



★ THE ★
**LEADERSHIP
BIBLE**

The Seven Principles of Leadership

NEW TYNDALE TRANSLATION ★ NEW TESTAMENT



TRANSLATED BY
MILITARY CHAPLAINS



Words of Comfort, Hope & Promise

The Leadership Bible

New Tyndale Translation
New Testament

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New Tyndale Translation
New Testament

Published by



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DEDICATION

To Her Majesty Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of Her Other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

The translators of the Bible wish grace, mercy, and peace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PREFACE TO THE READER

The *Tyndale Bible* refers to the corpus of translation work by William Tyndale. His work was the first English translation from the Hebrew and Greek. Much of his Old Testament work was used in the *Matthew Bible*.

Tyndale's New Testament work began in 1522, during the reign of King Henry VIII. He began with a Greek text compiled by Erasmus, which was derived from manuscripts older and more authoritative than the Latin Vulgate of St. Jerome (A.D. c.340-420). Tyndale was not given permission from the Bishop of London, Cuthbert Tunstall, and such a work was considered heretical. Only the Vulgate was sanctioned by Rome. So Tyndale went to the mainland of Europe to do his work in safety.

Tyndale used a variety of texts from which to translate. He used the third edition (1522) of *Erasmus's Greek New Testament (Textus Receptus or Received Text)*, and *Erasmus' Latin New Testament*, and Martin Luther's German version and the Vulgate. It is believed that Tyndale did not use Wycliffe's Bible as a source to avoid Renaissance influence. It is also believed that Tyndale used the *Hebrew Pentateuch* or the *Polyglot Bible*, or even the *Septuagint*. It is, however, widely believed that he made much use of Greek and Hebrew grammars.

Many well-known clichés and phrases in modern English were derived from Tyndale's pen as found in the early English bibles and many modern bibles as well, such as "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9). Tyndale used "thou" rather than "you," rescuing the word from obscurity. It is thought that Tyndale shaped the early modern English and modern English more than any other individual.

In 1535, outside Brussels, William Tyndale was arrested and thrown in jail for more than a year in the castle of Vilvoorde, known today as Filford. In 1536 he was

charged with heresy and executed by strangulation. Then his body was burned at a stake. His last request was that God would open the eyes of the King of England, Henry VIII. His prayer was answered two years later when King Henry authorized *The Great Bible* to be the authorized version of the Church of England. *The Great Bible* was based largely on Tyndale's translation, thereby enabling the *Tyndale Bible* to continue playing a large role in the Reformation, eventually impacting the British Empire. His translation was also used in the *Geneva Bible*, which was brought to the New World in 1607, brought on the Mayflower in 1620 to the New World, and used as the basis of the King James Version in 1604. The *Tyndale New Testament* comprises 90 percent of the *King James Version New Testament*, and 76 percent of the *King James Version Old Testament*, thus making them practically synonymous.

For many years, the vision of Stanley M. Horton, Th.D., who is the Senior Editorial Advisor, and Verna M. Linzey, D.D., who is the Chief Editor, and a team of Armed Forces chaplains under their direction, has been to update the *Tyndale Bible* to preserve the legacy of William Tyndale for future generations, including the Armed Forces. The *New Tyndale Translation* benefits the entire English-speaking world. The text used for the New Testament is the *United Bible Societies Greek New Testament, Fourth Edition*; and the text for the Old Testament is the *Masoretic Text (Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia)*.

As an English Bible, we believe it to be fitting to dedicate the *New Tyndale Translation* to the Defender of the Faith, Her Majesty Elizabeth II, to the glory and praise of Almighty God, that the English-speaking world may continue to receive the best possible rendering of the Word of God.

—The Translation Committee

2009

NEW TYNDALE TRANSLATION

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CONTENTS

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Dedication and Preface	v
Matthew.....	1
Mark.....	34
Luke.....	56
John.....	92
Acts.....	119
Romans.....	153
I Corinthians.....	168
II Corinthians.....	183
Galatians.....	193
Ephesians.....	199
Philippians.....	205
Colossians.....	210
I Thessalonians.....	214
II Thessalonians.....	218
I Timothy.....	221
II Timothy.....	226
Titus.....	231
Philemon.....	234
Hebrews.....	236
James.....	248
I Peter.....	253
II Peter.....	258
I John.....	262
II John.....	267
III John.....	269
Jude.....	271
Revelation.....	274
Appendix I: Leadership.....	291
The Seven Principles of Leadership.....	293
Leadership and Liberty.....	308
Leadership and Faith.....	310
The Sinner's Prayer.....	312
Prayer for Leaders.....	312
Prayer for Wounded Warriors.....	313
Prayer for the Air Force.....	313

Prayer for the Army	313
Prayer for the Coast Guard.....	314
Prayer for the Marine Corps	314
Prayer for the Navy.....	314
The Air Force Hymn.....	315
The Army Song	316
The Coast Guard Hymn.....	317
The Marine Corps Hymn	317
The Navy Hymn.....	318
The National Anthem	319
Leadership Creeds	320
Leadership Core Values	324
Military Code of Conduct	325
Military Oaths	325
The Pledge of Allegiance	326
The Covenant and the Code of Ethics for Chaplains of the Armed Forces	327
Leadership Quotes	329
Leadership and the Original Statue of Liberty	333
A Guide to Leadership Scriptures.....	334
Appendix II: Presidential Quotes.....	337
Appendix III: Biblical Archaeology	373

The
Leadership
Bible





Easter Chapel Service in the Field in Iraq

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you” (Mt. 7:7, NIV). Navy Cmdr. Bryan Weaver, chaplain of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) leads Marines and sailors in prayer during an Easter worship service in Iraq. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon (Released).

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

CHAPTER 1

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

¹ The record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham:

² Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

³ Judah begot Perez and Zerach by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.

⁴ Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.

⁵ Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, and Obed begot Jesse.

⁶ Jesse begot David the king, and David the king begot Solomon, by her *who had been* the wife of Uriah.

⁷ Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa.

⁸ Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.

⁹ Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah.

¹⁰ Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.

¹¹ Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were exiled to Babylon.

¹² And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.

¹³ Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor.

¹⁴ Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Akim, and Akim begot Eliud.

¹⁵ Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob.

¹⁶ And Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the exile to Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the exile in Babylon to Christ are fourteen generations.

The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was like this: After His mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, before they came together, she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Joseph, her husband, being a righteous man, and not willing to make her a public example, intended to put her away secretly.

²⁰ But when he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to yourself Mary, your wife, for He who is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

²¹ She shall bring forth a son. You shall call His name JESUS, for it is He who shall save His people from their sins."

²² Now all this has happened, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying,

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with Child, and shall bring forth a Son. They shall call His name Immanuel," which is, being interpreted, God with us."

²⁴ Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took his wife to himself,

²⁵ and did not know her until she had brought forth her firstborn son. He named Him Jesus.

CHAPTER 2

The Visit of the Magi

¹ Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,

² "Where is He who is born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."

³ When King Herod heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.



Iwo Jima

“For what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and yet loses his own soul?” (Mk. 8:36, NIV). “Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima.” The photo was taken during the first few days of the Battle of Iwo Jima, which lasted between February 19–March 26 1945. US Navy Photo (Released).

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

CHAPTER 1

John the Baptist

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the Prophets, "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.

³ "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord! Make His paths straight!'"

⁴ John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins.

⁵ All the country of Judea and all those of Jerusalem went out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

⁶ John was clothed with camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ He preached, saying, "After me comes He who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loosen.

⁸ "I baptized you in water, but He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

⁹ It happened in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

¹⁰ Immediately coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting, and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove.

¹¹ A voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

¹² Immediately the Spirit drove Him out into the wilderness.

¹³ He was there in the wilderness forty days tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals; and the angels were serving Him.

Calling the First Disciples

¹⁴ Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand! Repent, and believe in the gospel."

¹⁶ Passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

¹⁷ Jesus said to them, "Come after Me, and I will make you into fishers for men."

¹⁸ Immediately they left their nets, and followed Him.

¹⁹ Going on a little further from there, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John, his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets.

²⁰ Immediately He called them, and they left their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.

Evil Spirit Driven Out

²¹ They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered into the synagogue and taught.

²² They were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as having authority, and not as the scribes.

²³ Immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out,

²⁴ saying, "Ha! What do we have to do with You, Jesus, You Nazarene? Have You come to destroy us? I know You who You are: the Holy One of God!"

²⁵ Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!"

²⁶ The unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

²⁷ They were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching? For with authority he



Operation Upshot Knothole

“But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all” (Lk. 17:29, NIT). Nevada Test Site—This was called the “Badger” explosion. A nuclear fireball lights up the night at the Nevada Test Site in the United States’ nuclear test. It was called Upshot Knothole Badger and occurred on April 18, 1953. Photo: Courtesy of the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office Photo Library file number XX-34 (Released). This work is in the public domain in the United States because it is a work prepared by an officer or employee of the United States Government as part of that person’s official duties under the terms of Title 17, Chapter 1, Section 105 of the US Code.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

¹ Since many have undertaken to set in order a narrative concerning those matters which have been fulfilled among us,

² even as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word delivered them to us,

³ it seemed good to me also, having traced the course of all things accurately from the first, to write to you in order, most excellent Theophilus;

⁴ that you might know the certainty concerning the things in which you were instructed.

Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

⁵ There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zechariah, of the priestly division of Abijah. He had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

⁶ They were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.

⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they both were well advanced in years.

⁸ Now it happened, while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his division,

⁹ according to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to enter into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

¹⁰ The whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.

¹¹ An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

¹² Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be

afraid, Zechariah, because your request has been heard, and your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

¹⁴ "You will have joy and gladness; and many will rejoice at his birth.

¹⁵ "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

¹⁶ "He will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord, their God.

¹⁷ "He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to prepare a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure of this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."

¹⁹ The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God. I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news.

²⁰ "Behold, you will be silent and not able to speak, until the day that these things will happen, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time."

²¹ The people were waiting for Zechariah, and they marveled that he delayed in the temple.

²² When he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple. He continued making signs to them, and remained mute.

²³ It happened, when the days of his service were fulfilled, he departed to his house.

²⁴ After these days Elizabeth, his wife, conceived, and she hid herself five months, saying,

²⁵ "Thus has the Lord done to me in the days in which he looked at me, to take away my reproach among men."



Air Force Chaplain in New Orleans Keeping Faith

“If you love me, keep my commandments” (Jn. 14:15, NLT). U.S. Air Force Chaplain, Major Hayden Vavarek, assigned to the 315th Airlift Wing, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., conducts a Catholic Mass for joint service members at Naval Air Station New Orleans, LA, September 11, 2005. Chaplain Vavarek was deployed as part of the 4th Air Expeditionary Group, Joint Task Force Katrina, whose mission was to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s disaster relief efforts in the Gulf Coast areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey (Released).

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

CHAPTER 1

The Word Becomes Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² The same was in the beginning with God.

³ All things were made through Him. Without Him was not anything made that has been made.

⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷ The same came as a witness, that he might testify about the light, that all might believe through him.

⁸ He was not the light, but was sent that he might testify about the light.

⁹ The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not recognize Him.

¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become sons of God, to those who believe in His name:

¹³ who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh, and lived among us. We saw His glory, such glory as of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John the Baptist as a Witness

¹⁵ John testified about Him. He cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me, for He was before me.'"

¹⁶ From His fullness we all received grace upon grace.

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses. Grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The one and only Son, who is at the Father's side, has declared Him.

John the Baptist as a Voice

¹⁹ This is John's testimony, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰ He declared, and did not deny, but he declared, "I am not the Christ."

²¹ They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No."

²² They said therefore to him, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

²⁴ The ones who had been sent were from the Pharisees.

²⁵ They asked him, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know.

²⁷ "He is the One who comes after me, who is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I'm not worthy to loosen."

²⁸ These things were done in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Jesus the Lamb of God

²⁹ The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"



Chaplain Baptizes Soldier in Iraq

“Peter answered, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’ ” (Ac. 2:38-39, NIV). Sgt. Elson Sandoval, a team leader with Co. A, 3rd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 1st Cav. Div., closes his eyes tightly as Chaplain, Capt. Will Alley, the chaplain for 3rd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., baptizes him at the Forward Operating Base Diamondback Chapel, in Iraq, on November 1, 2009. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christopher Kozloski, 145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Released).

THE ACTS

OF THE APOSTLES

CHAPTER 1

The Ascension

¹ The first book I wrote, Theophilus, concerned all that Jesus began both to do and to teach,

² until the day in which he was received up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

³ To these He also showed Himself alive after He suffered, by many proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ Being assembled together with them, he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from Me.

⁵ "For John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ Therefore when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, are You now restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has set within His own authority.

⁸ "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth."

⁹ When He had said these things, as they were looking, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

¹⁰ While they were looking steadfastly into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white clothing,

¹¹ who also said, "You men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was received up from you into heaven will come back in the same way as you saw Him going into heaven."

Matthias Replaces Judas

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's walk.

¹³ When they had come in, they went up into the upper room, where they were staying; that is Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James.

¹⁴ All these with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer and supplication, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

¹⁵ In these days, Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (and the number of names was about one hundred twenty), and said,

¹⁶ "Brethren, it was necessary that this Scripture should be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who was guide to those who took Jesus.

¹⁷ "For he was numbered with us, and received his portion in this ministry.

¹⁸ "(Now this man obtained a field with the reward for his wickedness. And falling headlong, his body burst open, and all his intestines spilled out.

¹⁹ "It became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem that in their dialect that field was called Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his habitation be made desolate. Let no one dwell therein;' and, 'Let another take his office.'

²¹ "Of the men therefore who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

²² "beginning from the baptism of John, to the day that he was received up from us, of these one must become a witness with us of his resurrection."



Chaplains Go Where Needed

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Rom. 13:1, NIT). Southwest Asia (AFPN)—An Iraqi boy waves goodbye to Chaplain, Lt. Col. Steven Keith, USAF, after he delivered clothing, food and other items donated by airmen at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, in 2004. Chaplain Keith was assigned to the 447th Air Expeditionary Group. He has since attained the rank of Colonel and become commandant of the Air Force Chaplain Corps College and director of the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Lisa Zunzanyika)

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE ROMANS

CHAPTER 1

Greetings

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

² which He promised before through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,

³ concerning His Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,

⁴ who was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

⁵ through whom we received grace and apostleship, for obedience of faith among all the nations, for His name's sake;

⁶ among whom you are also called to belong to Jesus Christ;

⁷ to all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Longing to Visit Rome

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, that your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world.

⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

¹⁰ requesting, if by any means now at last I may be prospered by the will of God to come to you.

¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, to the end that you may be established;

¹² that is, that I with you may be encouraged in you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

¹³ Now I do not desire to have you unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you,

and was hindered so far, that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

¹⁴ I am debtor both to Greeks and to foreigners, both to the wise and to the foolish.

¹⁵ So, as much as is in me, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

The Righteous Live by Faith

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes; for the Jew first, and also for the Greek.

¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. As it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

God's Wrath Against Ungodliness

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

¹⁹ because that which is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of Him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even His everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse.

²¹ Because, knowing God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither gave thanks, but became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

²³ and traded the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed animals, and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves,



Saying Farewell

“But as it is written, ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him’ ” (1 Co. 2:9, NLT). Staff Sgt. Robert Culbertson pays his respects during a Final Guard Mount ceremony May 16, 2007 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The ceremony, which recognizes fallen security forces Airmen, was held in conjunction with National Police Week. Sergeant Culbertson is assigned to the 435th Security Forces Squadron. U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Levi Riendeau (Released).

