

Monthly Memory Verse -December 2010



(ESV) Luk 1:30 And the angel said to her, Do not fear, Mary, for you have found favor from God.

Publisher & Author Message

December 2010

Message from the publisher and author

Monthly Memory Verse and Dale's Notes

Dale's Notes are provided as an encouragement to study the context from where the monthly memory verse was selected. It's my desire to provide some background information and practical understanding of some things, which I see within my own study of God's word. It's my hope through reading the notes; you will desire to study God's word in more detail.

Dale's Notes are only a layman's attempt to share the good news of our savior Jesus Christ through a monthly memory verse and the study of God's word in our daily walk with the Lord.

Brother in Jesus Christ,

Dale ☺

Dale A. Kaye

Message:



Merry Christmas

to you and your family! May our Lord Jesus Christ be with you in this holiday season. It's my hope the Lord will draw each of us closer to him to know and love him more. God Bless.

Prayer request:

Please continue to pray with me in asking God to help provide a consistent format for the Men's Monthly Memory Verse and Dale's Notes. I ask your prayers and encouragement to serve in this way through email and site hosting. Please, remember my family that we honor our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and live for his glory.

Thank you,

Dale

Quick Bio-glance

December 2010

Quick Bio-glance:



John Newton

John Newton (1725-1807)

John Newton wrote a song that told the story of his life. 1 Chronicles 17:16 was the verse that inspired him to write *Faith's Review And Expectation*. The verse reads, "And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said, Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?" The verse of the song that reflects the 1 Chronicles passage reads this way - "Thro' many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home."

You might be thinking "Wait a minute. That is not *Faith's Review and Expectation*, that is *Amazing Grace?how sweet the sound, that sav'd a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see!*" To be sure, the song is *Amazing Grace*, perhaps the most beloved song of all times. The original title was *Faith's Review?*.

But who is the self-proclaimed "wretch" who wrote the song? John Newton was born in London July 24, 1725, the son of a commander of a merchant ship which sailed the Mediterranean. In July or 1732, thirteen days before his seventh birthday, death took his saintly mother who had since his third birthday been his teacher and friend. He took the death of his mother hard. In fact, it became evident that he was bitter at God over his circumstance because he began as one author puts it, "a decline into rebellion and degradation that lasted until his 24th year." At 11 years of age he went to sea with his father and made six voyages with him before the elder Newton retired. In 1744 John was forced into service on a man-of-war, the H. M. S. Harwich. The conditions on board were intolerable to him, so he deserted but was soon recaptured and publicly flogged and demoted from midshipman to common seaman.

Finally, at his own request, Newton was exchanged into service on a slave ship, which took him to the coast of Sierra Leone. He then became the servant of a slave trader and was brutally abused. Early in 1748 he was rescued by a sea captain who had known John's father.

John Newton ultimately became captain of his own slave ship. And what kind of captain was he? Lindsay Terry writes, "It is reported that at times he was so wretched that even his crew regarded him as little more than an animal. Once he fell overboard and his ship's crew refused to drop a boat to him. Instead they threw a harpoon at him, with which they dragged him back into the ship." But God intervened in Newton's life and got his attention through a violent storm. The gale was so severe that all the livestock were washed overboard and the crew tied themselves to the ship to keep from being swept overboard. As he was attempting to steer the ship through the violent storm, he experienced what he was to refer to later as his "great deliverance." He recorded in his journal that when all seemed lost and the ship would surely sink, he exclaimed, "Lord, have mercy upon us." Later in his cabin he reflected on what he had said and began to believe that God had addressed him through the storm and that grace had begun to work for him. For the rest of his life he observed the anniversary of May 10, 1748 as the day of his conversion, a day of humiliation in which he subjected his will to a higher power. "Thro' many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace has bro't me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home." He continued in the slave trade for a time after his conversion; however, he saw to it that the slaves under his care were treated humanely.

