

# GOODNEWS LETTER

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## MEDITATION

Now, Missionary Baptists are not practitioners of religious meditation. The amount of words or the technique used, means virtually nothing to us. We seek the Lord in our hearts, minds and souls.

We are convinced that the practice of meditation; especially, apart from God's Word, does nothing for us or anyone else.

Missionary Baptists believe that "**All Scriptures are given by inspiration of God and are profitable for...**" (2Tim 3:16). Every Scripture that tells us to do something or quit doing something is to bring us closer to God in the heart - closer to Him.

We can never allow the process (any process) to become the means of our worship. Worship begins with God, continues with God and ends with His Person. We take Him into the heart and worship right where we are. It's the condition of the heart that matters; not, how or where.

Missionary Baptists know that meditation is not the means to real knowledge. Missionary Baptists believe and teach that Jesus is the means to truth; yea, the only means. To us, it is Jesus, only. "**I am the way, the truth and the life.**" John 14:6.

But, let's use the word, Meditation, and ask, "Do Missionary Baptists meditate upon the teachings of Jesus, as written in God's Word? Do they study - using diligence (2Tim 2:15) as much as they should? Do they ruminate, reflect, contemplate, concentrate and consider what is involved with each lesson given by Jesus? Are they dwelling upon each teaching and every word in that teaching?"

Having asked those questions, I will only answer from myself. And, I confess that I have not been as dedicated to personal study as I should have. I have been busy during the years but, reading God's word every day, getting closer to Him through His Word and relying upon Him, alone, I haven't; as I should.

Oh! I've studied. Usually, in groups. There have been a truck load of Bible studies. And, I never miss church. But, the Bible studies have been skewed, somewhat. I studied to prove my position; usually, to others.

I studied a lot. First, I wanted to be sure that Missionary Baptists had the truth. They did! And, most still do. I'm happy that I learned that, myself.

But, back in the early days, I wasn't as concerned about God, Himself, as I should have been. Perhaps, it's ignorance and youth; or, ignorance of youth. Perhaps, it's something we all go through; but, I wasn't always on the '**straight and**

narrow' when it came to my studies. I was always looking around. Youth seems have a 'gotta do something' attitude.

Therefore, let me confess my early-day faults. It has not been, until in my latter years, that I have dwelt upon a verse or a portion of Scripture with intense scrutiny that I should. While, I was reading David's words, of "**mediating upon Thy works**" and, "**All Thy works**" (Ps 77:12; 143:5), I placed God's works more to the forefront than I did Him. Clearly, I didn't "**Meditate on Thee in the night watches**" (Ps 63:6), as I try to do, now.

So, I've changed, for the better. Since being saved in 1959, I have made a plethora of meetings - all over the state of California; as well as, many other states. Sometimes, I would put the places Lavon and I have traveled and sing them to the Johnny Cash hit, "**I Been Everywhere, Man.**" Maybe, it would go like this:

Met the Lord in Salinas, off the coast, saved in '59 by the Holy Ghost  
Up and down Colorado state, to Pueblo, where I met my mate  
Rain, sleet and a snowy roads, chaining up was no heavy load  
Traveled 'cross the Pacific Sea, had great fellowship in Hawaii  
I've been to L. A. many a time, plane and bus or drove the line.  
I've been to churches in Alabama, attended a fellowship in Montana.  
Drove till we had to rest, worth it all, its the best.

**Chorus:** I've been to San Fernando, Rialto, Riverside and Modesto,  
Redondo Beach, Downey-a few, Palmdale & Tulare & Tehachapi, too  
This year, the Old California State Association will meet,  
With the Hughson Church and fellowship sweet.  
I've been everywhere, man!

Then, perhaps things turned out that way because of God's Word. His Word has an upswing in our lives. Traveling to all these places (and more), sitting down and listening, allows the Word of God to swing through all the fellowships, revivals and the many Brethren, lifting the attendee upward.

With His truth, believers progress to a higher and higher movement, until it brings us to the heavenlies where we closely sit with Him. First, it's Him, His will and His fellowship; then, it's His work and, lastly, it's us.

Thus, the reason of why we do what we do and go where we go, may change. Actually, should change. Yes, we are always in His word, fellowship and with the Brethren; but, in the later years, God comes to the forefront (no doubt, the earlier ones, too). Then, it becomes all about Him. About God, the Almighty! He becomes our focus. He, alone.

Would I appreciate God and His Word as much if I did not travel to all those places and attend all those meetings? Certainly, not! For, younger servants, even

preachers and pastors, face the many '**winds of doctrine**' (Eph 4:14) out there. It is not uncommon.

So, with church fellowship, comes safety. It is in the church, the collective way of fellowship, that keeps us and grows us. It is where we learn that the church body is the **collective mediation and consideration** of what has been going on since Jesus began the church in Jerusalem.

Consequently, through our service years, the collective mind of the church presents both - a youthful vigor and an adult attitude. That's why Preachers are called "Elders," remember. As Jesus taught the Apostles and they taught church members, the church has kept Her collective focus. She has been "Going," ever since.

Truly, the "Go" in the Great Commission means that, through the centuries, the younger minded members listened, grew up and learned what the older minded church taught on worship through Scripture - growing into an holy temple..."**buildded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit,**" (Eph 2:22).

Of course, it's the leadership of the Holy Spirit that causes us to dwell upon God and His word. Without the Holy Spirit, we might as well learn to position our bodies and chant, oft; or, entertain...