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

CHAPTER 1

A Personal Greeting

¹ Paul, called an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² to the church of God which is at Corinth, those who are set apart in Christ Jesus, called to be holy people, together with all who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours.

³ Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always for you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,

⁵ because in every respect you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,

⁶ as the testimony of Christ was confirmed among you,

⁷ so that you should fall short in no gift while waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸ He will also preserve you to the end, irreproachable in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Abandon All Factions and Rivalries

¹⁰ Now I urge you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to all be in agreement so that there are no factions among you, but that you be completely united, having the same attitude and the same values.

¹¹ For it has been reported to me concerning you, my brethren, by those who are Chloe's associates, that there are rivalries among you.

¹² I mean this: that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or, "I follow Christ."

¹³ Has Christ been divided? Surely Paul was not crucified for you? Or were you baptized into the name of Paul?

¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius,

¹⁵ so that no one should say that I had baptized you into my own name.

¹⁶ (I also baptized the household of Stephanas—besides them, I do not recall that I baptized anyone else.)

¹⁷ For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to proclaim the gospel—not in wisdom of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made ineffectual.

The Wisdom of God

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, I will set aside the understanding of the intellectual.

²⁰ Where is the wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

²¹ For since by the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of proclamation to save those who believe.

²² For Jews ask for signs, Greeks seek wisdom,

²³ but we preach a crucified Christ: an affront to Jews, and folly to pagans.

²⁴ But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Boast Only in the Lord

²⁶ For take note of your own calling, brethren, that not many of you are wise in human



Easter Sunrise Service

Aboard the USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN-74)

“He delivered us from such a great death, and does deliver; in Him we trust that he will still deliver us” (II Cor. 1:10, NIV). ARABIAN SEA (April 8, 2007)—Cmdr. William Kennedy, the ship’s chaplain, presides over the Easter Sunrise Service on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74). The Easter Sunrise Service is a time for Christian religious denominations to come together and celebrate with readings from the Bible, hymns, songs and music. Stennis, as part of the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group, is on a regularly scheduled deployment in support of Maritime Security Operations (MSO). MSO help set the conditions for security and stability, as well as aid counter-terrorism and security efforts to the regional nations. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Josue Leopoldo Escobosa (Released).

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

CHAPTER 1

Greeting

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The God of All Comfort

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort;

⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound to us, even so our comfort also abounds through Christ.

⁶ But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer.

⁷ Our hope for you is steadfast, knowing that, since you are partakers of the sufferings, so also are you of the comfort.

Rescued from Affliction

⁸ For we do not desire to have you uninformed, brethren, concerning our affliction which happened to us in Asia, that we were weighed down exceedingly, beyond our power, so much that we despaired even of life.

⁹ Yes, we ourselves have had the sentence of death within ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead,

¹⁰ who delivered us out of so great a death, and does deliver; on whom we have set our hope that He will also still deliver us;

¹¹ you also helping together on our behalf by your supplication; that, for the gift bestowed on us by means of many, thanks may be given by many persons on your behalf.

Paul's Principles of Action

¹² For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God we behaved ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.

¹³ For we write no other things to you, than what you read or even acknowledge, and I hope you will acknowledge to the end;

¹⁴ as also you acknowledged us in part, that we are your boasting, even as you also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus.

¹⁵ In this confidence, I was determined to come first to you, that you might have a second benefit;

¹⁶ and by you to pass into Macedonia, and again from Macedonia to come to you, and to be sent forward by you on my journey to Judea.

¹⁷ When I therefore was thus determined, did I show fickleness? Or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be the "Yes, yes" and the "No, no"?

¹⁸ But as God is faithful, our word toward you was not "Yes and no."

¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, by me, Silvanus, and Timothy, was not "Yes and no," but in Him is "Yes."

²⁰ For however many are the promises of God, in Him is the "Yes." Therefore also through Him is the "Amen," to the glory of God through us.

²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ, and anointed us, is God;

²² who also sealed us, and gave us the down



First Black and Female Military Chaplains

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty with which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:1, NIV). In 1863, Henry M. Turner became the first African-American chaplain to serve in the regular Army. He represented the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1864 during the Civil War, Ella Gibson Hobart became the first non-commissioned female chaplain and was chosen to serve for the Wisconsin artillery regiment. Photos: U.S. Army Public Affairs Office (Released).

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE GALATIANS

CHAPTER 1

Greeting

¹ Paul, an apostle (not from men, neither through man, but through Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),

² and all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia:

³ Grace to you and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ,

⁴ who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father—
⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

No Other Gospel

⁶ I marvel that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ to a different gospel;

⁷ and there is not another gospel. Only there are some who trouble you, and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

⁸ But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you any gospel other than that which we preached to you, let him be cursed.

⁹ As we have said before, so I now say again: if any man preaches to you any gospel other than that which you received, let him be cursed.

¹⁰ For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? For if I were still pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Paul Called by God

¹¹ But I make known to you, brethren, concerning the gospel which was preached by me, that it is not according to man.

¹² For neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me through revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³ For you have heard of my way of living in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and ravaged it.

¹⁴ I advanced in the Jews' religion beyond many of my own age among my countrymen, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

¹⁵ But when it was the good pleasure of God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me through His grace,

¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,

¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia. Then I returned to Damascus.

Paul Goes to Jerusalem

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Peter, and stayed with him fifteen days.

¹⁹ But of the other apostles I saw no one, except James, the Lord's brother.

²⁰ Now about the things which I write to you, behold, before God, I'm not lying.

²¹ Then I came to the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

²² I was still unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ,

²³ but they only heard: "He who once persecuted us now preaches the faith that he once tried to destroy."

²⁴ And they glorified God in me.

CHAPTER 2

In Defense of the Gospel of Grace

¹ Then after a period of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus also with me.

² I went up by revelation, and I laid before



Chaplain Conducts Baptismal Service in Okinawa

“For by grace are you saved through faith, and so not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9, NIV). Photo: Courtesy of LTC Public Affairs Office (Released). Captain Glen Brown, Chaplain Corp, USN, baptizes Marines in Okinawa in 1974. Captain Brown was the senior chaplain and Regimental chaplain at Camp Hansen. Colonel Alfred Gray, who was the Camp Commanding Officer and Regimental Commander, later became a Four-Star General and Commandant of the US Marine Corps. U.S. Navy Photo (Released).

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

CHAPTER 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, and the faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ;

⁴ even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and without blemish before Him in love;

⁵ having predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His desire,

⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He freely bestowed favor on us in the Beloved,

⁷ in whom we have our redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,

⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

⁹ making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Him

¹⁰ to an administration of the fullness of the times, to sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth, in Him;

¹¹ in whom also we were assigned an inheritance, having been foreordained according to the purpose of Him who works all things after the counsel of His will;

¹² to the end that we should be to the praise of His glory, we who had before hoped in Christ:

¹³ in whom you also, having heard the word

of the truth, the gospel of your salvation—in whom, having also believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Prayer for a Spirit of Wisdom

¹⁵ For this cause I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you, and the love which you have toward all the saints,

¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers,

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him;

¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to that working of the strength of His might

²⁰ which He worked in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and made Him to sit at His right hand in the heavenly places,

²¹ far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come.

²² He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things for the church,

²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

CHAPTER 2

Alive Together with Christ

¹ You were made alive when you were dead in transgressions and sins,



The Four Chaplains

“But I would have you understand, brothers, that the things which happened to me have served rather for the furtherance of the gospel” (Php. 1:12, NLT). These were the Four Chaplains who gave their lives on the USS *Dorchester*, Feb. 23, 1943, so that their soldiers could escape with their lives. When a German submarine torpedoed the USS *Dorchester* these chaplains gave their life vests to their soldiers. The chaplains were Chaplain George L. Fox, Methodist; Chaplain Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Chaplain Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed; and Chaplain John P. Washington, Roman Catholic. They stood on deck arm in arm seeing many of their soldiers rescued as the ship went down. Photo: Courtesy of U.S Army Public Affairs (Released).

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS

CHAPTER 1

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³ I thank my God during all my memory of you,

⁴ always in every petition of mine on your behalf making my entreaty with joy,

⁵ for your fellowship in progress of the gospel from the first day until now.

⁶ I am confident of this very thing, that He which began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ:

⁷ even as it is right for me to be thus minded on behalf of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel,

^{you} all are partakers with me of grace.

⁸ For God is my witness, how I long after all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And thus I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and all discernment;

¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that really matter; that you may be sincere and blameless for the day of Christ;

¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which is through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Advance of the Gospel

¹² Now I would have you know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have served rather for the advance of the gospel;

¹³ so that my imprisonments became identi-

fied with Christ throughout the whole Praetorian Guard, and to all the rest;

¹⁴ and that most of the brethren in the Lord, gaining confidence because of my chains, are more abundantly bold to speak the word of God without fear.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ out of envy and contention; and some also of good will:

¹⁶ the latter *do it* from love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel:

¹⁷ but others proclaim Christ out of *selfish* ambition, not sincerely, thinking to raise up affliction for me in my chains.

¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

To Live Is Christ

¹⁹ For I know that this shall result in my salvation, through your prayers and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope, that in nothing shall I be put to shame, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether by life, or by death.

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

²² But if to live in the flesh,—*if* this is the fruit of my work, then what I shall choose I do not know.

²³ But I am torn between the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ; for it is far better:

²⁴ yet to abide in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

²⁵ And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide, yes, and abide with all of you, for your progress and joy in the faith;

²⁶ that your boasting may abound in Christ Jesus when I am with you again.



The British Pipes and Drum at the Pentagon

“As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him” (Col. 2:6, NIV). The British Army Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion Scots Guard performs for employees, service members and families Sept. 25, 2009, at the Pentagon. The band that consists of infantry soldiers performed for its closest allies prior to a Helmand Province deployment next Spring. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Stan Parker (Released).

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE COLOSSIANS

CHAPTER 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colosse: grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Redemption through the Blood of Christ

³ We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.

⁴ For we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and your love for all the saints,

⁵ because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.

⁶ This has come to you, as it is in all the world, and brings forth fruit, as it has also in you, since the day you heard it and knew the grace of God in truth.

⁷ And you also learned of Epaphras, our dear fellow-servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ for you,

⁸ and who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

¹⁰ that you might walk worthy of the Lord, pleasing to all, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

¹¹ and strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, patience and long-suffering with joyfulness toward all,

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has made us fitting to be partakers in the inheritance of the saints in light.

¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son,

¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of sins.

Christ Created the World

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn of every creature.

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they are thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers—all things were created by Him and for Him.

¹⁷ He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.

¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things He might have the preeminence.

¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell,

²⁰ and through Him, to reconcile to Himself all things, whether they be things in earth or things in heaven, by having made peace through the blood of His cross.

²¹ And you were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works. Yet now has He reconciled you

²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unrepentable in His sight,

²³ if you continue in the faith, grounded and settled, and be not removed from the hope of the gospel, which you have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Rejoice in Sufferings

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh that which is lacking regarding the afflictions of Christ for His body's sake, which is the church.

²⁵ I have been made a servant of it according to the dispensation of God, which has been given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden since past ages and generations, but now is revealed



Air Force Falcons vs. New Mexico

“In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Th. 5:18, NIV). Football: Opportunistic Air Force Falcons Topple New Mexico—The Air Force rushing attack unfolds with Falcon lineman taking out defenders as freshman quarterback Tim Jefferson looks to handoff to one of his backs coming out of the Power-I formation, and with fullback Todd Newell working as a lead blocker. Going into the October 23 game against New Mexico, the Air Force rushing attack was third in the nation, averaging 300.4 yards per game. Jefferson led the run-heavy Falcons offense to 227 yards rushing and a 1-yard touchdown pass in a 23-10 win over New Mexico on October 23, 2008, at Falcon Stadium in Colorado. (U.S. Air Force photo taken by Dave Armer (Released).

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 1

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

An Example of Faith

² We always give thanks to God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers,

³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father.

⁴ We know, brethren loved by God, your election by God,

⁵ and that our gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and with much assurance. You know what kind of men we showed ourselves to be among you for your sake.

⁶ You became imitators of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

⁷ so that you became an example to all who believe in Macedonia and in Achaia.

⁸ For from you the word of the Lord has been declared, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone out; so that we need not to say anything.

⁹ For they themselves report concerning us what kind of a reception we had from you; and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God,

¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead—Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.

CHAPTER 2

Righteous Conduct

¹ For you yourselves know, brethren, our visit to you was not in vain,

² but having suffered before and been shamefully treated, as you know, at Philippi, we grew bold in our God to tell you the gospel of God in much conflict.

³ For our exhortation is not of error, nor of uncleanness, nor in deception.

⁴ But even as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, who tests our hearts.

⁵ For neither were we at any time found using words of flattery, as you know, nor a cloak of covetousness (God is witness),

⁶ nor seeking glory from men (neither from you nor from others), when we might have claimed authority as apostles of Christ.

⁷ But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother cherishes her own children.

⁸ Even so, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because you had become very dear to us.

⁹ For you remember, brethren, our labor and travail; for working night and day, that we might not burden any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

¹⁰ You are witnesses with God, how holy, righteously, and blamelessly we behaved ourselves toward you who believe.

¹¹ As you know, we exhorted, comforted, and implored every one of you, as a father does his own children,

¹² to the end that you should live worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.



**Christmas Eve: Air Forces Central Commander
Visits Deployed Wounded Airman**

“Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who has loved us and has given us everlasting consolation and good hope through His grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work and word” (II Th. 2:16-17, NIV). Lt. Gen. Gary North, U.S. Air Forces Central commander, watches over a wounded Airman at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. North personally presented the Airman with his Purple Heart medal, as well a special quilt made with love by “little old ladies” in South Carolina. The eager staff at the military hospital can treat his wounds, but the quilt serves to heal his mind and spirit—a constant reminder that there are people who care, even if they have never met. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing (Released).

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 1

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Righteous Judgment of God

³ We are bound to always give thanks to God for you, brethren, even as it is appropriate, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of each and every one of you towards one another abounds;

⁴ so that we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions which you endure.

⁵ This is an obvious sign of the righteous judgment of God, to the end that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer.

⁶ Since it is a righteous thing with God to repay affliction to those who afflict you,

⁷ and to give relief to you who are afflicted with us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

⁸ giving vengeance to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus,

⁹ who will pay the penalty: eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of His might,

¹⁰ when He comes to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired among all those who have believed (because our testimony to you was believed) in that day.

¹¹ To this end we also pray always for you, that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire of goodness and work of faith, with power;

¹² that the name of our Lord Jesus may be

glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 2

Do Not Be Deceived

¹ Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him, we ask you

² not to be quickly shaken in your mind, nor yet be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by letter as from us, saying that the day of Christ had come.

³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For it will not be, unless the departure comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction,

⁴ he who opposes and exalts himself against all that is called God or that is worshiped; so that he sits as God in the temple of God, setting himself up as God.

⁵ Do not you remember that, when I was still with you, I told you these things?

⁶ Now you know what is restraining him, to the end that he may be revealed in his own season.

⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness already works. Only there is one who restrains now, until he is taken out of the way.

⁸ Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will kill with the breath of His mouth, and destroy by the manifestation of His coming;

⁹ even he whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

¹⁰ and with all deception of wickedness for those who are being lost, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

¹¹ Because of this, God sends them a work-



Rescue

“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which were previously given to you, that by these prophecies you might fight a good war, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck” (I Tim. 1:18-19, NIT). July 14, 2007—Senior Airman Dwight Funk carries a “survivor” out of a house during a training scenario at Playas, N.M. in a combat search and rescue exercise. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christina D. Ponte (Released).