In 1750 he married Mary Catlett, with whom he had been in love for many years. By 1755, after a serious illness, he had given up seafaring forever. During his days as a sailor he had begun to educate himself,

Quick Bio-glance

teaching himself Latin, among other subjects. From 1755 to 1760 Newton was surveyor of tides at Liverpool, where he came to know George Whitefield, deacon in the Church of England, evangelistic preacher, and leader of the Calvinistic Methodist Church. Newton became Whitefield's enthusiastic disciple. During this period Newton also met and came to admire John Wesley, founder of Methodism. Newton's self-education continued and he learned Greek and Hebrew.

He decided to become a minister and applied to the Archbishop of York for ordination. The Archbishop refused his request, but Newton persisted in his goal, and he was subsequently ordained by the Bishop of Lincoln and accepted the curacy of Olney, Buckinghamshire. Newton's church became so crowded during services that it had to be enlarged. He preached not only in Olney but in other parts of the country. In 1767 the poet William Cowper settled at Olney, and he and Newton became friends.

Cowper helped Newton with his religious services and on his tours to other places. They held not only a regular weekly church service but also began a series of weekly prayer meetings, for which their goal was to write a new hymn for each one. They collaborated on several editions of Olney Hymns, which achieved lasting popularity. The first edition, published in 1779, contained 68 pieces by Cowper and 280 by Newton. Among Newton's contributions which are still loved and sung today are "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" and "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken," as well as "Amazing Grace." Composed probably between 1760 and 1770 in Olney, England "Amazing Grace" was possibly one of the hymns written for a weekly service. Through the years other writers have composed additional verses to the hymn which came to be known as "Amazing Grace." The origin of the melody is unknown. Most hymnals attribute it to an early American folk melody.

Newton was not only a prolific hymn writer but also kept extensive journals and wrote many letters. Historians accredit his journals and letters for much of what is known today about the eighteenth century slave trade. In *Cardiphonia, or the Utterance of the Heart*, a series of devotional letters, he aligned himself with the Evangelical revival, reflecting the sentiments of his friend John Wesley and Methodism.

In 1780 Newton left Olney to become rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, St. Mary Woolchurch, in London. There he drew large congregations and influenced many, among them William Wilberforce, who would one day become a leader in the campaign for the abolition of slavery. Newton continued to preach until the last year of life, although he was blind by that time. At 82, shortly before he died he said, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things, that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour." He died in London December 21, 1807 but left his executors instructions for his epitaph. It reads in part, "John Newton, Clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy."

Adapted from information by Al Rogers & Lindsay Terry

<http://www.reformedreader.org/newton.htm>

Theology term:

Selah

Selah is the Hebrew word [celah] whose origin and meaning is unknown. Conjecture and historical speculation regarding it's meaning is rampant, but the best guess is that it means to lift up, or to accenuate. Assumed used as a musical term showing pause. This word is found seventy-three times in the Psalms, and three times in the book of Habakkuk. The psalms being a sort of hymnbook of Israel.

<http://www.mountainretreatorg.net/faq/glossary.html#selah>

Memory verse for the month: December 2010 (LITV)

Dale's Notes

Read: Luke 1:30 (LITV)

Decemeber - Part I and Part II

Luk 1:30 And the angel said to her, Do not fear, Mary, for you have found favor from God.

Silence was broken and waiting was over

The world laid in silence with regard to a direct word from God! The giving of scripture fell silent four hundred years, between the books of Malachi and Mathew within our bibles! Yes, I'm speaking of that gap between the Old Testament books and the New Testament Gospel! Don't think for a moment, the world laid silent, in its sinful acts in human history! Greece was to become great, and Rome needed to be built, and nations had to rise and fall, the Maccabean revolt was to happen, and peoples were to be brought into being both great and small! All to bring humanity to this point, God's appointed time (*Emmanuel –God with us!*)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,
Gal 4:5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Our memory verse comes to us after leading events have transpired 6 months earlier. Our verse rest in light of a Jewish couple named Zachariah (*a priest*) and Elizabeth, walking upright before the Lord, in the commandments of God, who found favor with Him [God]. It was to this married couple the heavenly messenger Gabriel was dispatched (*Luk 1:11 "...an angel of the Lord..."*), announcing the forerunner of the Lord named John; the Baptist. The messenger made known unto them the child being given them would come in the spirit and power of the Elijah (*Luk 1:17*).

