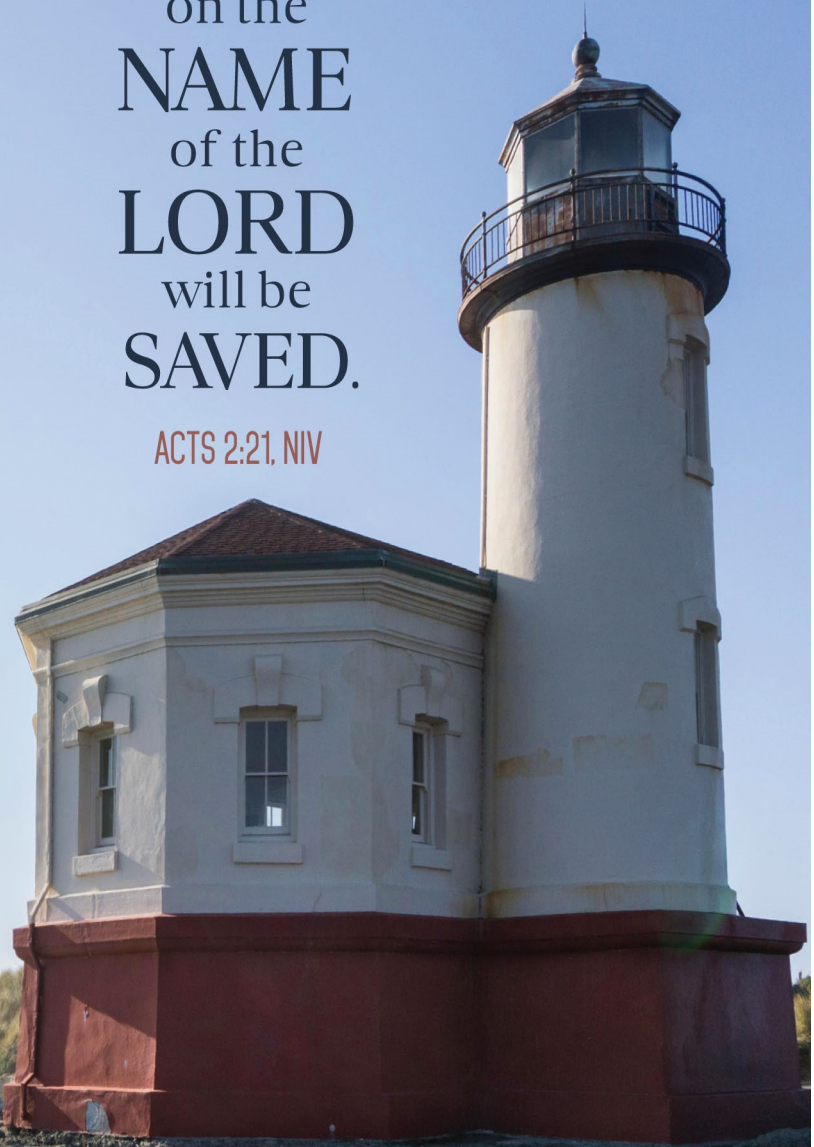


EVERYONE  
who calls  
on the  
**NAME**  
of the  
**LORD**  
will be  
**SAVED.**

ACTS 2:21, NIV



...  
"PRAY EARNESTLY TO THE

# *Lord of the harvest*

TO SEND OUT LABORERS  
INTO HIS HARVEST."

MATTHEW 9:38, ESV

## **Valley Forge Baptist Church**

1701 Valley Forge Road • Valley Forge • PA • 19481  
610-783-7417 • 484-431-8463 • 484-431-8463 • [www.vfbaptist.org](http://www.vfbaptist.org)