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO TIMOTHY

CHAPTER 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and Christ Jesus our hope;

² to Timothy, my true child in faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Warning About False Doctrine

³ As I urged you when I was going into Macedonia, stay at Ephesus that you might command certain men not to teach a different doctrine,

⁴ neither to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which cause disputes, rather than godly edifying, which is in faith—

⁵ but the goal of this command is love, out of a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere faith;

⁶ from which things some, having missed the mark, have turned aside to vain talking;

⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, though they understand neither what they say, nor about what they strongly affirm.

⁸ But we know that the law is good, if a man uses it lawfully,

⁹ as knowing this, that law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

¹⁰ for the sexually immoral, for homosexuals, for slave-traders, for liars, for perjurers, and for any other thing contrary to the sound doctrine;

¹¹ according to the gospel of the glory of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

Paul Obtained Mercy from God

¹² And I thank Him who enabled me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because He counted me faith-

ful, appointing me to service;

¹³ although I was before a blasphemer, a persecutor, and insolent. However, I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

¹⁴ The grace of our Lord abounded exceedingly with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ The saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

¹⁶ However, for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first, Jesus Christ might display all His patience, for an example of those who were going to believe in Him for eternal life.

¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Wage the Good Warfare

¹⁸ This instruction I commit to you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies which led the way to you, that by them you may wage the good warfare;

¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience; which some having thrust away made a shipwreck concerning the faith;

²⁰ of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I delivered to Satan, that they might be taught not to blaspheme.

CHAPTER 2

Pray for Kings and Leaders

¹ I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings, be made for all men:

² for kings and all who are in high places; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and reverence.

³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;

⁴ who desires all people to be saved and



Easter Sunrise Service *USS Ronald Reagan*

“But it is now revealed by the appearing of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (II Tim. 1:10, NLT). PACIFIC OCEAN (March 23, 2008)—Sailors aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier *USS Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) attend Easter sunrise service on the flight deck. *Ronald Reagan* is underway conducting routine carrier operations with Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Jennifer S. Kimball (Released).

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO TIMOTHY

CHAPTER 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, according to the promise of the life which is in Christ Jesus,

² to Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Timothy's Heritage and Faith

³ I thank God, whom I serve as my forefathers did, with a pure conscience. How unceasing is my memory of you in my petitions, night and day

⁴ longing to see you, remembering your tears, that I may be filled with joy;

⁵ having been reminded of the sincere faith that is in you; which lived first in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and, I am persuaded, in you also.

⁶ For this cause, I remind you that you should stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control.

Do Not be Ashamed of the Gospel

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner; but endure hardship for the gospel according to the power of God,

⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before times eternal,

¹⁰ but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

¹¹ For this, I was appointed as a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

¹² For this cause I also suffer these things.

Yet I am not ashamed, for I know Him whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to guard that which I have committed to Him against that day.

Loyalty in Faith

¹³ Hold the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ That good thing which was committed to you, guard through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

¹⁵ This you know, that all who are in Asia turned away from me; of whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain,

¹⁷ but when he was in Rome, he sought me diligently, and found me

¹⁸ (the Lord grant to him to find the Lord's mercy in that day); and in how many things he served at Ephesus, you know very well.

CHAPTER 2

Strong in Grace

¹ You therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

² The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit the same to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Endure Hardship

³ You therefore must endure hardship, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

⁴ No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of life, that he may please him who enrolled him as a soldier.

⁵ Also, if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he has competed by the rules.



Memorial Service Aboard the USS *South Dakota*

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up” (Jam. 4:10, NIV). The crew of the USS *South Dakota* bow their heads while Chaplain N.D. Lindner reads the benediction held in honor of fellow shipmates killed in the air action of Guam on June 19, 1944. Photo: Courtesy of Army Public Affairs (Released).

THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JAMES

CHAPTER 1

Testing of Faith

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you face various trials,

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

⁴ Let endurance have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach. And it will be given to him.

⁶ But let him ask in faith, without any doubting. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

⁷ For let not that man think that he will receive anything from the Lord.

⁸ He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹ But let the brother in humble circumstances glory in his high position,

¹⁰ and the rich in that he is made humble, because like the flower in the grass he will pass away.

¹¹ For the sun rises with the scorching wind, and withers the grass. *Then* the flower in it falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. Thus will the rich man also fade away in his pursuits.

¹² Blessed is the man who endures trials, for when he has passed the test he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

God Does Not Tempt Us

¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God." For God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself tempts no one.

¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own lust.

¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it bears sin. And when sin is fully developed, it brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or moving shadow.

¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth that we would be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger.

²⁰ For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

²¹ Therefore, putting away all filthiness and abundance of wickedness, receive with humility the implanted word which is able to save your souls.

Be Doers of the Word

²² But be doers of the word, and not only hearers, deluding yourselves.

²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror.

²⁴ For he sees himself and goes away and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

²⁵ But he who intently looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues, not having become a hearer who forgets, but a doer who works, this man will be blessed in what he does.

Test of True Religion

²⁶ If anyone thinks himself to be religious while he does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his heart, this man's religion is worthless.



**Drill Sergeant Wooten and a New Cadet Leader's Training Course
US Army Cadet Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky**

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. Always be ready to give an answer to every man who asks you for a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Pet. 3:15, NIV). Drill Sergeant Charles L. Wooten addresses questions to an ROTC Cadet at Leader's Training Course 2006, Fort Knox, KY. Photo: Courtesy of LTC Public Affairs Office (Released).

THE FIRST GENERAL EPISTLE OF PETER

CHAPTER 1

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect who are refugees of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

Heavenly Inheritance

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy became our father again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ who by the power of God are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ Wherein you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been put to grief in various trials,

⁷ that the proof of your faith, which is more precious than gold that perishes even though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ—

⁸ whom not having known you love; in whom, though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice greatly with joy unspeakable and full of glory—

⁹ receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets sought and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,

¹¹ searching for who or what kind of time the Spirit of Christ, which was in them, pointed to, when he predicted the sufferings of Christ, and the glories that would follow them.

¹² To them it was revealed, that not to themselves, but to you, they ministered these things, which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven; which things angels desire to look into.

Holy Conduct

¹³ Therefore guard your minds, be sober and set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ—

¹⁴ as children of obedience, not conforming yourselves according to your former lusts as in your ignorance,

¹⁵ but just as He who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all of your behavior;

¹⁶ because it is written, “You shall be holy; for I am holy.”

¹⁷ If you call on Him as Father, who without respect of persons judges according to each man’s work, pass the time of your living as foreigners here in reverent fear:

¹⁸ knowing that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from the useless way of life handed down from your fathers,

¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a faultless and pure lamb, the blood of Christ;

²⁰ who was foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of times for your sake,

²¹ who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead, and gave Him glory; so that your faith and hope might be in God.



USMC Drill Team

U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland

“Therefore, beloved, seeing that you look for such things, be diligent that you may be found by him in peace, spotless and blameless” (II Pe. 3:14, NTT). ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 27, 2011) — Members of the Marine Corps Silent Drill team perform at U.S. Naval Academy for the Class of 2015. Members of the Silent Drill Platoon are handpicked to represent the Marine Corps. Through intense practice they learn the precise rifle drill performed for audiences across America. The platoon is based at the historic Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., “8th & I.” U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Chad Runge (Released).

THE SECOND GENERAL EPISTLE OF PETER

CHAPTER 1

Great and Precious Promises

¹ Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a like precious faith with us in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

² Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and virtue;

⁴ by which He has granted to us His precious and exceedingly great promises; that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Growth in Faith

⁵ Yes, and for this very cause, making every effort, in your faith supply moral excellence; and in moral excellence, knowledge;

⁶ and in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, patience; and in patience, godliness;

⁷ and in godliness, brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love.

⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to be not idle nor unfruitful to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ For he who lacks these things is blind, seeing only what is near, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be more diligent to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble.

¹¹ For thus you will be richly supplied with the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Peter Reminds Fellow Believers

¹² Therefore I will not be negligent to remind you of these things, though you know them, and are established in the present truth.

¹³ I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you;

¹⁴ knowing that the putting off of my tent comes swiftly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.

¹⁵ Yes, I will make every effort that you may always be able to remember these things even after my departure.

The Trustworthy Word of Prophecy

¹⁶ For we did not follow cunningly devised fables, when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honor and glory, when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

¹⁸ We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ We have the more sure word of prophecy; and you do well that you heed it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns, and the morning star arises in your hearts:

²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation.

²¹ For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER 2

Beware False Teachers

¹ But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master who



USCG Ship in Peril

“He who has the Son has life, and he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 Jn. 5:12, NLT). On February 12, 1997, the USCG 44ft Motor Lifeboat (the 44363) set out from Station Quillayute River with a crew of four Coast Guardsmen, who were called to rescue a sail boat (the “Gale Runner”), which had a crew of two, and was dismasted and in danger of sinking. After crossing the treacherous bar, the waters hit the lifeboat and capsized her three times. Boatswain’s Mate Second Class David A. Bosley, Machinery Technician Matthew Schlimme, and Seaman Clinton Miniken were swept away and drowned. Seaman Apprentice Benjamin Wingo was the only survivor. The “Gale Runner” crew was later rescued by a USCG helicopter. Photo: Courtesy of UCSG Public Affairs Office, taken by CWO Larry Thompson, USCG-Ret. (Released).

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF JOHN

CHAPTER 1

The Word of Life

¹ That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we saw, and our hands touched, concerning the Word of life

² (and the life was revealed, and we have seen, and testify, and declare to you the life, the eternal life, which was with the Father, and was revealed to us);

³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us. Yes, and our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ.

⁴ And we write these things to you, that our joy may be fulfilled.

⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

Walk in the Light

⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and do not tell the truth.

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

CHAPTER 2

¹ My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not sin. If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus

Christ, the Righteous One.

² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.

Keep His Commandments

³ This is how we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments.

⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

⁵ But whoever keeps His word most certainly has the love of God perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in Him:

⁶ he who says he remains in Him ought himself also to walk just like He walked.

⁷ Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

⁸ Again, I write a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you; because the darkness is passing away, and the true light already shines.

⁹ He who says he is in the light and hates his brother, is in the darkness even until now.

¹⁰ He who loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in him.

¹¹ But he who hates his brother is in the darkness, and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹² I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for His name's sake.

¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I am writing to you, little children, because you know the Father.



U.S. Air Force Color Guard

“He who remains in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son” (II Jn. 1:9, NIV). A color guard element trains on the Air Force Honor Guard ceremonial lawn Dec. 17, 2009, at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C. U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Katherine Windish (Released).

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF JOHN

CHAPTER 1

¹ The elder, to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but also all those who know the truth;

² for the truth's sake, which remains in us, and it will be with us forever:

³ Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

Walking in Truth

⁴ I rejoice greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we have been commanded by the Father.

⁵ Now I beg you, dear lady, not as though I wrote to you a new commandment, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

⁶ This is love, that we should walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, even as you heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.

Beware of Deceivers

⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the Antichrist.

⁸ Watch yourselves, that we do not lose the things which we have accomplished, but that we receive a full reward.

⁹ Whoever transgresses and does not remain in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. He who remains in the teaching, the same has both the Father and the Son.

¹⁰ If anyone comes to you, and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not welcome him,

¹¹ for he who welcomes him participates in his evil works.

¹² Having many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink, but I hope to come to you, and to speak face to face, that our joy may be made full.

¹³ The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.



Peace Chapel, Vietnam

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (3 Jn. 1:4, NTT). Vietnam, 1965—The late Chaplain (COL) John Porter, USA (Ret.), Chaplain of the 173d Airborne Brigade’s “Sky Soldiers”, built the historic Peace Chapel in Vietnam with the help of his “Sky Soldiers,” many of whom were later killed in action. His widow, Trish Porter is attempting to build a replica of Peace Chapel in Sky Valley, California, for wounded warriors. Photo: Courtesy of U.S. Army Public Affairs Office (Released).

THE THIRD EPISTLE OF JOHN

CHAPTER 1

¹ The elder to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

Prosper and Be in Health

² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be healthy, even as your soul prospers.

³ For I rejoiced greatly, when brethren came and testified about your truth, even as you walk in truth.

⁴ I have no greater joy than this, to hear about my children walking in truth.

A Faithful Work

⁵ Beloved, you do a faithful work in whatever you accomplish for those who are brethren and strangers.

⁶ They have testified about your love before the church. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a way worthy of God,

⁷ because for the sake of the Name they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles.

⁸ We therefore ought to receive such, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

Do Not Imitate Evil

⁹ I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

¹⁰ Therefore if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words. Not content with this, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and those who would, he forbids and throws out of the church.

¹¹ Beloved, do not imitate that which is evil, but that which is good. He who does good is of God. He who does evil has not seen God.

¹² Demetrius has the testimony of all, and of the truth itself; yes, we also testify, and you know that our testimony is true.

¹³ I had many things to write to you, but I am unwilling to write to you with ink and pen;

¹⁴ but I hope to see you soon, and we will speak face to face. Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.



**Admiral Verna Linzey ‘Mother of the Fleet,’ U.S. Navy
United States Marine Corps Camp Pendleton, California**

“But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith. Pray in the Holy Spirit” (3 Jn. 1:20, NIV). United States Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, California, September, 2011—Television Evangelist, award-winning author and co-founder of Military Bible Association, Verna Linzey speaks at one of the chapel services on base. Here she is shown with two of the Navy chaplains. At 94, she is the eldest and highest ranking active chaplain known to be serving in any Armed Forces ministry as an Admiral in Operation Freedom (military ministry.) She is also Chief Editor of the New Tyndale Translation. Photo: Courtesy of General Benjamin Kingsley (Released).

THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JUDE

CHAPTER 1

¹ Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

² May mercy, peace and love be multiplied unto you.

Contend for the Faith

³ Beloved, while I was eager to write to you concerning the salvation we share, I was compelled to write to you *instead* urging you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

⁴ For certain men who were marked for condemnation long ago have secretly crept in among you. They are ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into immorality and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Judgment on False Teachers

⁵ Now I want to remind you, though you know all these things, that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, later destroyed those who did not believe.

⁶ He has kept in eternal chains in darkness for judgment on the great day, the angels who did not keep their own position but deserted their proper domain.

⁷ Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, having in the same way committed sexual immorality and engaged in perversion, serve as an example by suffering the punishment of eternal fire.

⁸ These dreamers likewise defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme glorious beings.

⁹ But when Michael the archangel contended with the devil and disputed about the body of Moses, he did not dare to bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

¹⁰ But these people blaspheme whatever

they do not understand. And they are destroyed by the things that they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals.

¹¹ Woe to them! For they have followed the way of Cain, and have run wildly into the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in Korah's rebellion.

¹² These men are hidden reefs at your love feasts when they eat with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, pulled up by the roots, twice dead;

¹³ wild waves of the sea foaming up their shame; wandering stars for whom the blackness of darkness has been reserved forever.

¹⁴ It was about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, "See, the Lord came with ten thousands of His holy ones

¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, and to convict them all of the ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh words which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

¹⁶ These are murmurers and fault-finders, following their evil desires. Their mouths speak boastful words, flattering others for their own advantage.

The Call to Persevere

¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember what was previously spoken by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ They told you, "In the last times there will be mockers following their own ungodly desires."

