earth will melt with fervent heat I don't want to be here when that happens, do you?

The Bible says God will come and take His people to be with Him before that terrible day comes. Even the stars will fall from heaven and the heavens will be on fire. I believe that Crists coming is near for the scripture says as it was in the days of Noah so shall it be when Christ will come back. After this happens there will be a new heaven and a new Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. Only the saved will inheret that earth, I want to be among that number, don't you? Jesus said, blessed are those that are counted worthy to escape all these things that are coming on the earth.

If you are listening today and are not in the ark of safety, don't put it off until it is too late and the door is shut and you are left outside, come to Jesus, repent and be saved.

This is Pastor Ransom Gibbs of the Morgantown Wesleyan Church. I am happy to be speaking to you ~~now~~ ^{at this time} the 3rd Sunday of each month.

My scripture text today is found in Job 38:22 "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?"

Almost everyone in the colder parts of the world knows the shimmering ice crystals called snow. Snow is formed when the water vapor in clouds is turned into moisture at a temperature below freezing. Snow forms crystals which always have six rays, but the designs are always different. No two snowflakes have ever been found to be exactly alike. Large snow flakes are combinations of these crystal fragments, and have been known to measure four inches in diameter. There are millions of persons in the world who have not seen snow, since. ~~But~~ it never falls on more than a third of the earth's surface. One such person came to the U S to go to school in Cincinnati, Ohio. While he was walking along the street one day it began to snow. He couldn't imagine what it was, he thought of asking someone but no one seemed to be at all puzzled but him, so he thought he might seem very ignorant if he asked, so he picked up some of the snow and wrapped it up in his handkerchief and put it in his pocket so he could examine it when he got back to his room. You know what happened. Some people are just as ignorant of the treasures of God's grace.

Sometimes we speak of God as the God of the universe, with great planets, stars and galaxies. But let's not forget He is also the God of the little things. He says "Consider the lilies of the field, 'bhold the fowls of the air,' The sparrow that falls". "A cup of cold water". the widow's mites, and says the hairs of your head are all numbered. and now we know that every snow flake is different. Do not fear, therefore, that you are going to be lost in the crowd. Do not think that because you estimate yourself as only one snowflake among a three-days ~~February~~ ^{January} snowstorm that you will be forgotten. The same God who makes every snowflake remembers you and me. The smallest snowflake contains a jewel-case of comfort. Here is one of the treasures of the snow. Take it for your present and everlasting comfort.

There is also, in the snow the treasure of accumulated power. In order to weigh a snow flake you must have very sensitive scales. We often use the expression "Light as a feather," but a snowflake is much lighter. It is just twenty-four times lighter than water. And yet the accumulation of these flakes has sometimes stopped our schools, halted railway trains, grounded all airplanes, closed our main highways, said to Chicago, "Stay home." to New York, "Stay home!" to Washington, "Stay home!" In the winter of 1812, the destiny of Europe was decided. The French army marched up toward Moscow, five hundred thousand men. What can resist them? Not bayonets, but dumb elements overwhelm that host. Napoleon retreats from Moscow with about two hundred thousand men, a mighty nucleus for another campaign after he gets back to Paris. But a cloud comes on the sky, and the air gets chill, and one of the soldiers feels on his cheek a snowflake, and then all the skies let loose upon them a hurricane of snow, and the march becomes difficult, and the horses find it hard to pull the supply train, and the men begin to fall under the fatigue, and many, not able to take another step, lie down in the drifts never to rise. until a hundred and thirty-two thousand die, and the mighty Napoleon himself surrenders to the snowflakes. Billions, trillions, quadrillions, quintillions of flakes did the work. Do you see what accumulative power can do, what a rebuke to all of us who get discouraged because we cannot do much, and therefore do nothing. "Oh," says some one, "I would like to stop the forces of sin and crime that are marching for the conquest of the nation, but I am nobody, I have neither wealth nor social power. What can I do?" Well, do you weigh as much as a snowflake? "Oh, yes." Then do your share. There are so many men and women who will not use the one talent because they have not ten, and will not give a penny because they cannot give a dollar, and will not speak as well as they can because they are not eloquent, and will not be a snowflake because they cannot be an avalanche. In earthly wars the generals get about all the credit, but in the war for God and righteousness and heaven all the private soldiers will get crowns of victory unfailing.

