

## Information and Reminders—

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Samuel Southall, and others with ongoing health battles or other trials, and our brethren who are travelling.

The men meet on the first Sunday of the month to discuss our work and duties. There is a sign-up sheet at the back for items needing their attention.

### We need your help—

Are you willing to help keep various Scriptures on our signboard, out by the road, for one month? Sign-up!

Are you willing to help prepare the Lord's supper for one month? Sign-up!  
- Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board at the back.

Our articles appear in *Arkansas Weekly* every other week. Many past and current articles are available at our website.

*We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM*

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# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

May 12, 2013

[WWW.QVCOC.COM](http://WWW.QVCOC.COM)

## **LET ME NOT WANDER FROM YOUR COMMANDMENTS**

*Bryan Gibson (www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org/assets/bulletins/2013/021013.pdf)*

*“With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments” (Psalms 119:10).*

Impressive, yes, but even more impressive when you consider all that David had to go through, all the things that could have easily made him wander. So take a few minutes to compare your attitude to the one expressed here by David. Would any of the following cause you to wander from God's commandments?

**When brethren rebuke you.** David's afflictions took many forms, including the rebuke he received from the prophet Nathan (2 Samuel 12). Afflictions didn't drive him away; they made him cling more closely to God's commandments. “Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word...It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes” (Psalms 119:67, 71).

**When worldly people make fun of you.** And make fun of you they will, if you consistently do the right thing (1 Peter 4:4). David faced that, too, and here's what he said about it: “The proud have me in great derision, yet I do not turn aside from Your law” (Psalms 119:51).

**When persecution gets even worse—**when enemies lie about you, seek to destroy your name, or maybe even try to kill you. Would any of these cause you to wander from keeping God's commandments? David experienced all these things (Psalms 119:61, 78, 85-88, 95, 109-110, 157, 161), and yet it did not diminish his resolve. “But I have not forgotten your law...but I will meditate on your precepts...but I did not forsake your precepts...but my heart stands in awe of Your word...yet I have not strayed from your precepts”—David made all these statements in the midst of heavy persecution.

**When filled with sorrow and grief**—due to sickness, the death of a loved one, the unfaithfulness of a loved one, etc. Again, listen to David who experienced many occasions of sorrow. “My soul melts from heaviness, strengthen me according to Your word...trouble and anguish have overtaken me, yet Your commandments are my delights” (Psalms 119:28, 143).

**When God seems so far away**, when you get to the point that you ask, “When will you comfort me?” (Psalms 119:82). David certainly knew that feeling, because he was the very one who asked that question. But look at the very next verse: “For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, yet I do not forget Your statutes” (Psalms 119:83).

**When the world seems so attractive**, when it appears to offer more than Christ does. David was no stranger to the pull of the world, which explains why he made this plea to God: “Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way” (Psalms 119:35-37).

**When “smart people” seem to have better answers**, when their explanations seem to make more sense than the explanations found in God’s word. As for David, well, let’s just say that he was less than impressed. “You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies...I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep your precepts” (Psalms 119:98-100). David was wiser than any of these men, because he knew God’s wisdom.

Bottom line; don’t let anything diminish your resolve to keep the commandments of God. Don’t let anything shake your confidence in God or in His word. “Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven...The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever” (Psalms 119:89, 160).

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## ***To Boldly Go***

*Kyle Campbell*

Star Trek has been a part of American culture since 1966. In the futuristic world of Star Trek, there is no problem which cannot be solved, and no place which cannot be explored. Even its title sequence said, “To boldly go where no man has gone before.” Exciting stuff, but Star Trek is a fantasy world!

Unfortunately, a lot of people live in a fantasy world regarding God’s grace. They “boldly” venture to take it “where no grace has gone before.” Some people in the New Testament were guilty of the same (Jude 1-4), and Christians need to “*contend earnestly*” for the correct doctrine of grace. People have to see the reality that God’s grace cannot go where man will not meet His requirements.

First, God’s grace cannot go where man will not break the yoke of law. Justification by the Law demands perfection (Galatians 3:10-12). Trying to be justified by the Law of Moses is a yoke which needs grace (Acts 15:10). Following the Law of Moses severs us from grace (Galatians 5:1-4).

Second, God’s grace cannot go where man will not be taught. The gospel is something that must be learned. Jesus said that we hear and learn about God (John 6:44-45). The grace of God teaches us how to live (Titus 2:11-12). A perverted grace will condemn us (Galatians 1:6-9).

Third, God’s grace cannot go where man will not believe. The Jews were saved by faith and grace just like the Gentiles (Acts 15:11). The jailor and his house were saved by faith (Acts 16:31). Faith is man’s part and grace is God’s part (Ephesians 2:8).

Fourth, God’s grace cannot go where man will not repent. We cannot continue in sin that grace may abound (Romans 6:1-2). We have to repent because God demands it (Luke 24:46-47). True repentance equals regret and most importantly change (Acts 26:20).

Fifth, God’s grace cannot go where man will not obey. We cannot practice sin just because we are under grace (Romans 6:15-18). Continued sin insults the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:26-29). We cannot practice sin lest we “fall short” of grace (Hebrews 12:14-15).

Sixth, God’s grace cannot go where man will not be humble. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6-10). God wants people who possess a contrite and humble spirit (Isaiah 57:15). As the elect of God, we should “put on” humility throughout our lives (Colossians 3:12).

We cannot be presumptuous and adventuresome with the grace of God. Instead, we should learn, believe, repent, and humbly obey. We cannot earn salvation by perfect obedience. We need grace, but we have to accept the reality of God’s revelation concerning grace.

*Gospel Teacher*, 7/29/12; [www.knollwoodchurch.org/yr2013/d03\\_boldly\\_go.html](http://www.knollwoodchurch.org/yr2013/d03_boldly_go.html)