¹⁹ These men cause divisions and are sensual, devoid of the Spirit.

²⁰ But you, beloved, build up yourselves in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.



U.S. AIR FORCE STELLAR BRASS BAND AND CADET CHORAL

“Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels around the throne, the beasts and the elders. They numbered thousands of thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand, saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing!’” (Rev. 5:12, NLT). The Stellar Brass Band along with the Cadet Chorale play and sing holiday songs for visitors during a concert at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, New York City, Nov. 24, 2006. The band and the chorale are part of the U.S. Air Force Academy Band, here to raise Air Force awareness and celebrate the Air Force’s 60th Anniversary. U.S Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson (Released).

THE REVELATION

OF JESUS CHRIST TO JOHN THE DIVINE

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

¹ This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His servants the things which must happen soon, which He sent and made known by His angel to His servant John,

² who testified to the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of everything that he saw.

³ Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things that are written in it, for the time is at hand.

To the Seven Churches

⁴ John, to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from God, who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne;

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and washed us from our sins by His blood;

⁶ and He made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, including those who pierced Him. All the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so, Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

⁹ I John, your brother and partner with you in oppression, kingdom, and perseverance in Christ Jesus, was on the isle that is called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Vision of One Like the Son of Man

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet

¹¹ saying, "What you see, write in a book and send to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

¹² I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. Having turned, I saw seven golden lampstands.

¹³ And among the lampstands was one like a son of man, clothed with a robe reaching down to His feet, and with a golden sash around His chest.

¹⁴ His head and His hair were white as white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire.

¹⁵ His feet were like burnished brass, as if it had been refined in a furnace. His voice was like the voice of many waters.

¹⁶ He had seven stars in His right hand. Out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining at its brightest.

¹⁷ When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. He laid His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last,

¹⁸ "and the Living one. I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. I have the keys of Death and of Hades.

¹⁹ "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will happen hereafter;

²⁰ "the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches. The seven lampstands are seven churches.

Appendix I

Leadership

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP

Introduction

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

GALATIANS 5:25, NIV

The first requisite for a spiritual leader is submission to the leadership of God. The spiritual leader will be a person of prayer, who reads and studies the Bible, and who seeks to implement biblical principles and Christ-like character in all areas of life.

All of the spiritual leaders in the Bible, whether they were prophets, priests, kings, commanders in the army, overseers, or other leaders in the church, were men and women who were led by God. The foundation of their leadership was their relationship to God and their continuing reliance on His leadership. These men and women recognized their strengths and their weaknesses; they counted on God to guide them in effective uses of strength and to build them up in areas of weakness, allowing His strength to be made perfect in their weakness (See 2 Corinthians 12:9).

The seven principles of leadership presented here are essential for success in any sphere of leadership. Those who are in positions of leadership should always be aware of the need to seek knowledge and self-improvement. They will develop and model biblical character. They will seek to relate like a leader, exhibiting authority but never in harshness or with a superior attitude. Effective spiritual leaders will have a deep sense of caring for others. This caring has its root in their relationship with Christ and will be evident in many kinds of situations. The ability to communicate effectively is also essential. Leaders will make sure followers understand their mission. Leaders will recognize and employ the abilities and gifts of their followers, placing them in positions where their talents and skills are most effective. Finally, effective spiritual leaders will know how to build up the team so that all members are working in unity.

These seven principles of leadership will benefit men and women in all walks of life. From the pastor of the church to the officer in the military, from the CEO of a corporation to the manager of the department store, from the elected officials on local, state, or national levels to the volunteer leader of a local charitable group—all can become the kind of leader that people look up to and trust.

Regardless of your position of leadership, these seven principles of leadership will serve you well. May the Lord Jesus bless you as you commence this study.

*Leadership is intangible, and therefore no
weapon ever designed can replace it.*

—OMAR N. BRADLEY

1. Seek Knowledge and Self-Improvement

*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you
a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; having the
eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His
calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints*

EPHESIANS 1:17-18, NLT

Regardless of the area of leadership—whether spiritual or secular—this verse is relevant. It is part of the Apostle Paul’s prayer for all believers in the church at Ephesus. He wanted them to understand that God would give them wisdom and revelation that would enable them to carry out all that was required of them. That wisdom and knowledge could range from the practical everyday demands of life to the spiritual benefits of life in Christ. He also prayed that the “eyes” of their understanding would be enlightened. He wanted them to understand what they were looking at—understand the information presented to them. When we view a situation with “eyes of understanding,” we are open to new ideas, better ways to approach a situation, and those “aha!” moments when inspiration and clarity break through and we exclaim, “Now, I see!”

When we pray for wisdom and knowledge, God will answer that prayer. He may direct us to develop essential skills related to our areas of leadership, or He may give us understanding of how to better relate to our followers. He may show us that we need to hone our skills in specific areas and that we can gain these skills by taking a class, reading a manual, or seeking help from a mentor or counselor. This prayer will always be relevant; regardless of how much we learn or how much experience we gain, there will always be new areas to challenge us. The story of King Solomon illustrates this.

King Solomon inherited a vast kingdom from his father David. Simply by chance of birth, he was elevated to a place of leadership. Even though he had been trained and educated to rule, Solomon knew his strengths and his weaknesses. He realized that he required more wisdom than he possessed to rule the kingdom. He prayed, “*Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours*” (I Kings 3:9). God answered his prayer, and gave Solomon a wise and understanding heart. Solomon became known as the wisest man in the kingdom and the regions beyond.

An example of his wisdom is found in I Kings 3:16-28. Two women who were

harlots came to King Solomon. Both women lived in the same house and both had given birth within a few days of each other. One woman claimed that the other woman's son died in the night because she lay on him, and that woman then took the living child of the other and placed her dead child beside the other woman. In the morning, the woman rose to nurse her child and found the dead baby. Upon examination, she recognized that the dead child was not hers. The other woman denied that she had switched the babies, and so they brought the baby to the king for his judgment.

In one of those divine flashes of wisdom, Solomon knew how to determine the truth. He asked for a sword and declared that the child be divided in two, giving half to each woman. The woman who was mother to the living child protested and said, "Don't kill him. Give him to her." However, the woman who had lied said, "Divide him. Let him be neither mine nor hers." King Solomon answered that the child be given to the woman who was willing to give up the child rather than have him killed.

This kind of wisdom only comes from God, the fountain of all wisdom and knowledge.

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.

—JOHN F. KENNEDY

Group Discussion

1. How can we effectively seek more wisdom and knowledge?
2. What are some methods we can employ to improve ourselves?
3. Discuss constructive ways we can positively affect those we lead.

Prayer Requests

1. Share with one another areas of your life in which you need more knowledge, and then pray for each other.
2. Share why you need to improve yourselves, and then pray for each other toward that goal.
3. Who is one of your favorite leaders, and why, then pray for each other to become more like that leader.

2. Develop and Model Biblical Character

Yes, and for this very cause, making every effort, in your faith supply moral excellence; and in moral excellence, knowledge; and in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, patience; and in patience, godliness; and in godliness, brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love.

2 PETER 1:5-7, NIV

This verse is a blueprint for developing biblical character. Character is acquired over time as we grow in our relationship in Christ and endure hardships in His service. As we follow Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, the attributes of Christ are formed in us. Then, like fruit growing on a tree, they appear in due season and become a blessing to others.

The attributes mentioned in the above verses are essential for anyone serving in a position of spiritual leadership, and they will serve a leader well in any field—religious, military, business, sports, or the home. For example, an effective leader will have *moral excellence*, which includes integrity, honesty, virtue, and goodness. He will have *knowledge*, which includes wisdom, expertise, and comprehension as well as information, education, and intelligence. The effective leader will possess *self-control*, and this includes willpower, discipline, and restraint. *Perseverance* will also be an important quality; this could involve patience, resolve, and a sense of purpose. *Godliness*, which includes righteousness, decency, and justice, is also necessary for the effective leader. *Brotherly affection*, the ability to be kind, compassionate, considerate, and helpful to others is essential. *Love* is the final attribute on this list. Without love, we are nothing (I Corinthians 13:2).

The followers of a leader who models these qualities will know that they can trust him and count on what he says. The influence of such a leader is far-reaching and long lasting. Those under his leadership not only will appreciate his integrity and decency, but also they will be motivated to follow his example. For instance, if they observe his self-control and kindness when dealing with volatile situations or angry people, they may express an interest in how he is able to do this. Then the leader has an opportunity to share how these abilities have their root in his relationship with God.

The attributes of biblical character can show themselves in a variety of ways and in a variety of situations. The story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50 illustrates the domino effect of good character and behavior.

Joseph's jealous brothers sold him into slavery and he was taken away to Egypt, where Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, purchased him. Potiphar recognized that the Lord was with Joseph and that all he did prospered. The godly characteristics evident in Joseph

gave him favor in Potiphar's sight and he promoted Joseph to be overseer of his house.

Joseph's integrity was tested when Potiphar's wife asked him to "lie with her." He refused, but day after day, she tried to entice him. He continued to go about his work and paid no heed to her. However, one day when no one else was in the house, she grabbed Joseph's garment and insisted that he lie with her. He fled from her, leaving his garment in her hand. Her lies about Joseph attacking her caused him to be cast into prison. While in prison, Joseph's exemplary character brought him to the attention of the keeper of the prison and he placed Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. A series of events brought Joseph to the attention of the Pharaoh who recognized in Joseph the qualities of leadership needed for that crucial time in Egypt. Joseph went from the lowly position of slave to second-in-command in Pharaoh's court. Joseph's leadership skills enabled him to prepare the entire nation for the coming famine. The plans set in place by Joseph not only caused Egypt to survive a famine, but also they reunited Joseph with his family. His path was not an easy one, but it was one ordained by God. Throughout his journey, Joseph's godly character opened doors to freedom and success.

*Be more concerned with your character than your reputation,
because your character is what you really are, while your
reputation is merely what others think you are.*

—JOHN WOODEN

Group Discussion

1. What is the prerequisite for modeling biblical character and how is it developed in us?
2. What are some of the character traits that will be evident in spiritual leaders? Name one person who exhibits these.
3. What are the advantages of biblical characteristics to you and those you lead?

Prayer Requests

1. Share with others in the group one area of your life in which you feel the need to mature in biblical character, and then pray for each other.
2. Share about a particular situation where you need wisdom to deal with it in a way that models biblical character. Then pray for one another.
3. Make suggestions as to how you and other members of the group can encourage one another to continue modeling biblical character, and then pray for each member of the group.

3. Relate like a Leader

I left you in Crete for this reason, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, ... But say the things which fit sound doctrine, ... in all things showing yourself an example of good works; in your teaching showing integrity, seriousness, incorruptibility, and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned; that he who opposes you may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say about us.

TITUS 1:5; 2:1, 7-8, NLT

The Apostle Paul chose Titus to oversee believers in the cities on the island of Crete. A strong and reliable leader was essential to the spiritual growth and well-being of the new converts there. Titus would be responsible to appoint elders in the various cities—men who were blameless, stewards of God, not self-willed, quick tempered, violent, or greedy for money. In order to do this, Titus would have to be able to relate in an open and honest way. He would have to spend time with them, observing how they treated their wives and children, and how they conducted themselves in other areas of life. Titus, himself, would have to be a model of good works, speaking truthfully with sound speech that could not be condemned. His relationship with the elders and other believers was to be one of integrity and incorruptibility as he exhibited a reverence for God and a respect for all under his leadership.

An effective leader must know how to relate to other people and their fields of work. Leaders should provide direction for the people under them, and that direction must include planning, maintaining ethical standards, making good decisions the team accepts, solving technical and logistical problems, supervising and evaluating tasks, teaching people what to do, enabling their self-expression, coaching and counseling personnel, and training individuals and teams.

Part of being a proficient leader is having capable men and women in strategic positions to give critical input—much as a president surrounds himself with experts in many fields.

Sometimes a leader can be so personally involved and feel the responsibility for every step of a project that he is ineffective because of the sheer multitude of demands on his time, abilities, and energy. An example of this is Exodus 18.

After the children of Israel were delivered from Egypt, and during their time in the wilderness, Moses sat as judge of the people. From morning to evening, the people stood before him so he could judge between one and another. This was an overwhelming task and Jethro, his father-in-law, observed that Moses would surely wear himself out since this was too much for one man. Jethro advised Moses to select able

men of truth and place them to be rulers of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. These men were to bear the burden with Moses. Moses heeded the advice of Jethro. The men he appointed would judge the small matters, and Moses would deal with the difficult matters.

*Leaders must be close enough to relate to others,
but far enough ahead to motivate them.*

—JOHN C. MAXWELL

Group Discussion

1. Name and discuss one important quality of a leader who is able to relate well to his followers.
2. Discuss the qualities of spiritual leadership mentioned in the quoted portions of Titus 1 and 2.
3. If you were, or are, in a leadership position, discuss how you could best relate to your followers.

Prayer Requests

1. Share any concerns you have about relating to others. Pray for one another in these areas.
2. Ask for prayer that you will be more aware of how others perceive your leadership.
3. Mention one area in which you feel overwhelmed with the burden of leadership and ask for prayer in that situation.

4. Care about the Well-Being of Others

He answered, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”

LUKE 10:27, NTT

A lawyer, seeking to test Jesus, asked what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus answered him with a question, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?” The lawyer then responded with the above verse, which is a quote of two scriptures—Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. Jesus said that the lawyer had answered cor-

Leadership

rectly. However, the lawyer, wanting to justify himself, then countered with, “And who is my neighbor?” Then Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, which illustrates how we are to care about the well-being of others.

A man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho was overcome by thieves who stripped and wounded him and left him near death. A priest came upon the wounded man, but crossed to the other side of the road and went on his way. Then a Levite also passed by, and he too crossed over to avoid the wounded man. Then a certain Samaritan came upon the man and he had compassion on him. He stopped beside the man, bandaged his wounds, placed him on his own animal, and brought him to an inn where he took care of him. When the Samaritan departed the next day, he paid the innkeeper to care for the wounded man. Jesus told the lawyer that the Samaritan was neighbor to the wounded man and that the lawyer should have the same kind of compassion for others and care for their well-being.

The effective spiritual leader will have a deep sense of caring for others—not just his own people, but anyone in need. This caring has its root in his relationship with Christ and will show itself in times of need.

The leader who looks out for the well-being of his followers will instill a high sense of morale in them. They will know they can count him. For example, if a situation develops where the safety or well-being of employees or followers is in jeopardy, the leader must step up and see that all the resources to resolve the issue are brought to bear on the situation. He will not allow those under his leadership or supervision to remain in unsafe conditions or be placed in questionable moral situations.

An example of taking responsibility for others is Genesis 14:8-16. Several warring kings were in the area of the Valley of Siddim near where Abram’s kinsman Lot had settled. Two of the kings took Lot captive along with his people and his goods. When Abram heard that Lot had been taken captive, he armed 318 trained servants and went in pursuit. He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. He committed the needed resources of men and weapons as well as himself to rescue Lot and bring him back to his home along with all his people and goods.

The leader who is committed to his people will do whatever is necessary to ensure their safety and well-being.

*Leadership should be born out of the understanding of
the needs of those who would be affected by it.*

—MARION ANDERSON

Group Discussion

1. Discuss the lessons we can learn from the story of the Good Samaritan.
2. Was Abram obligated to rescue his kinsman Lot? Why or why not?
3. Share an example in which you have stepped up to defend the well-being of anyone you know, or where a leader has come to your defense.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for each other that you will be mindful of the well-being of those in your sphere of influence.
2. Name a specific area where you feel you should be more aware of the welfare of those who serve under you, and ask for prayer that you will step up in this area.
3. Pray that the leaders of this nation and other nations will be concerned about the well-being of their people.