Sunday Worship

4/30/2017

**Prelude**

**Invocation**

**Call to Worship - Psalm 116:1-4; 12-19**

**Hymn #221 - All Praise to our Redeeming Lord**

**Scripture Reading - Acts 2:14-41**

**Hymn #409 - Thanks to God Whose Word was Spoken**

**Chorus #65 - We Bow Down**

**Chorus #56 - Jesus, Lord to Me**

**Elder Prayer**

**Offering & Offertory**

**Hymn #358 - Because He Lives**

**Sermon: The Beginning of Knowledge**

**Hymn #408 - How Firm a Foundation**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

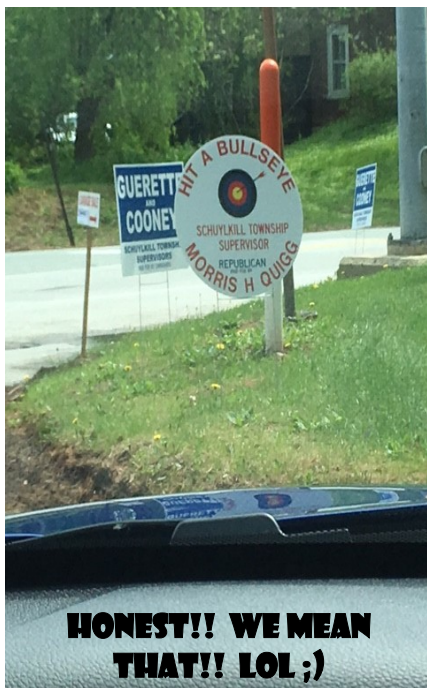
## prayer requests

## up & coming

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- 

\* If you have any particular prayer requests that you want remembered at Prayer Meeting - please see to it that you fill out the prayer card (cards on the desk in the back) and get it in the offering plate so that we can update the cards for the coming meeting this week.

## Not Intended For Political Promotion



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### Today:

9:15 AM - Sunday School  
10:30 AM - Morning Worship

### Monday:

All Day - "Freedom" Day

### Thursday:

All Day - Star Wars Day  
7:00 PM - Prayer Meeting via eMail

### Next Sunday:

9:15 AM - Sunday School  
10:30 AM - Morning Worship  
- Celebration of the Lord's Table



# *The Resurrection: Motive for Salvation*

## *1 Corinthians 15:29*

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Pastor Bill Farrow

*“What will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?”*

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The fact of the Resurrection often is a powerful testimony to draw people to saving faith in Christ.

The apostle Paul knew that believers who face death with joy and hope can present powerful testimonies to unbelievers. The prospect of life in Heaven and a reunion with loved ones is a strong motive for people to hear and receive the gospel. When believers die, their spirits go immediately to be with the Lord. And one day in the future their glorified bodies will rejoin their spirits, and Christians will worship and enjoy God for all eternity.

First Corinthians 15:29 uses the term “baptized” to refer to those who were testifying that they were Christians. Although the mere act of baptism does not save a person, anyone who is an obedient Christian will be baptized. In Paul’s day, the church assumed that any believer would have been baptized, and people were not baptized unless the church was confident their profession of faith was genuine.

“The dead” in 1 Corinthians 15:29 could also include believers, those who have died and whose lives were persuasive testimonies to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. People were being saved (baptized) in Corinth because of (“for”) the faithful witness of deceased believers.

The Resurrection is still a powerful incentive to salvation. In my years as a pastor I have seen people come to Christ after the death of a believing spouse or parent. Those husbands and wives, sons and daughters could not bear the thought of never seeing their loved one again. Those converted survivors were unknowingly touched and changed by the reunion hope that already sustains believers. That hope, based on the promise of resurrection, upheld David after the death of his infant son: “I shall go to him, but he will not return to me” (2 Sam. 12:23).



### ***Suggestions for Prayer:***

Ask the Lord’s forgiveness for times when your testimony has been weak and the resurrection hope in your life has not been evident.

### ***For Further Study:***

Read Matthew 22:23–33. What did the Sadducees’ hypothetical story demonstrate about their belief concerning resurrection? ✧ How important was the doctrine of resurrection to Jesus? ✧ To what did He appeal in correcting the Sadducees?

