Good Morning, March 1, 2014

“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised” (Proverbs 31:30). The fear of God is one of the main themes of the Bible. Here we see that if a man is looking for a women to love for ever, it would be to his best interest to seek one that fears the LORD. Her awareness of His continual presence will cause her to be the type of woman who will love, honor, and submit to the man God has given her. If I was a girl, and thank God I am not, I would go to the University of His Presence to obtain a masters degree in loving and pleasing Christ! This will not go unnoticed by God or man: “Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates” (Proverbs 31:31). Have a great day!

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, March 2, 2013

“Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men” (Psalm 31:19). It could be, when we arrive in Heaven, the LORD may take us to a warehouse and show us all the blessings He stored up on our account that He was waiting to give us if we only feared Him and longed to be in His presence. This morning I could not help but to think that we will spend all of eternity in His presence, why not practice up while we are here. Have a great day.

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, March 6, 2014

“For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me” (Psalm 31:3). Yesterday, I asked a young man at the muffler shop if he went to church anywhere; this is one of the ways I open up conversations about my favorite topic, Christ. He told me that he had not been back to church since his parents divorced when he was twelve. My heart broke for this young man. He told me that they did the church thing; guess he figured if it did not work for mom and dad he didn’t need it either. He admitted to me he was lost and said he knew what it takes to be saved; I could see a coldness in his eyes. Christians, especially Christian parents MUST portray the name of Christ and magnify His name in all they do; the eternal destination of their children is at stake! It is at the name of Jesus every knee will bow; do it here so we can enjoy it when we call Him by His name face to face in Glory! What a day that will be! Have a blessed day!

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, March 10, 2014

“As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God” (Psalm 68:2). The word “wicked” seems to be associated with those who are way out there in sin; drunks, drug addicts, murders…. When you study the word “wicked” you will find it can also refer to simply doing wrong (Strong’s Concordance). We live in a world that has taken the Biblical truths of what is right and what is wrong and has twisted them together in the minds of both Christians and nonbelievers alike. If only Christians could understand that there is so much depending upon the way they live their lives. Our text verse deals with the fact that one day all unbelievers will be eternally separated from the presence of God. That means, if you are saved you will be in the presence of God for eternity without your lost friends and loved ones. Live your life so people will want what you have and then tell them how you got it! Have a great day!

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, March 11, 2014

“The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them” (Proverbs 12:26). Excellence is measured by standard. There is always a record to be set and one to beat in any sporting event. It makes big news when the homerun record is broken in a single season. In our text we see that the righteous is more excellent than his neighbor, referring to a lost man, for one simple reason; the Standard for the righteous is Jesus! Every boy who loves baseball dreams of beating the homerun record; every Christian should have the desire to run their race to win and be as much like Christ as they can. When you make this commitment, you can rest assured that the devil has his little imps strategically positioned to seduce you. If they can just lure you away from your training for an hour they can overrun you and knock you out of the race. Excellent is good, but more excellent is what I want! Have a great day!

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, March 13, 2014

“(7) O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah: (8) The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel. (9) Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary” (Psalm 68:7-9). Hidden in the Bible are thousands of truths that reveal to us the fatherly love our God provides for His children. I made it a practice for over 12 years to read the book of Psalms through each month; five chapters a day. I stopped about two years ago when I was finishing my college. Over 144 times I read these verses, but this morning a golden nugget landed in the threshold of my mind! One preacher said that you are either going into a storm in your life, or you are smack in the middle of a storm, or you are coming out of the storm. Whatever the case may be in your life, rest assured that the presence of the Almighty Father in Heaven has shook the earth, dropped the heavens, moved mountains, and then sent plentiful rain to see water and refresh your soul. Notice that God went forth BEFORE the children of Israel went into the wilderness! Get into the presence of God this morning with your praise! You do not have to tell God how big your storm is, He knows; tell the storm how big God is! Have a wonderful day!

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, March 16, 2014

“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah” (Psalm 68:19). It is my take on this verse that the LORD is happy or blessed to load our wagon with His benefits; you know, like, peace, joy, happiness, and prosperity. Jesus loves to see His children enjoying the life He has given them on this earth. Yes, there are heartaches and trials that come our way, but He wants us to trust Him and go through the trial praising Him and not being upset with Him because things did not go our way. What even makes Him happier than loading us with His benefits, is if there is someone on the other end of the delivery to unload them. Do not leave your benefits in a warehouse in Heaven; go to wagon and take full advantage of them today. Have a wonderful day in the house of the LORD today. Sing like you have never sang before, praise Him like you just got saved, and cash in on your benefits!