5. Communicate Like a Leader

He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

(MATTHEW 4:19, NIV)

Jesus, the ultimate example of leadership, shows us how to communicate with our followers. In the early days of His ministry, Jesus singled out two brothers, Peter and Andrew, who were fishermen, and said, "Follow me." We do not have the details of this encounter, only the outcome. Peter and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed Jesus. It is likely that they had heard Jesus preaching in the area and recognized him. Yet, there must have been something in His voice—an authority and a command—that they responded to.

A leader who communicates well will have this commanding authority.

However, there are other aspects of effective communication. A leader must be able to communicate his plans and his mission to his followers. A study of Jesus' ministry as told in the four gospels reveals that He communicated through words, actions, and by example. Jesus not only told, He showed. His disciples fully understood their mission.

In Matthew 10, Jesus sent out twelve disciples, giving them detailed instructions

Leadership

on where to go, what to preach, and how to deal with adverse situations. These twelve were well prepared and eventually it was said of them that they turned the world upside down (See Acts 17:6).

The leader who follows the example of Jesus will be effective in communicating with those who serve under him. He will keep them informed as to the purpose of the mission as well as the steps needed to fulfill that mission. His communication will carry the tone of command and authority, but not in a harsh or callous manner. He will have the ability to relate information as well as correction when needed, but in a considerate and caring manner. The secret to his ability to communicate effectively with his followers is that, like Jesus, he cares deeply for them.

The effective leader will keep others informed—this includes staff, mentors, employees, and volunteers. He will clearly communicate the goal of the mission or project, the resources needed to accomplish the goal, and the time-frame for its completion. He will supervise not too much and not too little. He will not burden his followers with unimportant details, but will keep his remarks clear and to the point. Sometimes he may sit down and talk with an employee or follower one-on-one. Other times, a general public announcement will be the method of communication. The leader will understand his followers and know which method of communication to use.

The Apostle Paul when dealing with problems in the Corinthian church showed restraint in his communication. He said that he chose to *“write these things while absent, that I may not deal sharply when present, according to the authority which the Lord gave me for building up, and not for tearing down”* (2 Corinthians 13:10, NIV). He understood that even words of correction were to be for edification or building up and not for tearing down and destruction.

The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint to keep from meddling with them while they do it.

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Group Discussion

1. Discuss specific aspects of Jesus' communication skills and how they are still effective today.
2. Mention two or three leaders who were good communicators and discuss why they were, or are, effective.

3. Discuss your experiences with leaders who failed to communicate effectively.

Prayer Requests

1. Share an aspect of communication that you would like to improve, and pray for each other in these areas.
2. Pray for each other that you may effectively communicate your faith to others in all that you do.
3. Pray for one another that when you must correct someone, you will do so in a spirit of building up and not tearing down.

6. Employ People's Abilities and Gifts

For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us, if prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of our faith; or service, let us give ourselves to service; or he who teaches, to his teaching; or he who exhorts, to his exhorting; he who gives, let him do it with liberality; he who rules, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

ROMANS 12:4-8, NLT

These verses include a wide range of gifts and abilities. While these directly pertain to the Body of Christ, both the principle of various gifts and the idea of one body with differing functions can be applied in many settings. The effective leader will recognize that some people have skills or abilities in one area and others have different skills and abilities in other areas. He will make use of his people according to their various abilities.

This means, of course, that he will know how to evaluate the natural abilities, training, education, and experience of his followers or employees. For example, a leader will look at and assess more than a person's formal education; he will also consider qualities that indicate the person is one who can encourage or exhort others, one who is capable of teaching—both by example and words, one who shows mercy and is cheerful, one who leads with diligence, as well as many other abilities or gifts. The

Leadership

effective leader will be aware of specific demands of various positions and will find the right people to fill those positions. “The right man for the right job” is a formula for success.

A good example of a leader utilizing the gifts and abilities of a large company of people is found in Exodus, chapters 35-40. After the children of Israel were delivered from bondage in Egypt, God gave Moses instructions to build a tabernacle where the people could worship. Moses called for all who were skillful among them to come and make all that God commanded. The women who were gifted artisans spun yarn for the curtains, One man, Bezaleel, designed artistic works of gold, silver, and bronze, and all manner of artistic workmanship. Bezaleel also had the ability to teach others to work with him, and these men and women did all that was required to build the tabernacle. When this huge work was completed, the cloud covered the tabernacle and the glory of God filled it.

It should be our goal to use our gifts and abilities to the glory of God.

Get the best people and train them well.

—SCOTT McNEALY

Group Discussion

1. Share with one another your specific gifts or abilities and the areas in which you have utilized them.
2. Discuss how the various abilities of your group could be used to work together.
3. Discuss how the building of the tabernacle symbolizes the Body of Christ.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for one another that you will use your gifts and abilities for the benefit of others and for the glory of God.
2. As leaders, pray that you will have “eyes to see” the abilities of those around you.
3. Pray that, as a leader, you will be faithful to encourage members of the team or organization in the development and use of their gifts.

7. Build Up Your Team—Work in Unity

He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, to the work of serving, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... from whom all the body, being fitted and knit together through that which every joint supplies, according to the working in measure of each individual part, makes the body increase to the building up of itself in love.

EPHESIANS 4:11-13, 16, NLT

God put together a most remarkable team when He created the Body of Christ. Not only did He create the team, He commissioned it (Matthew 28:19-20), appointed leaders with specific gifts and skills (I Corinthians 12:28-29), and gave instructions on how it was to function (See I Corinthians 12-14).

The leaders on God's team have specific functions. The *apostles* are like pioneers who go into new areas and establish churches. The Apostle Paul held this position. The *prophets* are those who "speak for God." While their words may at times be foretelling, most often they speak words of edification, exhortation, and comfort. John the Baptist was a prophet who prepared the way for Jesus. Agabus is mentioned in Acts 21:10, and he foretold certain events that would happen to Paul. An *evangelist* is one whose primary message is that of salvation. Philip the evangelist is spoken of in Acts 21:8. This is the same Philip who preached Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch, who was a man of great authority (Acts 8:29-37). *Pastors* are leaders of a local church and often referred to as shepherds. They watch over and tend the flock of God. Timothy was evidently a pastor, or an overseer, for Paul wrote to him telling him to "preach the word" (2 Timothy 4:2). *Teachers* are men and women who are skillful in expounding the Word of God. They have the ability to reveal truths not evident to some. Aquila and Priscilla, a husband and wife team, are mentioned in Acts 18:24-26; they took aside Apollos and explained the way of the Lord to him more accurately.

God intended all of the various members of His team to work together in unity. In fact, He ordained a blessing upon those who do so. "*Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity... For there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forevermore*" (Psalm 133).

Members of the body have differing gifts and purposes, but all are necessary to have a functioning body (or team). Some may be more evident because of their position, but the unseen members are often the most essential. For example, a strong right

Leadership

arm is a powerful asset, but without a heart pumping blood, the arm is useless.

Diversity is the key to a successful team. A group of men or women who all have the same talents and knowledge do not constitute a team. The team consists of varied individuals who contribute their special skills and knowledge to the overall project. For example, a basketball team made up of all point guards or centers would not be effective.

A team is built up when the leader speaks encouraging words to the team and sets the example for them to encourage one another. The leader will also build up hope and expectation that the team will accomplish its goal.

Several chapters in I Chronicles tell the story of David and how his army was built up from men throughout the land. Chapter 12 tells about mighty men who came to join David while he was a fugitive running Saul. One of the factors that led men to be a part of David's army was the fact that they recognized that God helped him.

No greater attribute could be desired by a leader in any area of life than to have a reputation that God helped him. Followers will trust the leader who trusts God. Therefore, the foundation for building a successful team is for the leader to be known as one who depends upon God. He will be a man who seeks God's leadership in selecting those who will serve under him. He will place people in positions where their talents and capabilities are used to the best advantage. Members of the team will trust their leader to form the most efficient team possible and will respect one another for what each contributes to the whole.

You have to look at leadership through the eyes of the followers and you have to live the message. What I have learned is that people become motivated when you guide them to the source of their own power and when you make heroes out of employees who personify what you want to see in the organization.

—ANITA RODDICK

Group Discussion

1. Discuss how diversity within a team enhances its chances for success.
2. Who are some of your favorite leaders in the Bible? Discuss their outstanding qualities
3. Name one or two outstanding world leaders. What makes them stand out?

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for one another that you will look for and appreciate the diversity of team members.
2. Pray for one another that you will find ways to encourage team members to function as a unit.
3. Pray for leaders in your nation and in the world.

Conclusion

My prayer for you is that God will lead you in the application of these seven principles of leadership, and that your leadership will be a blessing to many. I pray that your leadership will cause the Kingdom of God to increase throughout your sphere of influence. I pray that the blessed Holy Spirit will be your helper, your teacher, and your constant source of inspiration.

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

COLOSSIANS 1:9, NLT

—Verna Linzey, November 2009

Leadership and Liberty

Freedom is a sacred word written with the blood of men,
Who died for noble causes as valid now as it was then;
The cost for life and liberty was a price they had to pay,
To provide those benefits of freedom which you enjoy today.
Their aim was “Independence” to worship and to pray,
Without a Tyrant’s law of what they could or could not say;
Our cost for freedom is remembrance by the method we display,
For the things we take for granted each hour of every day.
Those heroic men of liberty who sacrificed their all,
Deserve to be remembered as they answered freedom’s call;
All are signers of that “Document” in Freedom’s Hall of Fame,
Worthy of the “Honor Roll” on which they placed their name.

The Framers of our Constitution believed the only way to win and order freedom and then sustain it, was the separation of powers by our system of ‘checks and balances.’ It was not, primarily, in the “belief” in Democracy!

John Adams said, “There never was a Democracy yet that didn’t commit suicide.”

James Madison was equally pessimistic when he said, “Democracies have always been spectacles of turbulence and contention, as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.”

Many argue that “our strong Constitution is the sole necessary ‘Protector’ of our freedom and the only antidote to the corruption of customs,” but what about our enemies?

The Framers of our Constitution, however, were aware that a strong Constitution is not enough! Human nature left to its own devices would eventually subvert the Constitution itself, as we are witnessing the occurrence of that today.

There are three principles that must be incorporated as essential to sustain the freedom we enjoy. These are: Liberty, Virtue, and Religious faith, because Liberty requires Virtue, and Virtue requires Religious faith, and Religious faith requires Liberty. However, as William Simon in his Heritage Lectures pointed out, “all the Framers

were not men of faith in the sense of religious faith, nor did they agree on the place of religion in public life. There was great diversity on these two issues, but they showed remarkable unity concerning faith and freedom, without exception.”

The principle of freedom is a natural desire that, once obtained, must be defended against any who would attempt to deny its preservation. Consider Benjamin Franklin’s famous axiom, “Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom!” George Washington’s declaration fortifies that claim: “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.”

Finally, for the Framers, the principle that Religious Faith requires Liberty is where they were most original when they placed the first sentence in the First Amendment of the Constitution, stating, “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or abridging the free exercise thereof...”

This is the most distinctive part of the rule of government over public life, and the basis for citizens of every stripe whether they profess faith in God or not.

Many willingly gave their lives while others at the times of crisis sacrificed their means and some of their liberty in order to preserve it from those enemies who threatened its continuance.

For that sacrifice, we give honor to the 1,257,312 valiant souls who made the supreme sacrifice, and the 39,000,000 who survived among the millions still living to preserve these principles.

Natural attrition is reducing the veterans of these wars at the rate of 1600 a day, more than one soul for each minute that ticks in the 24 hours of a day. That number peaked in 2008 and eventually all will be gone.

The concern we must consider is the way of life we take for granted, which many have given their lives to maintain, and which will have been in vain unless the next two generations recognize that these principles of Liberty, Virtue, and Religious Faith are maintained as the force, under God, that preserve our individual soul and our Nation!

The disinterest of two-thirds of the qualified citizens to register and vote demonstrates a trend toward apathy that shrugs off personal responsibility and shifts it to government bureaucracies.

Congressional activity is mainly a power struggle to promote personal political agendas which discourage interest in National and State politics. Forgetting these principles of patriotism is the first step in the loss of freedom and a dishonor to those who have sacrificed so much to keep it.

—Chaplain, Lt. Col. Jack Chinn, USAF (Ret.)

Leadership and Faith

In the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. on “911,” Christian leaders had an opportunity to help victims, share their faith, and lead our nation back to God. National tragedies today and 50 years ago have similar effects on the nation. Likewise, the way God propels us to exercise our leadership and faith may be the same, because God’s principles do not change.

Leadership is the skill of influencing people to fulfill the mission, and faith is a firm unrelenting belief in God for unseen things. Or as Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen.” Leadership combined with unrelenting faith in God results in powerful people. We in leadership have the seeds of this kind of faith planted deep within our minds. When we exercise our faith, we lead and make a difference in our respective spheres of influence. Let’s see how leadership and faith were exemplified during World War II.

My husband, Stanford E. Linzey, Jr., was stationed on the USS *Yorktown* during the Battle of Midway as a radio operator and first clarinetist in the Navy band. The *Yorktown* was one of the aircraft carriers, with the USS *Enterprise* and USS *Hornet*, which ensured that the United States would win this historic battle. Saving Midway Island was the pivotal mission in winning the War on the Pacific front. The aircraft carriers sailed within 200 miles northeast of Midway to protect Midway from the attack of the Japanese fleet. As they sailed northwest toward their destination, a sense of fatal despair filled the *Yorktown*. Stan began to experience this tremendous fear of death. On June 3, 1942, Stan lay in his bunk in the dark praying, asking God to remove this fear. After some time in prayer, God instantly removed this fear and gave him a deep sense of relief and peace, no matter what would transpire from this battle.

I was back in San Diego and knew nothing of the *Yorktown’s* impending disaster, the battle or Stan’s experience in prayer. But at this time, about 5,000 miles apart from him, I felt a strange need to pray, not knowing why. I knelt on the floor by our bed and prayed in the Spirit. It was between five and six o’clock in the evening. After about an hour, I felt a release in my spirit and that God had answered my prayers. When Stan and I compared notes later, we found that we had united in prayer that same day as we continued by faith to be sensitive to the moving of the Holy Spirit. The *Yorktown* was subsequently bombed and torpedoed at Midway, one explosion stopping at his

compartment, but Stan survived and the battle was won.

Though tragedy has struck our nation on “911” worse than it did at Pearl Harbor, we must be vigilant and not fear. Jesus said in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, give I to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful.” Through sound leadership and faith, we may find ourselves in extraordinary leadership roles and contribute to the world’s course of events in positive ways. We must live by faith and lead by example. Then God will release His Spirit in us to help us effectively lead in our spheres of influence in this world as He wills.