He [John] was (*Isa 40:3 "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD..."*) to fulfill and to bring into focus the promises of God, all given in prophecy, made to the children of Israel by God! So the Children of Israel knew and waited for the promise one, the messiah (the anointed one) to come!

The 400 years of silence was broken, at the right side of the Alter of Incense, within the temple of the Lord! He [God] awakes the hearts of men with the reality He [God] listens to their prayers, nor does he forget! We can read the angelic message from God and find the Lord of Heaven wants to answer Zachariah and Elizabeth's prayer, which was to have a child of their own offspring, of their own beings! Yes, a baby but hold-on-there! This couple's desire lasted a life time, for they were up in years. It could be, the thought of having a baby had long departed from Zachariah and Elizabeth because of the way for women had long passed Elizabeth (*Luk 1:7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.*).

Like so many of us concerning our requested prayers to be too much for Him [GOD] (*Luk. 1:13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John."*)!

Jonathan Gill's Exposition of the entire Bible (*Speaking about Zachariah with regards to Luke 1:13*)

"for thy prayer is heard; which he had many years ago put up for a son; for it cannot be thought that he had been now praying for one, being in such an advanced age, and having for years past given up all hopes of one, and was even unbelieving, when he was told by the angel he should have one: prayer is sometimes immediately heard, and answered; and sometimes an answer is deferred a long time, to try the faith and patience of the saints, and to discover the more the wisdom, power, and goodness of God:..."

So, something great is happening here, the impossible is transpiring, the unthought-of has been spoken!

Sounds familiar! Looks like something we have seen and heard before but where? Yes, back in the book of Genesis, when God did the impossible and made a promise to another married couple, which had no offspring; and they too were far past childbearing age! He [Abraham] was then 100 years old and she [Sarah] was right along side of him in years!

Gen 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

Hear Sarah's answer to the heavenly promise of God, which ends in her laughter with disbelief!

Gen 18:10 The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

Gen 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

Gen 18:12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"

Gen 18:13 The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'"

Gen 18:14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

Now I ask you, what was Zachariah's reaction to hearing of the words of the angelic messenger? It was disbelief and he [Zachariah] was struck with dumbness and became mute, unable to speak because of his response to the blessing of God just poured out! So the impossible things of God cannot be grasped without faith! And those who do not display it [Faith] will be put to silence at the presence of God (*Luk 1:19*)!

Nothing could have prepared Zachariah for this heavenly visitation! He had no way of knowing the secrets that are laid up in the heart of God for those who love Him.

Read our beloved apostle Paul: **1Co 2:9** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

It's no mystery to a Christian the exceeding Greatness of our God! The exceeding greatness of our Savior Jesus Christ to have done great things for us, which we are ourselves are glad (*Psa 126:3*)! Hear the word of the apostle Paul as to what God is able to do!

Eph 3:20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

God was going to answer Zachariah's prayer, as part of his [God's] plan of salvation (*Luk.1:13 "But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard,"*). What an answer to prayer, what blessing, what favor to hear from heaven in such away! It boggles the mind!

The Course of John, the Baptist

Come along side me and hear of that little boy to be born, which was to lose his head for the glory of God when he became a man (*Mat 14:1-12; Mar 6:17-30*)! For every mount had to be brought low and every valley had to be exalted, to prepare the way of the Lord (*Luk 3:5-6; Isa 40.4*)! And so John went before the Lord in the spirit and the power of Elijah to make straight the way of God! Even at his birth, it was made known he [John] carried the message of the King of Kings! For His father's tongue was let lose by the Spirit of God proclaiming the way of Salvation, and the purpose of his son to run before the Lord, to preach the word of baptism and repentance to Israel! Hear the words of John, the beloved apostle, speaking of John; the Baptist.