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, March 17, 2014

“Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory” (Psalm 73:23). Whenever you see the word “nevertheless” you must go back a few verses to see what the topic is. The book of Psalms has every emotion a human will ever experience. In Psalm 73 we see this man Asaph was depressed, envious, grieved, plagued, and chastened every morning. He was seeking his answers in all the wrong places. He finally came to his senses in verse 17, “Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end” (Psalm 73:17). Finally, after trying to figure out what in the world was wrong with him, he went to church! He came to the conclusion that we read in our text verse after a time of searching his heart, confessing his faults before God, and choosing to recognize and receive the help and happiness God has stored for all of His obedient children. He entered into the fear of God and learned to happily dwell in His presence by allowing Him to guide his every thought and action. Like the old saying goes, “Try it, you’ll like it!” Have a great day!

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, March 20, 2014

“And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone” (Matthew 14:23). When life throws us a curve ball and we do not know what to do, one thing is for sure; we can pray! Jesus left us this example with His prayer life. Although He was never in a situation that He did not know what to do, He wanted us to understand that we can bring our cares and our burdens directly to the Creator of the world. Death is always one of the hardest topics to deal with. God had to deal with death in the Garden when His first created being decided that he needed to be on God’s level. Adam took of the fruit and his soul died! Seldom do we think how it must have grieved the LORD that sin and death had entered into the world. Since that time, God has used death to display His power and love. He used the death of King David’s baby to comfort the many grieving parents when David would say that the baby could not come to him, but he would someday go where he was. He used the death of Lazarus to display His power over death and the grave. He used the death of His only begotten Son to make a way for sinners to be redeemed. If the Christian would only die to self and live in the fear of God, they would understand the peace of God. Today, at 5:56 A.M. the LORD called one of His dear saints home; Sister Lendy Gordon, wife of Rock of Ages Missionary Eddie Gordon. She fought a long hard battle with cancer, but is now resting comfortably in the arms of Jesus. I feel helpless in cases like this, but I can pray! Please pray for Brother Eddie and the family as they grieve the loss of Mrs. Lendy. Have a great day!

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, March 24, 2014

“My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change: For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both” (Proverbs 24:21, 22). Once again, we see the trail of instruction leading us to fountain of life coupled with the warning of failure to comply. We are instructed to pick our friends wisely. Friends can do one of two things, either they will help you develop your walk with God, or cause you to remain a babe in Christ. If you have an apple tree, you would expect to harvest apples from it. There should be a desire in the heart of every Christian to be different from the world. This desire will cause us to recognize the snares placed in our path. There is nothing wrong with having friends that are lost, as long as long as you are working diligent to see them converted. Remember the old saying, “Friends don’t let friends drive drunk,” well, friends don’t let friend’s go to hell either! Tell them about Christ so their calamity does not last for eternity! “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelations 20:15). Have a great day!

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, March 25, 2014

“(34) They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the Lord commanded them: (35) But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. (Psalm 106:34, 35). This record of history reminds us how righteous LORD judged the people of Israel for not destroying the enemies He commanded them to. Notice how the passage goes along with Proverbs 24:21, 22 used in yesterdays devotion. When the Israelites did not completely eliminate the enemy of God, the next thing that happened was devastating to the future of nation of Israel. They mingled: this means that they tried to mix the ways of the world with the ways of God. Today we see the contemporary movement mixing the music of the world, the dress of the world, and watered down preaching which can only result in falling into the snares that eventually will cause them to do the unseemly. Look at the progression; “(36) And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. (37) Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, (38) And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood” (Psalm 106:36-38). This seems drastic, but the truth is truth. When you remove the true worship and teachings of God by mingling with unbelievers and following their ways, the next thing you know, your children grow up without knowing the power of the true God only to have secular education destroy any hope of their belief in Christ! Thus, the children are sacrificed and turned over to the devil. Wicked heathens are not the only people who go to hell; good upstanding unbelieving citizens will have their place too! Have a great day!

Brother Van Horn

Good Morning, March 26, 2014

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever” (Psalm 111:10).  Ever hear the phrase, “This is just the beginning.”  Good or bad, the first time you encounter something that you have never experienced before can bring a fasciation to your heart coupled with a longing continue in it, or run as fast as you can from it.  Many people think we are crazy for spending our time in prisons telling criminals about the goodness of God.  I have seen it over and over again in the eyes of someone that has just began to volunteer with our ministry.  They see beyond the chains of affliction and see a human being that Christ gave His life for.  As they are privileged to share the good news of Christ’s love, they are able to witness the power of the Blessed Holy Ghost do a work in the hearts and lives of the inmate.  Many times the volunteer life is changed and they cannot wait to go again.  In our text verse we see the results of living a life in the fear of the LORD.  Do not get hung up on the doing the commandments part, but realize that praising Him is the direct result of a life lived in His presence; and this we will do for all eternity!   Have a great day!

Brother Van Horn