—Chaplain Verna M. Linzey

LEADERSHIP PRAYERS

The Sinner's Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, I am a sinner reaching out to You. I have lived without truly knowing you. Forgive me for all the wrong I have done, for the sins I have committed, for not acknowledging You as I should. Please forgive me of my sins. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Come into my heart and help me to begin living according to Your Word. Let me grow in Christ and become a godly example to those around me. Grant me the desire to read the Word and to fellowship with other believers. Grant me a new start in life, and let me one day live with you for all eternity. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

—Chaplain Frank L. Johnson

Prayer for Leaders

Lord, we thank You for allowing us to have the ability to lead our lives as free men, to serve beside each other as we sacrifice so much for those in need. We thank You for choosing leaders with integrity, who lead the mission with skill, who motivate us in our work, and ultimately promote freedom in the world by serving so humbly. We ask Your blessing upon our leaders who serve us faithfully. Strengthen them in the tasks to which You have called them. Give us the commitment to serve them well. Remain with us, continue to grant us the strength that has carried this great nation through many conflicts, and provide us with the ability to reach great heights of success. We ask that Your Holy Spirit rest upon and direct those currently in positions of great responsibility. Inspire us all to be the best that we can be, not just Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Guardians and Airmen of our country who have pledged to defend her freedoms, but especially servants of our God, dedicated to the increase of Your divine kingdom, wherein true freedom may be found. Thank You for Your never ending love, strength, courage, and guidance. Amen.

—Chaplain (CPT) Jim Mitchem, USA

Prayer for Wounded Warriors

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we come before You with a true sense of pride, gratitude and humility. We thank You for Your care and protection of those who have sacrificed so much for our freedoms and for their Brothers and Sisters in Arms, for missions accomplished, for heroism displayed and for their devotion to duty. We pray for Your never ending love, compassion and healing to come upon those who have been wounded in the darkest hours of combat, and for them to feel Your presence daily and for You to surround them with men and women of faith who will serve them as You have served us. As they continue to heal may they know that You, the Great Physician, will guide all hands assigned the duty of their care and that Your love is ever ready and vigilant in their time of need. We ask all of this in Christ's holy name. Amen.

—Chaplain (CPT) Jim Mitchem, USA

Prayer for the Air Force

Most high and holy God, without Your grace we have no courage on this day. Strengthen our troops both at home and abroad. Give them the wisdom to lead through example. Let them be diligent, because of Your love. Inspire them to boldly fulfill the vows they have taken. Keep them faithful to country and to You. Fill them with peace at all times of tribulation. Guide them to serve this nation with confidence and pride. And may Your name be praised throughout the heavens. Amen.

—Chaplain, Major Thomas A. Johnson, USAF (Ret.)

Prayer for the Army

Almighty and most merciful Father, extend your hand, put a shield around your Soldiers serving our country. Protect them in battle and preserve them from all evil. Empower them by your Holy Spirit to remain brave, encourage them to remain loyal to God and country and their families. Let their families not waver in their prayers and support. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Chaplain (COL) John Porter, USA (Ret.)

Prayer for the Coast Guard

O eternal God, who forever watches over his servants, calm the raging seas for your Coast Guardsmen. Make us mindful of the seafarers, to pray that they come to their destinations safely. Lord, guide them as they search for those in peril on the seas. Make them vigilant in their duties to secure our coasts. Be with the keepers of the lights, making your presence felt during the dark hours of the night. May the light of vigilance burn brightly; and in stormy nights, let the lower lights be burning so that they may come to the home port, having served you well. I pray through Jesus Christ. Amen.

—Commander John W. Berger, CHC, USN (Ret.)

Prayer for the Marine Corps

Almighty God, whose power is over all, bless with your protection all those who proudly serve their country in the uniform of the United States Marine Corps. By your steadfast care keep them safe from every peril of land, sea and air. If their days be marked by suffering, may their strength never falter. If their nights be marked by violence, may their courage never fail. Guide them with love, defend them with mercy, and safeguard them in dangers hour. In your infinite wisdom and love, smile upon all Marines from heaven above. Shower upon them safekeeping, happiness, and peace. And may all of their blessings forever increase. Hear this our prayer Almighty God. Amen.

—Captain David Plank, CHC, USN (Ret.)

Prayer for the Navy

O eternal Father, creator of heaven and earth, who hovers over the depths of the sea, take into your almighty arms our nation's Navy and all our Sailors. Protect them from the perils of the sea, and should they engage the enemy, shield them from danger and bring them safely home. May they preserve freedom for those people whose God is the Lord and who seek peace and liberty for all. Bless their families, binding them together in the unity of the Spirit, and in reverence to you. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

—Commander John W. Berger, CHC, USN (Ret.)

MILITARY HYMNS

The Air Force Hymn

*Lord, guard and guide the men who fly
Through the great spaces of the sky;
Be with them traversing the air
In darkening storms or sunshine fair.*

*Thou who dost keep with tender might
The balanced birds in all their flight,
Thou of the tempered winds, be near,
That, having thee, they know no fear.*

*Control their minds with instinct fit,
What time, adventuring, they quit
The firm security of land;
Grant steadfast eye and skillful hand.*

*Aloft in solitudes of space,
Uphold them with Your saving grace.
O God, protect the men who fly
Through lonely ways beneath the sky.
Amen.*

—Verse One by Mary C.D. Hamilton (1915)

The Army Song

*First to fight for the right, and to build the Nation's might,
And the Army goes rolling along.*

*Proud of all we have done, fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army goes rolling along.*

Refrain:

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey! The Army's on its way.

Count off the cadence loud and strong (TWO! THREE!)

For where e'er we go, you will always know

That the Army goes rolling along.

Valley Forge, Custer's ranks, San Juan Hill and Patton's tanks,

And the Army went rolling along

Minute men, from the start, always fighting from the heart,

And the Army keeps rolling along.

Refrain:

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey! The Army's on its way.

Count off the cadence loud and strong (TWO! THREE!)

For where e'er we go, you will always know

That the Army goes rolling along.

Men in rags, men who froze, still that Army met its foes,

And the Army went rolling along.

Faith in God, then we're right, and we'll fight with all our might,

As the Army keeps rolling along.

Refrain:

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey! The Army's on its way.

Count off the cadence loud and strong (TWO! THREE!)

For where e'er we go, you will always know

That the Army goes rolling along.

—First Lieutenant Edmund L. Gruber, USA, 1908

The Coast Guard Hymn

*Eternal Father, Lord of Hosts
Watch o'er the ones who guard our coasts;
Protect them from the raging seas
And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from your great throne above
The shield and shelter of your love.
Amen.*

—CWO George H. Jenks, Jr., USCG, 1955

The Marine Corps Hymn

*From the Halls of Montezuma,
To the shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marine.*

*Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far-off Northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes;
You will find us always on the job—
The United States Marines.*

*Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve;
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded
By United States Marines.*

—Author Unknown, 19th Century
Music from Gendarmes' Duet from the opera
Geneviève de Brabant by Jacques Offenbach

The Navy Hymn

*Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to You,
For those in peril on the sea!*

*O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Your word,
Who walked'st on the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to You,
For those in peril on the sea!*

*Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,*

*And give, for wild confusion, peace;
Oh, hear us when we cry to You,
For those in peril on the sea!*

*O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them whereso'er they go.
Thus evermore shall rise to You,
Glad praise from air, and land, and sea!*

—Words by William Whiting (1860)
Music by Rev. John Bacchus Dykes (1861)

The National Anthem

*Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

—Francis Scott Key

LEADERSHIP CREEDS

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Airman's Creed

I am an American Airman.

I am a warrior.

I have answered my nation's call.

I am an American Airman.
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.
I am faithful to a proud heritage,
A tradition of honor,
And a legacy of valor.
I am an American Airman,
Guardian of freedom and justice,
My nation's sword and shield,
Its sentry and avenger.
I defend my country with my life.
I am an American Airman:
Wingman, leader, warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter,
And I will not fail.

The Coast Guardsman's Creed

I am proud to be a United States Coast Guardsman.
I revere that long line of expert seamen who by their devotion to duty and sacrifice of self have made it possible for me to be a member of a service honored and respected, in peace and in war, throughout the world.
I never, by word or deed, will bring reproach upon the fair name of my service, nor permit others to do so unchallenged.
I will cheerfully and willingly obey all lawful orders.
I will always be on time to relieve, and shall endeavor to do more, rather than less, than my share.
I will always be at my station, alert and attending to my duties.
I shall, so far as I am able, bring to my seniors solutions, not problems.
I shall live joyously, but always with due regard for the rights and privileges of others.
I shall endeavor to be a model citizen in the community in which I live.
I shall sell life dearly to an enemy of my country,
but give it freely to rescue those in peril.
With God's help, I shall endeavor to be one of His noblest Works...
A UNITED STATES COAST GUARDSMAN.

The Marine's Creed

This is my rifle.
There are many like it, but this one is mine.
My rifle is my best friend. It is my life.
I must master it as I must master my life.
My rifle, without me, is useless.
Without my rifle, I am useless.
I must fire my rifle true.
I must shoot straighter than my enemy who is trying to kill me.
I must shoot him before he shoots me. I WILL ...
My rifle and myself know that what counts in this war is not the rounds we fire,
the noise of our burst,
nor the smoke we make.
We know that it is the hits that count. WE WILL HIT ...
My rifle is human, even as I, because it is my life.
Thus, I will learn it as a brother.
I will learn its weaknesses, its strength, its parts, its accessories,
its sights and its barrel.
I will ever guard it against the ravages of weather and damage as I will ever guard my
legs, my arms, my eyes and my heart against damage.
I will keep my rifle clean and ready.
We will become part of each other. WE WILL ...
Before God, I swear this creed.
My rifle and myself are the defenders of my country.
We are the masters of our enemy.
We are the saviors of my life.
So be it, until victory is America's and there is no enemy, but peace!

The Sailor's Creed

I am a United States Sailor.
I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will
obey the orders of those appointed over me.
I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to
defend freedom and democracy around the world.
I proudly serve my country's Navy combat team with
Honor, Courage, and Commitment.
I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.

The Soldier's Creed

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

LEADERSHIP CORE VALUES

US Air Force Core Values

Integrity First
Service Before Self
Excellence In All We Do

US Army Core Values

Loyalty
Duty
Respect
Selfless Service
Honor
Integrity
Personal Courage

US Coast Guard Core Values

Honor
Respect
Devotion to Duty

US Marine Corps Core Values

Honor
Courage
Commitment

US Navy Core Values

Honor
Courage
Commitment

Military Code of Conduct

I

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

II

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

III

If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and to aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

IV

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

V

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

VI

I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

Military Oath for Officers of the Armed Forces

The United States Military Oath of Allegiance is taken by members of the United States Armed Services on commissioning. It differs slightly from that of the oath of enlistment that enlisted members recite when they enter the service.

Leadership

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

Military Oath for Enlisted Personnel of the Armed Forces

The Oath of Enlistment into the United States Armed Forces is performed upon any person enlisting or re-enlisting for a term of service into any branch of the military.

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

The Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the Flag
of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands:
one Nation under God, indivisible,
With Liberty and Justice for all.

—Final Version Approved by Congress, June 14, 1954—

THE COVENANT AND THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR CHAPLAINS OF THE ARMED FORCES

The Covenant

Having accepted God's Call to minister to people who serve in the armed forces of our country, I covenant to serve God and these people with God's help; to deepen my obedience to the commandments, to love the Lord our God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. In affirmation of this commitment, I will abide by the Code of Ethics for chaplains of the United States Armed Forces, and I will faithfully support its purposes and ideals. As further affirmation of my commitment, I covenant with my colleagues in ministry that we will hold one another accountable for fulfillment of all public actions set forth in our Code of Ethics.

The Code of Ethics

1. I will hold in trust the traditions and practices of my religious body.
2. I will carefully adhere to whatever direction may be conveyed to me by my endorsing body for maintenance of my endorsement.
3. I understand as a chaplain in the United States Armed Forces that I will function in a pluralistic environment with chaplains of other religious bodies to provide for ministry to all military personnel and their families entrusted to my care.
4. I will seek to provide for pastoral care and ministry to persons of religious bodies other than my own within my area of responsibility with the same investment of myself as I give to members of my own religious body. I will work collegially with chaplains of religious bodies other than my own as together we seek to provide as full a ministry as possible to our people. I will respect the beliefs and traditions of my colleagues and

those to whom I minister. When conducting services of worship that include persons of other than my religious body, I will draw upon those beliefs, principles, and practices that we have in common.

5. I will, if in a supervisory position, respect the practices and beliefs of each chaplain I supervise and exercise care not to require of them any service or practice that would be in violation of the faith practices of their particular religious body.
6. I will seek to support all colleagues in ministry by building constructive relationships wherever I serve, both with the staff where I work and with colleagues throughout the military environment.
7. I will maintain a disciplined ministry in such ways as keeping hours of prayer and devotion, endeavoring to maintain wholesome family relationships and regularly engaging in educational and recreational activities for professional and personal development. I will seek to maintain good health habits.
8. I will recognize that my obligation is to provide for the free exercise of religion for ministry to all members of the military services, their families and other authorized personnel. When on active duty, I will only accept added responsibility in civilian ministry if it does not interfere with the overall effectiveness of my primary military ministry.
9. I will defend my colleagues against unfair discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion or national origin.
10. I will hold in confidence any privileged communication received by me during the conduct of my ministry. I will not disclose confidential communications in private or in public.
11. I will not proselytize from other religious bodies, but I retain the right to evangelize those who are not affiliated.
12. I will show personal love for God in my life and ministry, as I strive together with my colleagues to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of the profession to which we have been called.
13. I recognize the special power afforded me by my ministerial office. I will never use that power in ways that violate the personhood of another human being, religiously, emotionally or sexually. I will use my pastoral office only for that which is best for the persons under my ministry.

LEADERSHIP QUOTES

“Direct my thoughts, words and work, wash away my sins in the immaculate Blood of the Lamb, and purge my heart by Your Holy Spirit.... Daily frame me more and more into the likeness of Your Son Jesus Christ.”

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

“No government can continue good, but under the control of the people.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

—JOHN ADAMS

“A wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

“The time is near at hand which must determine whether Americans are to be free men or slaves.”

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

—RONALD REAGAN

Leadership

“All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

“A free people ought not only to be armed, but disciplined.”

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

“Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

“The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.”

—JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable support. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars.”

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

“If people let government decide what foods they eat and what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as are the souls of those who live under tyranny.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

“America was founded by people who believed that God was their rock of safety. I recognize we must be cautious in claiming that God is on our side, but I think it’s all right to keep asking if we’re on His side.”

—RONALD REAGAN

“Avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments, which, under any form of government, are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to Republican Liberty.”

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

“No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

“If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”

—RONALD REAGAN

“No man, who is profligate in his morals, or a bad member of the civil community, can possibly be a true Christian, or a credit to his own religious society.”

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

“The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

“It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world.”

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

“The beauty of the second amendment is that it will not be needed until they try to take it.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

“The birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior. It forms a leading event in the progress of the Gospel dispensation. The Declaration of Independence . . . laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity.”

—JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

“The marvel of all history is the patience with which men and women submit to burdens unnecessarily laid upon them by their governments.”

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

“To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

“The time has come to turn to God and reassert our trust in Him for the healing of America . . . Our country is in need of and ready for a spiritual renewal.”

—RONALD REAGAN

Leadership

“The very atmosphere of firearms anywhere and everywhere restrains evil interference—they deserve a place of honor with all that is good.”

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

“Timid men prefer the calm of despotism to the tempestuous sea of liberty.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

“Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

—JOHN JAY

“It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

“It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

“They who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty or security.”