## *Jesus on Genuine Truthfulness*

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Pastor Bill Farrow

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*But let your statement be, “Yes, yes” or “No, no”; anything beyond these is of evil.—Matt. 5:37*

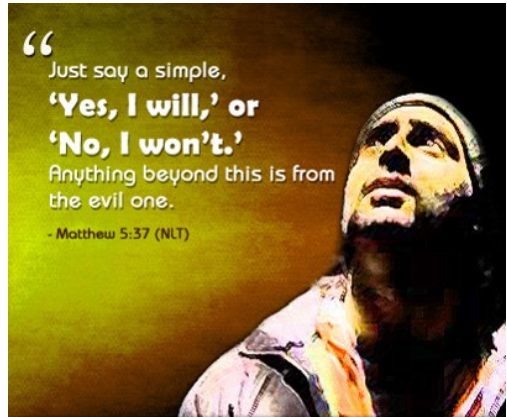
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Keeping your word is the mark of a genuine worshiper and demonstrates that you, as a child of God, hate lies. Everything in God’s kingdom is sacred and all truth is His truth, so truth has no degrees or shades. Thus even what seems to be the most minor false statement dishonors God’s name.

The Lord has never had any standard other than absolute truthfulness. He wants every one of us to possess “truth in the innermost being” (Ps. 51:6). And it follows that “lying lips are an abomination to the Lord” (Prov. 12:22; cf. 6:16–17; Ps. 58:3–4).

Because God has the ultimate criterion of complete truthfulness, even our most routine conversations should be truthful and dependable in every detail. Our everyday talk ought to be plain and straightforward, uncluttered by qualifiers, exaggerations, or hedges on the truth. Our word must be as good as

our bond or as any vow or oath we ever make. James’s admonishment agrees with Jesus’ teaching, “But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment” (James 5:12).



### *Consider This:*

Truth and honesty will never be your default setting until you pursue it deliberately—spending your words carefully and keeping your word completely. In what particular areas of your life is it hardest for you to keep your promises?

**Give thanks unto the LORD,  
call upon his name,  
make known his deeds among the people.**  
*1 Chronicles 16:8*

## *Affliction, Light and Short!*

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Francis Bourdillon, 1864

*"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment — is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal!" 2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

Few people will call their present affliction light, and few are disposed to call it short. For while it lasts it seems hard to bear — and a time of suffering generally appears long. Yet the apostle Paul writes thus about his affliction:

"Our *light* affliction, which is but for a *moment*."

Was it really then only a light affliction for Paul? In other parts of this same epistle, he does not speak of it as light: "As servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger." (2 Corinthians 5:4-5). "I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches." (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).

Paul's afflictions were not, in themselves, *light* — few men have gone through more hardships and trials than he did. Nor were they, in themselves, *short* — for wherever he went he found them; they continued, more or less, to the end of his life.

It was only when he compared his present affliction with the glory that was soon to follow — that it seemed to him light and short. Then he could say, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment." We must always try to look at our afflictions in this way. If we look at them alone — they will be enough to overwhelm us! But if we think also, and even more, of the rest and happiness and glory which lie beyond — then our view of them will be greatly changed.

"True," we shall feel, "true, my sorrows are many; my sickness is sore; my pain is great; long have I lain upon a bed of suffering. Yet before me lies a home of perfect rest, where pain and sickness and sorrow cannot come. My Savior has promised it to me and has gone before to prepare it for me. In a little while, I shall be there!"

With thoughts such as these, the suffering Christian should comfort himself, and thus weigh present affliction against future glory. For what are all things here below, but short? Joys and sorrows, health and sickness, affliction and prosperity — all the things that pain and that please, "the things which are seen" — all these things are but for a time.

Whereas "the things which are not seen are eternal." What we hope for, what

Christ has purchased for us and gone before to prepare for us — that is forever! Our pains and sorrows will soon end — but our pleasures will never end! Our affliction is but for a little while — but our inward comforts, our Savior's presence, our Heavenly home, will be ours always!

Feeling thus, amid all his trials the apostle did not faint. His *hope* did not fail him; his *faith* did not give way; he was still of good cheer. In the body, his trials were many. Such labors and hardships as he went through must, one would think, have caused his health to suffer, and frequently death itself seemed to threaten him. "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day!" 2 Corinthians 4:16

The Holy Spirit sanctified, strengthened, and comforted his soul. God's grace was sufficient for him. Even his trials were blessed to him. Every day he had fresh experience of the grace and love of God. In the midst of outward trials, his soul prospered. Trials are sent for this very purpose. Paul himself had his "thorn in the flesh," lest he should be exalted above measure and so his soul should suffer. David said, "Before I was afflicted, I went astray — but now have I kept Your Word." "It is *good* for me that I have been afflicted — that I might learn Your statutes" (Psalm 119:67, 71).