There is also the treasure in the snow that makes things productive. Great snows in winter are generally followed by great harvests the next summer. Scientific analysis has shown that snow contains a larger percentage of ammonia than the rain, and so has greater power of enrichment. Thank God for the snows, high and deep and wide and enriching; they bring the harvests which embroider with gold this entire American continent,

After the chill of the snow comes the wheat, even so the Christian that goes through chilling sorrows finds a harvest of grace. The strongest Christians, without exception, are those who, by bereavement or sickness or poverty or persecution, or all of them together, were snowed under, and again and again snowed under, These snowstorms of trouble. they kill the sickness of the soul. They drive us out of worldly dependence to God. What gave John Bunyan, writer of Pilgrims progress such a wondrous dream of the celestial city? The Bedford Jail for 12 years. Each year he was called forth and asked if he would give up his idea of preaching the gospel and each time he replied, "If you let me out today I will preach tomorrow". But it was not until the last year he spent in Jail that he wrote the book that has blessed the world no doubt far more than if he had been out of jail all that time preaching the gospel. What made Fanny Crossby, the blessed hymn writer? I don't believe she would ever have given us such songs as "Blessed assurance" "Tell me the Story of Jesus", and "My Saviour First of all" if she had not lost her eye sight. What proclaims the richest and most golden harvests that wave on all the hills of heavenly rapture? The snows, the deep snows, the awful snows of earthly calamity.

Another treasure of the snow is the suggestion that it is like the soul after it is forgiven, "Wash me," said the Psalmist, "And I shall be whiter than snow." We often look at the pure white snow and think how clean and beautiful it is, but if you take some and melt it in a pan you will find particles of dust in the bottom of the pan which means that the snow was not pure after all. But the soul that is cleansed by Jesus blood is washed whiter than snow. Just to think that the righteousness of Christ and the pardon of God cover all the sins and imperfections of my life, as that snow covers up a mountain. I do not care who you are, or where you are, you need to be made whiter than snow. I have heard of some who say, but my sin is too great to be cleansed, but God says, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, Though they be red like crimson they shall be as wool." The ancients thought that snow-water had especial power to wash out deep stains. All other water might fail, but melted snow would make them clean. Well, Job had great admiration for snow, but he declares that if he should wash his soul in melted snow, he would still be covered with mud like a man down in a ditch. Job, 9:30: "If I wash myself with snow-water, and make my hands never so clean, yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch and mine own clothes shall abhor me." We must be washed in the fountain of God's mercy, before we can be whiter than snow. "Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord." Hear the words of this wonderful prayer song:

Dear Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole:
I want thee forever to live in my soul.
Break down every idol, cast down every foe!
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow!
Whiter than snow! yes, whiter than snow!
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow!

Get that prayer answered, and we will be fit not only for earth, but for the heaven where everything is so white because everything is so pure. You know that the redeemed in that land wear robes that are white, and the conquerors in that land ride horses that are white, and John in vision says of Christ, "his head and his hairs were white," and the throne on which he sits is a Great White Throne, By the pardoning and sanctifying grace of God, may we all at last stand amid that radiance! That will surely be glorious.

Let us pray; Dear Lord, we know that you have said in your word, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God". Bless each listener today that may be longing to be made whiter than snow, help them to put their full trust in you to make them pure and completely yielded to you, for we ask this in Jesus name Amen.

OX Ch. 3-3-89-20-81
Family Blessings W L B Q

This is pastor Ransom Gibbs of the ^{Feb. 1985} Morgantown Wesleyan Church. Coming to you again on this 20th day of ~~September~~ ~~October~~. I am only on every 3rd Sunday of the month but it is a privilege to speak to you once a month. I would be happy to see you at the church for our regular services. Sunday 10 A M and 6 P M. Wed Prayer service 7: P M.

Today I would like to speak to you about family blessings. The scripture lesson is found in

Ps. 128.
of all the things that God has entrusted us with, the most valuable of all is the building of a Christian home. a home where love is mutual between husband and wife and God is given it place in all decisions that are made. a home where children are considered a sacred trust that God has given us. In these

2
days when the murdering of children
by abortion is considered a mother's
right. We need to realize that the
caring and rearing of children is a sacred
trust and that God's blessings will
flow to the mother and father that
will honor the principles given
them in His Holy Word.