—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

“God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

LEADERSHIP AND THE ORIGINAL STATUE OF LIBERTY

(National Monument to the Forefathers)

The first monument erected to honor America's Christian foundation is the National Monument to the Forefathers, and it is the original Statue of Liberty. But now it is not mentioned in humanistic revisions of American history. However, it honors religious freedom and the Christian principles on which America was founded. The largest granite monument standing 81 feet tall, it was commissioned by the Pilgrim Society, designed by Hammatt Billings of Boston, Massachusetts, completed in 1888, and dedicated in 1889. Its location is a state park on Allerton Street in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

"Faith" is at the center of the monument. She is 36 feet tall and weighs 180 tons. She is eloquently clothed and faces Plymouth Harbor and England, while standing with one foot on Plymouth Rock. Her right hand points to heaven and her left hand holds a Geneva Bible, the Bible read by the Pilgrims. This illustrates that America's founding fathers had faith in God. And they believed that faith is the cornerstone of freedom and the bedrock of the American republic. The star on Faith's forehead illustrates the divine light imparting biblical wisdom to every aspect of life. Faith preceded and inspired the building of the Statue of Liberty standing on Ellis Island. The monument features the Ten Commandments, and various other biblical epitaphs. Faith is so important in the struggle to restore liberty and prosperity to America because the human race is undeniably religious.

All cultures are built on various religious faiths. Christianity created America. Friedrich Nietzsche, the founder of modern Nihilism and Atheism, states that if society rejects Christianity, then that will mean the end of any hope of maintaining human equality and rights. He also said, "Another Christian concept, no less crazy: the concept of equality of souls before God. This concept furnishes the prototype of all the theories of equal rights."

John Winthrop led the Great Migration to America in the 1600s. He and all our forefathers founded America on Scripture. The faith of America's founders affirmed

Leadership

the sanctity of each individual. Each human life was equal in the eyes of the Lord God. The Ten Commandments gave people a sense of obligation toward each other. Free societies are the only societies with moral foundations, and those foundations are observable in their political, economic, legal, cultural and spiritual lives. Some multi-cultural advocates want us to believe that America is a product of many religious faiths. In reality, if it weren't for the Pilgrims, whose intent was to establish a Christian nation, there would be no American republic today.

American cultural values have upheld Christian standards of honor, justice, morality, equality, self-rule and esteem for life. Clearly, these virtues have underscored American thought and progress and life for hundreds of years. The vision of our Founding Fathers was that America would have a Constitution supporting the people to impose their will on the government, not the government imposing its will on the people. The National Monument to the Forefathers was made and erected to serve as a reminder to all Americans and the world of the Christian heritage of America and the requirement of Americans to preserve it. As President George Washington said, "The time is near at hand which must determine whether Americans are to be free men or slaves."

—Verna M. Linzey



The Original Statue of Liberty (National Monument to the Forefathers)

Photo: The National Monument to the Forefathers, Plymouth, Massachusetts, taken by T.S. Custadio. License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en>. Use of this photo does not constitute endorsement of this article.

A GUIDE TO LEADERSHIP SCRIPTURES

Abiding

John 15

Life Seems Empty

John 15

Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6, Luke 11

Faith

Hebrews 11

Love

I Corinthians 13

Golden Rule

Matthew 7:12

Peace

John 14

Good Samaritan

Luke 10

Prodigal Son

Luke 15

Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20

Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5, 6, 7

Heaven

Revelation 21

You Are Angry

Matthew 5:9, 22

In Sorrow

John 14

You Are Worried

Matthew 6:19-34

Appendix II

Presidential Quotes



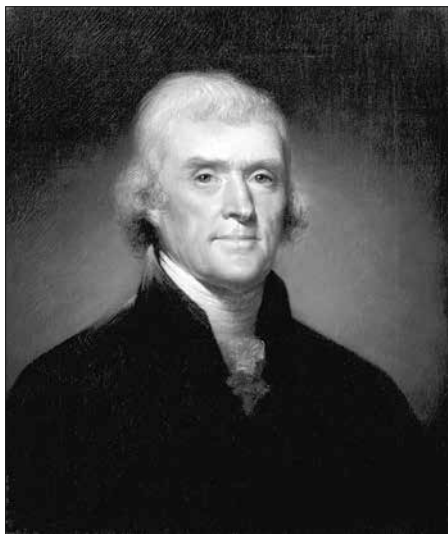
“Direct my thoughts, words and work, wash away my sins in the immaculate Blood of the Lamb, and purge my heart by Your Holy Spirit . . . Daily frame me more and more into the likeness of Your Son Jesus Christ.”

*–President George Washington
First President of the United States*



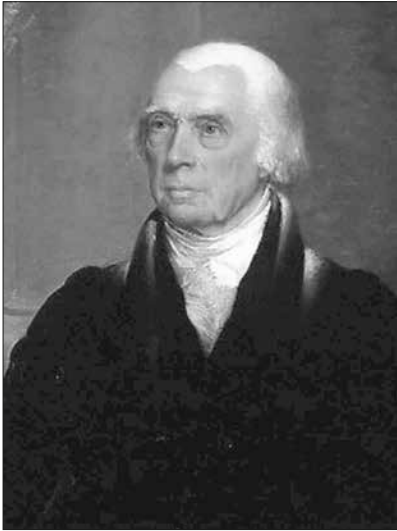
“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

*–President John Adams
Second President of the United States*



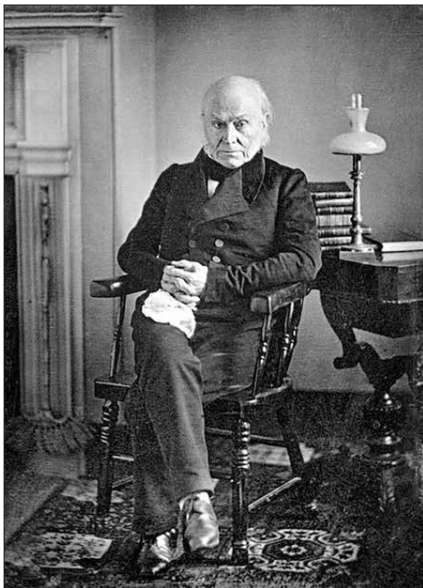
“It is error alone which needs the support of government.
Truth can stand by itself.”

*-President Thomas Jefferson
Third President of the United States*



“Before any man can be considered as a member of civil society,
he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the
Universe. Religion is the basis and foundation of government.”

*–President James Madison
Fourth President of the United States*



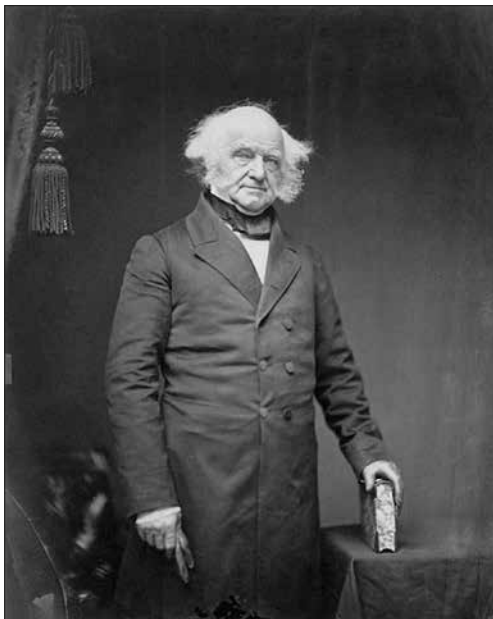
“The birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior. It forms a leading event in the progress of the Gospel dispensation. The Declaration of Independence . . . laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity.”

*—President John Quincy Adams
Sixth President of the United States*



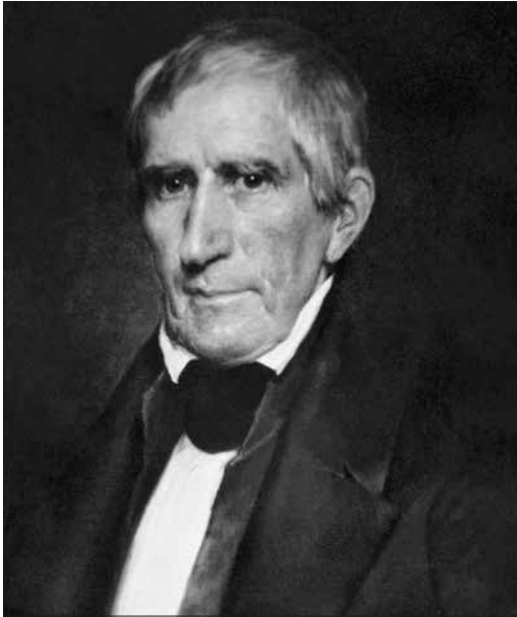
“That Book, sir, is the rock on which our Republic rests.”

*–President Andrew Jackson
Seventh President of the United States*



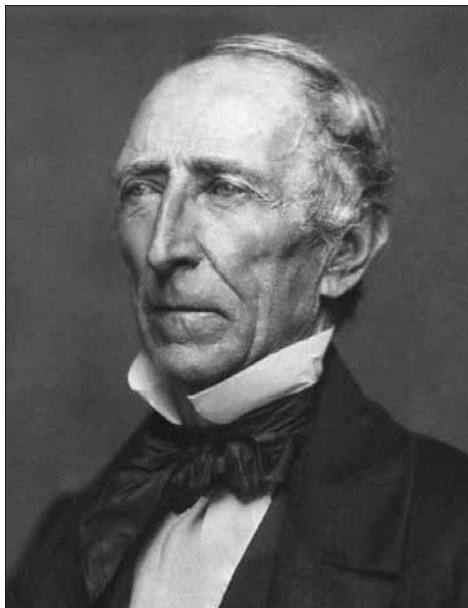
“For myself, therefore, I desire to declare that the principle that will govern me in the high duty to which my country calls me is a strict adherence to the letter and spirit of the Constitution as it was designed by those who framed it.”

*—President Martin Van Buren
Eighth President of the United States*



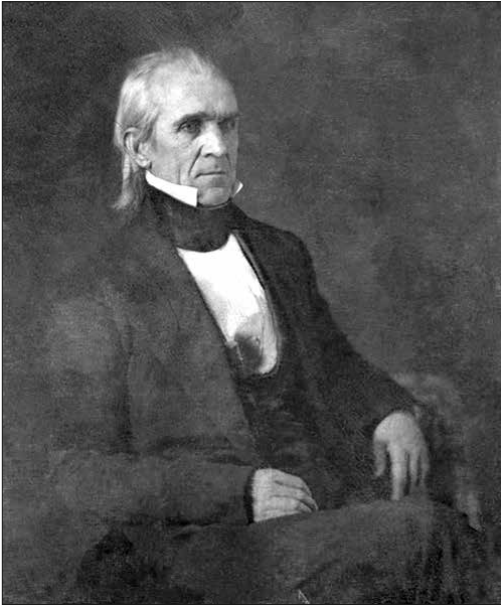
“There is nothing more corrupting, nothing more destructive of the noblest and finest feelings of our nature, than the exercise of unlimited power.”

*—President William H. Harrison
Ninth President of the United States*



“Let it be henceforth proclaimed to the world that man’s conscience was created free; that he is no longer accountable to his fellow man for his religious opinions, being responsible therefore only to his God.”

*–President John Tyler
Tenth President of the United States*



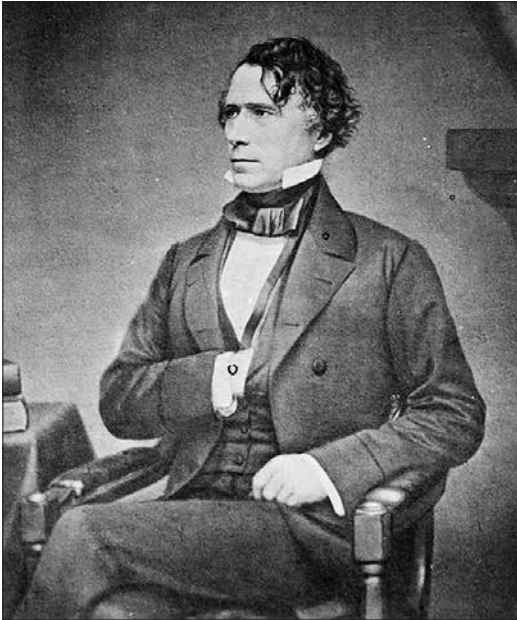
“It becomes us in humility to make our devout acknowledgments to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for the inestimable civil and religious blessings with which we are favored.”

*–President James Polk
Eleventh President of the United States*



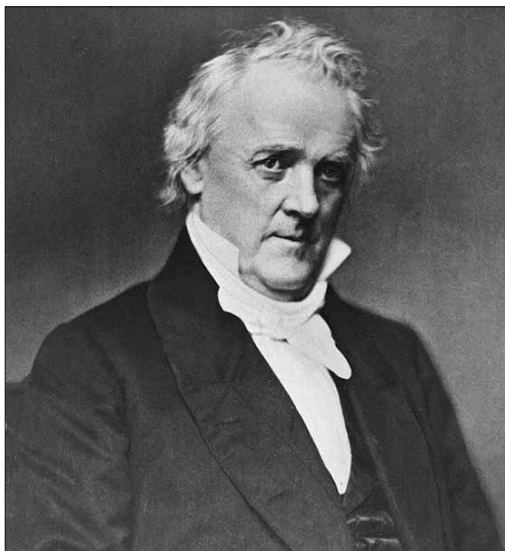
“In the discharge of duties my guide will be the Constitution,
which I this day swear to preserve, protect, and defend.”

*–President Zachary Taylor
Twelfth President of the United States*



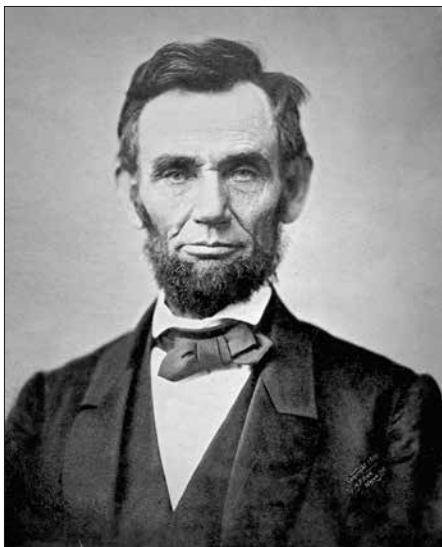
“The dangers of a concentration of all power in the general government of a confederacy so vast as ours are too obvious to be disregarded.”

—*President Franklin Pierce*
Fourteenth President of the United States



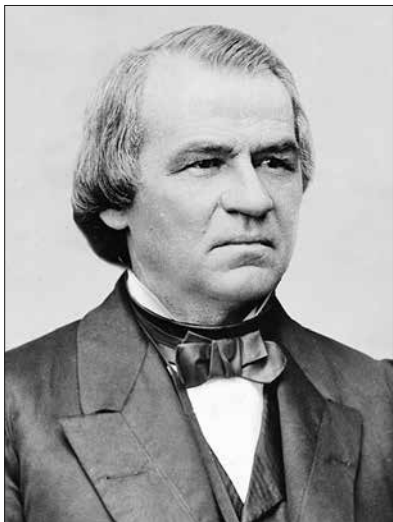
“The test of leadership is not to put greatness into humanity,
but to elicit it.”

*–President James Buchanan
Fifteenth President of the United States*



“I remember my mother’s prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.”

*—President Abraham Lincoln
Sixteenth President of the United States*



“Outside of the Constitution we have no legal authority more than private citizens, and within it we have only so much as that instrument gives us. This broad principle limits all our functions and applies to all subjects.”