Joh 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Joh 1:30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'

Joh 1:31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."

Joh 1:32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him

The account of (Zachariah and Elizabeth) concerning the birth of John is not complicated! It's straight forward. It's beautiful, it's miraculous, and the Lord tells us why He is giving the child to Zachariah and Elizabeth and what the child's purpose is to be!

Your consideration

You may have read this many times before but trust me it's all brand new; just like every day given you to live and take breath! Life, hope, truth, and forgiveness are displayed in so many facets within this passage of scripture. We are force to see and acknowledge the Divine working of God in action with the humble, the frail, the faithful, and the fearful, which are given the message of life and hope to those who believe God!

Part II

The Visitation of Mary, a virgin espoused to a man named Joseph

Now Mary was a young virgin, who lived in a city of Galilee, we would know nothing of her unless the scriptures revealed it, even the words of prophecy (*Isa.7:14,9:6-7*)! The scriptures speak of this young virgin, who was espoused/betrothed to a man name Joseph. The scriptures teach us she was highly favored of God, blessed among women for the Lord was with her (*Luk. 1:28; Luk 1:42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!*). Pay attention, she was highly favored or as some version read "O favor one" of God, making Mary the most unique women and blessed among women for the working of God done through her! This favor given to Mary is not to the worshiping of her but to the worship and glory of God for the working out of His salvation in such a miraculous way! Slow down in your thinking, don't zoom pass these words because of familiarity! God is doing something wonderful, exciting, and miraculous, far beyond men's understanding that a child would be born without the seed of Adam! God is bringing into the world the Son of the most highest, born of women, born under the law, to save his people from their sins!

So, the angel Gabriel being sent from God meets with Mary, appearing with a message clearly spoken, six months into Elizabeth's pregnancy.

Luk 1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

Luk 1:27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

Luk 1:28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

Luk 1:29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

Luk 1:30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Luk 1:31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Luk 1:32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

Luk 1:33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Can any of us fully understand the working of God to bring His son into the world in such away? Can any of us fully understand her, the mother of Christ, as to what it means to be a recipient of such favor, to become the mother of our Lord? I'm not speaking of the favor of grace, to the new birth unto eternal life but the act of God to bare the only begotten Son of God incarnate! Be careful with your thoughts that you do not make too little of God's great work and woe to you who falsify the scriptures to bring reproach on her good name and her holy child.

"Fear not", "do not be afraid"

Fear not; do not be afraid, these words are the message from Heaven to these events, to Zachariah, to Mary, to Joseph, and to the shepherds! These words are found in general throughout the bible, when men have encountered God's representatives, sent from heaven, simple because the invisible become visible! Men everywhere are unaware of the heavenly events going on around them. We are introverted, fallen creatures, self absorbed into our daily lives; govern by our own earthly thinking. It is the Gospel that shine its light into the darken corners of man's mind and heart. It is the Gospel reproving mankind of their sinfulness, it is the Gospel that brings hope through Jesus Christ and it's the Gospel that gives life to us who believe!

O' men of earth, this was not a time to be fearful, for God was proclaiming His Son, Jesus and His working of Salvation through him! The heavens open, and things that were dead became alive and brought forth life, and the mouth of disbelief was stopped, and the mouth of belief was opened to speak the truth to the glory of God! The fearful were told not to fear, and those whom seemed to have no favor, found favor, for they have received the favor of God, to the glory of God!

Hear the message of the scripture:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (*Joh 3:16 -17*).

Prayer

Help us Lord Most High to grasp the truth of your salvation in Christ Jesus. Help us to understand the greatness of your working towards us, through your only begotten Son. Let us not water down the message from heaven, which is able to redeem our souls from destruction! Help us Lord to share the light of life, which we have received, to share with those who stand in darkness. Forgive our sins, and accept our prayers, so we might glorify your great and holy name. Amen.