The future of the world lies in the
hands of the mothers and fathers of today.
If we as parents live for God and righteousness
God will bless us.

Ps. 127 says Except the Lord build the house
they labour in vain that build it:
So, children are an heritage of the Lord; and
the fruit of the womb is his reward.
as arrows are in the hand of a mighty
man; so are children of the youth.

There is at the marriage altar
when vows are exchanged, sacred trusts
are made ~~which should never be~~
~~broken~~. a peculiar loveliness and
radiant light ~~of~~ upon the countenance
of two lives united together that

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helps us to realize anew that God
is love and he wants to bless the
family and home.

also in my own experience when
the first child was born, there was
a renewed love my wife and I had
for each other as we held in our
arms the new life God had given
us. This was true also ^{when} ~~of~~ each
one of our ^{was born} children. When our lost
child was born my wife was
in danger and I spent a sleepless
night ~~that~~ I thanked God in the morning
light, ~~that~~ ^{that} God had spared her and given
us another child to bless our
home.

2. Jesus warned against despising ^{a child} ~~these~~
Mtt. 18:10 "Take heed that ye despise
not one of these little ones; for I say
unto you, that in heaven their angels
do always behold the face of my
Father which is in heaven."
I have a picture at home of a
beautiful angel watching over a
sleeping child.

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There is another picture I have seen
of two children ~~cross~~ a boy and a
girl crossing a deep canyon on a little
footbridge. The bridge is old and some of
the boards are gone, it is getting dark
and the children ~~are~~ going hand in hand
across, seemingly unaware of the
danger. But just above them
is a guardian angel to guide
them safely across. The scripture
I just read says beware that
you despise not one of these little
ones. If God is so concerned about
them that he delegates angels to
watch over them, just think
how blessed we are ~~to~~ for God
to place them in our hands.
What a sacred trust. How
we should be careful to fulfill
our mission to teach them in right
ways. Pr. 22:6 says, Train up a
child in the way he should go; and
when he is old, he will not depart
from it.

3. Jesus warned against turning a child away from God. Mt. 18: 6
But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea"

We as parents have the responsibility of providing for the needs of our children, physically, mentally, and spiritually. We can provide for them the guidance and instruction to make them a success or a failure, Happiness or misery, Heaven or hell. What a blessed privilege we enjoy of rearing our children in the ways of Godliness and holiness.

The scripture lesson says: you will ~~will be honored by them~~ be blessed. ~~and all your old children~~
~~and in~~ Prov. 17: 6 ~~it~~ says. Children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

a christian father and mother ~~will~~ ^{are} to
be honored by their children, and
the grandchildren ~~will~~ ^{are} be the
delight of the grandparents.

God's way is the right way

God's way is a Blessed way

If we take His way our children
and our grandchildren will rise
up and call us blessed, but if
we fail to walk in God's way
there will be a day when our
children will curse us.

as Joshua said to the children
of Israel: I set before you
a blessing or a curse. If
you follow God, blessing will
come, if you follow not God
cursing will come. This basic
principle still holds true
today. Which way will you take

Isaiah prophesied of Jesus: 40:11, 72
"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
he shall gather the lambs with his
arm, and carry them in his bosom,
and shall gently lead those that are
with young." Here we see the picture
of Jesus' love for the family.

May we as parents realize the
love and tender care Jesus has for
us and our children. If we will
heed his call, listen to his voice
and follow Him, He will lead
our family along the uneven journey
of life to a home in heaven
where we can be as my mother
used to pray "an unbroken family
around His throne".

Let us pray. Dear Lord to
you we owe so much for the
good things of life. Especially we
thank you for the blessings of family
life. We pray for each one listening

Today, some may have spiritual needs &
and are not following God's plan for
their family life, we pray they might
open their hearts to your call and
realize God's way is best. In Jesus
name we pray, amen.

In closing today I would like
to say, thank you for listening
and may God bless you ~~as we~~
~~listen to the words of the song~~
~~trust and obey.~~