*–President Andrew Johnson
Seventeenth President of the United States*



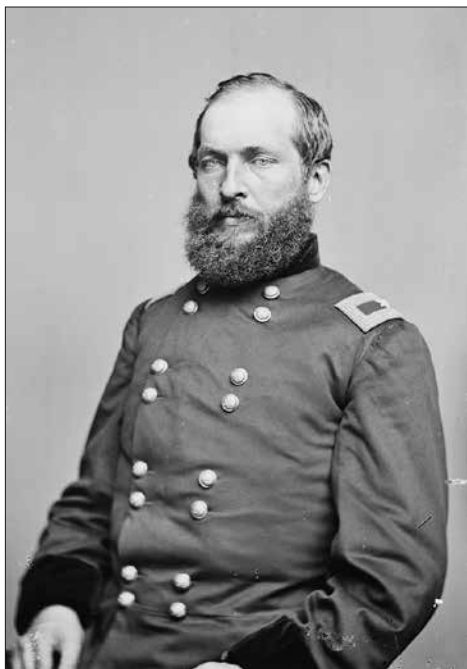
“Hold fast to the Bible. To the influence of this Book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization and to this we must look as our guide in the future.”

*—President Ulysses S. Grant
Eighteenth President of the United States*



“Conscience is the authentic voice of God to you.”

*–President Rutherford B. Hayes
Nineteenth President of the United States*



“The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable.”

*—President James A. Garfield
Twentieth President of the United States*



“I know there is a Supreme Being who rules the affairs of men and whose goodness and mercy have always followed the American people, and I know He will not turn from us now if we humbly and reverently seek His powerful aid.”

—*President Grover Cleveland*
Twenty-second and twenty-fourth President of the United States



“The bud of victory is always in the truth.”

–*President Benjamin Harrison*
Twenty-third President of the United States



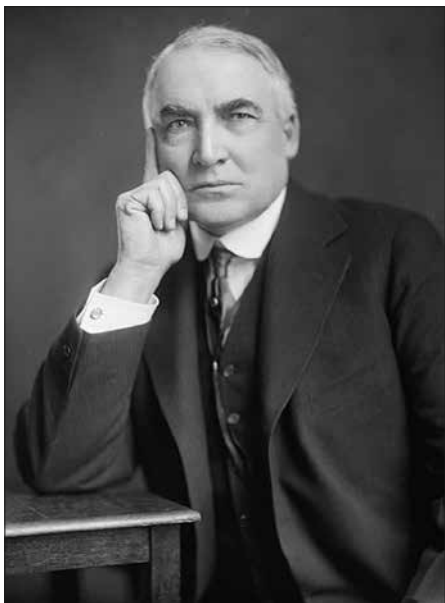
“A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.”

–*President Theodore Roosevelt*
Twenty-sixth President of the United States



“America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of the Holy Scripture.”

*—President Woodrow Wilson
Twenty-eighth President of the United States*



“The success of our popular government rests wholly upon the correct interpretation of the deliberate, intelligent, dependable popular will of America.”

*—President Warren G. Harding
Twenty-ninth President of the United States*



“The American Founding Fathers were intent upon establishing a Christian commonwealth in accordance with the principle of self-government. They were an inspired body of men.”

*—President Calvin Coolidge
Thirtieth President of the United States*



“Freedom is the open window through which pours the
sunlight of the human spirit and human dignity.”

*—President Herbert Hoover
Thirty-first President of the United States*



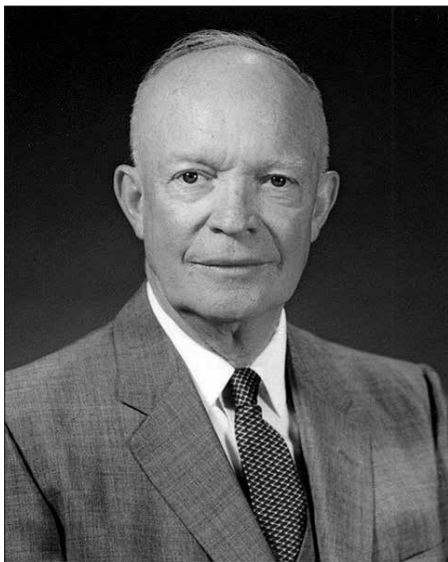
“As Commander in Chief I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the armed forces of the United States. Throughout the centuries men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the Sacred Book words of wisdom, counsel and inspiration. It is a fountain of strength and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul.”

*—President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Thirty-Second President of the United States*



“We all can pray. We all should pray. We should ask the fulfilment of God’s will. We should ask for courage, wisdom, for the quietness of soul which comes alone to them who place their lives in His hands.”

*–President Harry S. Truman
Thirty-third President of the United States*



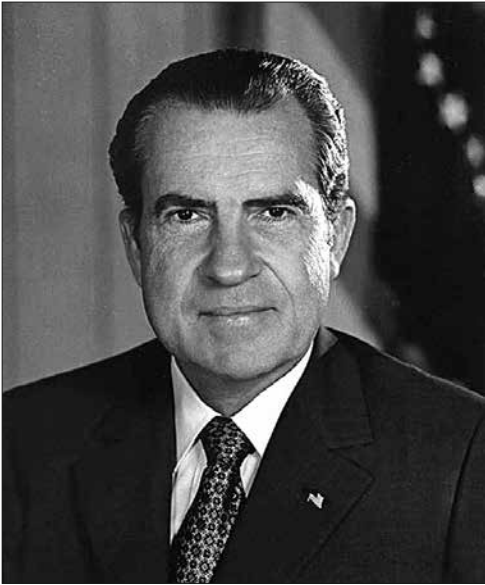
“The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office.”

*—President Dwight Eisenhower
Thirty-fourth President of the United States*



“Let us gather in sanctuaries dedicated to worship
and in homes blessed by family affection to express
our gratitude for the glorious gifts of God.”

*—President John F. Kennedy
Thirty-Fifth President of the United States*



“Only if you have been in the deepest valley, can you ever know how magnificent it is to be on the highest mountain.”

*—President Richard M. Nixon
Thirty-seventh President of the United States*



“The Constitution is the bedrock of all of our freedoms. Guard and cherish it, keep honour and order in your own house, and the Republic will endure.”

—*President Gerald R. Ford*
Thirty-eighth President of the United States



“We should live our lives as though Christ
were coming this afternoon.”

*—President Jimmy Carter
Thirty-ninth President of the United States*



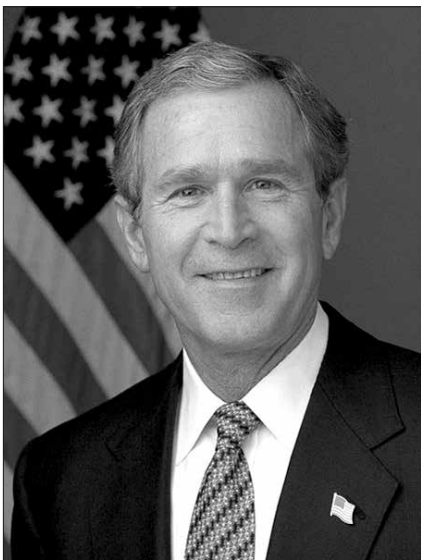
“America was founded by people who believed that God was their rock of safety. I recognize we must be cautious in claiming that God is on our side, but I think it’s all right to keep asking if we’re on His side.”

*—President Ronald Reagan
Fortieth President of the United States*



“The Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us or forsake us; so that He may incline our hearts to Him, to walk in all His ways ... that all peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other.”

*—President George H.W. Bush
Forty-First President of the United States*



“As we have been assured, neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, can separate us from God’s love ... And may He always guide our country.”

– *President George W. Bush*
Forty-Third President of the United States

Appendix III

Biblical Archaeology



The Nativity

According to tradition, Mary gave birth to Jesus at the place of where the star is located on the floor in the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem—a Byzantine church. Justin Martyr mentions it in the mid-2nd century, as does the Protoevangelium of James (also 2nd century). Origen notes that the cave of Jesus' birth was pointed out in his day and no doubt this was the same place where the Byzantine church was erected. This is the oldest-standing church in the Holy Land. It was apparently spared destruction from the Persians in 614 because the invaders saw the depictions of the Magi on the walls. Local Muslim-Christian friendship is believed to be why the church was not destroyed during al-Hakim's rule in 1009. Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.



Jesus spent his boyhood years in Nazareth before beginning his ministry when he was about 30. After moving his home to Capernaum, Jesus returned to teach in the synagogue of Nazareth twice more, but was rejected both times. On one occasion the townspeople were so outraged at Jesus that they tried to throw him off a cliff to his death. Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.



Capernaum

In existence from the 2nd c. B.C. to the 7th c. A.D., Capernaum was built along the Sea of Galilee and had up to 1500 residents. Capernaum was Jesus' home town during his ministry: "Leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum" (Matt 4:13). Peter, Andrew, James and John, and Matthew the tax collector lived in the village. Jesus cursed Capernaum for its lack of faith. The synagogue is later than the first century and is reconstructed on the basalt stone foundation of the synagogue in which Jesus ministered. Excavations have revealed a synagogue from the time of Jesus with walls made of worked stone and 4 feet thick. These earlier walls were preserved up to 3 feet high and the entire western wall still exists and was used as the foundation for this synagogue. Jesus was confronted by a demoniac while teaching here (Mark 1:21-27). In Capernaum, Jesus healed the servant of the centurion. This Roman official was credited with building the synagogue (Luke 7:3). In this synagogue, Jesus gave sermon on the bread of life (John 6:35-59). Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.



Cove of the Sower

Located mid-way between Capernaum and Tabgha, this cove has acoustical properties. In Mark 4 Jesus was teaching a large crowd and pushed out in a boat in order to speak to them. Some suggest this cove is an ideal location for teaching the crowds. An acoustical study of the cove was done by B. Cobbey Crisler and is published as “The Acoustics and Crowd Capacity of Natural Theaters in Palestine” in *Biblical Archaeologist* Dec 1976, pp. 128-41. He concludes that 5,000-7,000 people could fit in the area below the road. More than double that could fit in the entire area of the hillside. Audio recordings of someone speaking on the shore were made where these men sat. The speaker was heard clearly. You can hear the results here: <http://www.bibleplaces.com/coveofsower.htm>. Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.



Feeding of the 5,000

The feeding of the 5,000 most likely took place on the Plain of Bethsaida. Mark 6:30 says the feeding took place at a “solitary place” and verse 39 says that the people sat down on “the green grass.” After this, however, Jesus made his disciples “go over to Bethsaida,” which is on or near the plain. About 5 square miles (8 sq km) in area, the Plain of Bethsaida is very spacious and is crisscrossed by streams, aqueducts and irrigation canals. There are many flat hills on which it would be possible to seat large numbers of people. Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.



The Mount of Beatitudes

The “Sermon on the Mount” is recorded in Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6. The alleged discrepancy between Matthew’s version being on a hill and Luke’s being on a level place is easily reconciled with observation of many level places on the Galilean hillsides. Scripture gives no indication of the exact location of this event, but the Byzantines built a church to commemorate it at the bottom of the hill. Once known as Mt. Eremos, this hill is located between Capernaum and Tabgha and is just above the “Cove of the Sower.” Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.



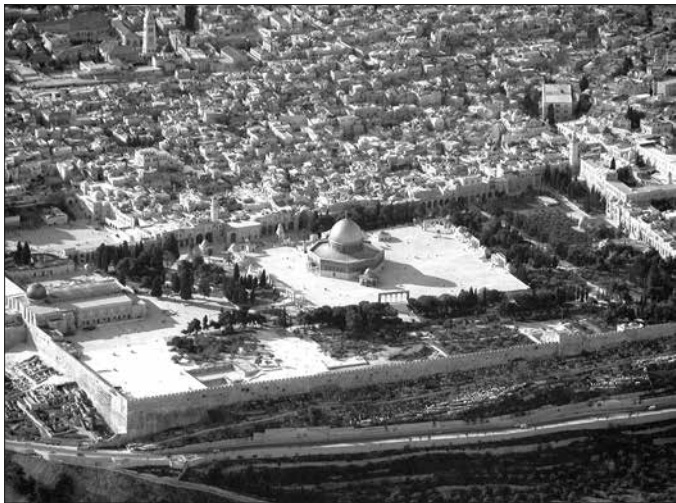
The Sea of Galilee

The peaceful calm of the Sea of Galilee can quickly become transformed by a violent storm. Winds funnel through the east-west aligned Galilee hill country and stir up the waters quickly. More violent are the winds that come off the hills of the Golan Heights to the east. Trapped in the basin, the winds can be deadly to fishermen. A storm in March 1992 sent waves 10 feet high crashing into downtown Tiberias and causing significant damage. Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.



Mount of Transfiguration
(Mount Tabor)

Mt. Tabor sits at the eastern end of the Jezreel Valley, 11 miles (17 km) west of the Sea of Galilee. Its elevation at the summit is 1,843 feet (575 m) high. Old Testament references are Jer. 46:18, Ps. 89:12, Judg. 4-5. Early Church fathers believed that the Transfiguration took place on Mt. Tabor, including Cyril of Jerusalem (in 348), Epiphanius, and Jerome. The Basilica of the Transfiguration is located where the transfiguration was thought to have occurred on Mt. Tabor. One of the reasons given for Mt. Tabor not being the location for the Transfiguration is that Jesus and his disciples were near Caesarea Philippi just prior to the Transfiguration. Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.



The Temple Mount (Mount Moriah)

The Dome of the Rock was built atop the earlier location of the Temple. The earliest city of Jerusalem is the “City of David,” a smaller hill south of, and lower than, the Temple Mount (left and unseen). The present Temple Mount was constructed by Herod the Great beginning in 20 BC. The Western Wall, visible from the other side of the top left portion of the wall, is the most holy place accessible to the Jewish people because of Muslim control of the Temple Mount. It is the retaining wall of the Temple Mount complex. The plaza was created as an area for prayer when Israel captured the Old City in 1967. The eastern gate facing the graveyard in the lower part of the photo is sealed. The Muslims believe that if Jesus returns, He will enter the eastern gate as the New Testament teaches. So they established a graveyard in front of it, thinking that would keep Him out. Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.



Dome and the Mount of Olives

The Mt. of Olives overlooks the Temple Mount from the east and gives a picture of Jesus' weeping over the city from the Mt. of Olives (Luke 19:41). From the Temple Mount Jesus delivered the famous "7 Woes" against the Pharisees (Matt 23), probably pointing at tombs on the Mt. of Olives in his discourse (v. 27). Jesus' ascension probably took place some distance behind the tower of the Russian Orthodox Church. Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.



Golgotha

(Place of the Skull)

General Charles Gordon discovered this location which is now believed to be Golgotha, mentioned in the Bible as where Jesus was crucified. Around the corner he discovered an ancient garden tomb, and putting the two together, he located what many now believe are the hill of crucifixion and the nearby burial place called the Garden Tomb. Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.



The Garden Tomb

While officially the Garden Tomb Association only maintains this as a possible site for Christ's burial, some tour guides of the site are convinced of the authenticity. They note the large cistern nearby, which proves the area must have been a garden in Jesus' day. They maintain that there are marks of Christian veneration at the tomb which also prove its sanctity throughout the ages. Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.



The Resting Place

This is the interior of the Garden Tomb, believed by many to be the resting place of Jesus. Some archaeologists question the authenticity of this tomb because typological features suggest that it is a tomb originally hewn in the time of the Old Testament and not a “new tomb” as specifically stated in Scripture. However, the Gospel period is actually in the Old Testament period because the New Testament era began on the Day of Pentecost. According to tradition, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher commemorates the hill of crucifixion and the tomb of Christ’s burial. Photo: Courtesy of Todd Bolen/BiblePlaces.com.

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