Many have experienced more of spiritual growth in sickness — than they ever did in health. Often a sick-bed is a place of blessing indeed. The sufferer, weak and helpless, feels himself to be in God's hands; his heart is softened and humbled, and he is led to pour out his soul in prayer. It is in this way that the words come true: "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!" (2 Corinthians 12:7).

Our sufferings here will not, in themselves, procure happiness for us hereafter. We shall not go to Heaven, merely to *make up* for what we have had to bear upon earth. That is not the meaning. There is one only way to happiness and glory. Jesus Christ is the way. He died for us. He is our only hope. Our whole trust must be in Him. But the meaning is, that God sanctifies affliction to us — and thus makes it His instrument for bringing us to Christ and to glory. In every trouble, therefore, we should seek God's sanctifying grace.

*Unsanctified* affliction is both *long* and *heavy*. It is sanctified affliction alone, which can be spoken of thus: "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment."

Our prayer should be:

***"Lord, may Your Holy Spirit bless this sickness to me. Make this affliction to be for my soul's good. Humble me, teach me, sanctify me.***

***Increase my faith in my Savior; cause me to feel You near and to know Your love; support and comfort me under all that You may send; let me not faint or be weary in my mind; though weak in body — yet let me be strong in faith; and though the outward man is perishing — yet let the inward man be renewed day by day.***

***Lord, let me not think Your time long, nor Your hand heavy. Fix my thoughts and affections upon eternal things. May all Your dealings with me be the means of drawing my heart nearer to You, and of leading me to Your eternal rest and glory, through Jesus Christ."***



**"PURE RELIGION ... IS THIS,  
TO VISIT THE FATHERLESS  
AND WIDOWS  
IN THEIR AFFLICTION ...."**

JAMES 1:27

## *Because He Lives* *John 14:19*

*Gloria Gaither, 1942*  
*William J. Gaither, 1936*

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*Because I live, you also will live. (John 14:19)*

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Christ's resurrection is our guarantee of at least two basic truths: First, He has the power to give His life to us and to bring us ultimately to glory to reign with Him forever. And second, His resurrection makes it possible for Him to live in our hearts and to be an integral part of our daily living.

For the past two decades the music of Gloria and Bill Gaither has greatly enriched evangelical hymnody. But the song that has especially highlighted the Gaither's ministry is one that reflects their own philosophy—the resurrection principle in the daily routines of life—"Because He Lives." Bill Gaither recalls the circumstances that prompted the writing of this favorite:

We wrote "Because He Lives" after a period of time when we had had a kind of dry spell and hadn't written any songs for a while ... Also at the end of the 1960's, our country was going through some great turmoil with the height of the drug culture, and the whole "God is Dead" theory was running wild in our country. Also it was the peak of the Vietnam war. During that time our little son was born—at least Gloria was expecting him. I can remember at the time we thought, "Brother, this is really a poor time to bring a child into the world." At times we were even quite discouraged by the whole thing. And then Benjy did come. We had two little girls whom we love very much, but this was our first son, and so that lyric came to us, "How sweet to hold our new-born baby and feel the pride and joy he gives, but better still the calm assurance that this child can face uncertain days because Christ lives." And it gave us the courage to say, "Because Christ lives we can face tomorrow" and keep our heads high.

\* \* \*

### **For Today:**

- John 6:40; Colossians 3:3, 4; 2 Timothy 1:10; 1 John 5:11

Live in the joyous confidence that the living, victorious Christ is guiding your life. Carry this musical truth with you as you go—

God sent His son—  
they called Him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal and forgive;  
He lived and died  
to buy my pardon;  
an empty grave is there  
to prove my Savior lives.

And then one day  
I'll cross the river;  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
and then, as death  
gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory—  
and I'll know He lives.

How sweet to hold  
a new-born baby  
and feel the pride and joy he gives;  
but greater still  
the calm assurance:  
This child can face uncertain days  
because Christ lives.

### **Chorus:**

Because He lives  
I can face tomorrow,  
because He lives  
all fear is gone;  
because I know  
He holds the future  
and life is worth the living—  
just because He lives.