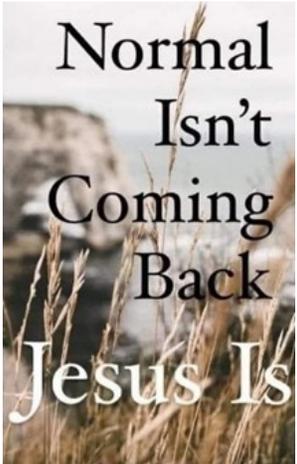




Christian Report

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 4 April 2022

NORMAL: A SETTING ON MY DRYER — Doug Sullivan



For many years I told Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines that "Normal" is nothing more than a setting on my dryer. But we like what is consistent. We take solace in things that don't change. We draw much

comfort from tradition and ritual, but I found as I matured that "The only constant in this world is change."

Many wonder if things will ever return to the way they were before COVID 19 erupted over 2 years ago. They feel like they are just barely treading water right now. Can we ever go back to life before Y2K? Or how about the way the world was before 9-11? Time marches on and the world around us is so different as things grow darker and much more perverse as the Paul told us to expect.

"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than

lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Soldiers of God, these times are upon us! But take heart, even if "normal" isn't coming back, we who believe, should take comfort in the fact that JESUS IS !!! In His final week before His death and crucifixion, Jesus taught His followers:

"Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?' And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. 'Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.'" (Matt 24:3-14)

For over three decades now, the byline for the signature on all my emails has been:

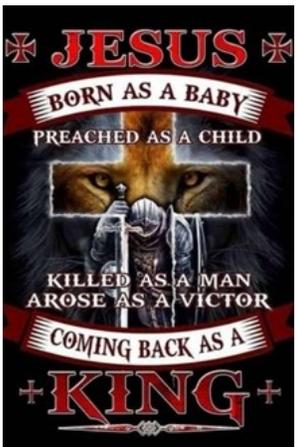
"The shortest distance between a problem & solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything !!!"



We who kneel before God, will be given strength to stand! Paul told the Church in Ephesus where Timothy was pastor, "Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (Ephesians 6:13)

Indeed, there will come a time when Christ reigns and will put all enemies under His feet (1 Cor 15:25) Paul wrote to the Church at Rome and reminded them of what the Prophet Isaiah foretold in Isaiah 45:23, "For it is written: 'As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.'" (Romans 14:11)

Take courage, soldiers of the Cross! Normal isn't coming back, but Jesus is... and you are a child of the king!



It was only a few months ago that a small Sunday morning adult Bible study at Provider Chapel, Ft. Carson, Colorado began a study of the book of Revelation. Little did we know, or even suspect, that we could soon be on the brink of another major global conflict. We had been studying books of the New Testament for several years and it seemed to be an appropriate time to leave the writings of the Apostle Paul and explore an overview of the Revelation of Jesus Christ to the Apostle John.

To date (March 2022) we have learned quite a lot, although we have just begun to study the lesson discussing chapters 14—16, with much more yet to explore.

Did you know that the book of Revelation might be the only book of the Bible that actually provides its own outline? Speaking to John in the first chapter, Jesus told him:

"Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things." (Rev 1:19)

What follows is John's vision of the risen Christ, letters to seven churches that existed during John's lifetime (2:1—3:22), followed by a series of events that were yet to take place (4:1—22:21).

Did you know that there are several approaches to studying the "things yet to take place?"

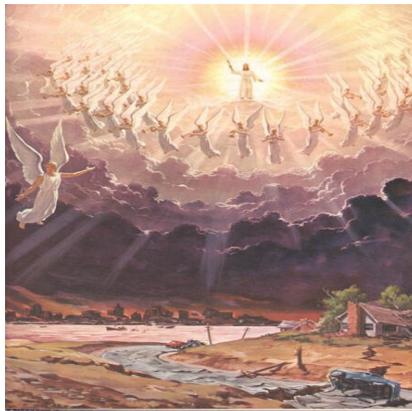
The Futurist Approach

The futurist approach to the book of Revelation regards the visions of chapters 4—22 as referring to events that lie in the future, events that will occur immediately prior to Christ's second coming and the end of history. This is the most popular approach, yet there are differing opinions of certain future events.

A strength of futurism is its recognition that the book of Revelation teaches continued, and even increased, suffering for the people of God before the end of history. Futurism also properly emphasizes that the ultimate triumph of Christ and His people will occur only at the second coming of Christ.

The Preterist Approach

Preterism, as its name implies (deriving from a Latin root for "past"), takes the opposite tack of futurism. In this approach, the book of Revelation primarily refers to events that



occurred in the past, either in the period prior to the destruction of the Jerusalem temple in 70 AD or in the early Christian centuries leading up to the destruction of the Roman Empire in the fifth century AD.

The Historicist Approach

The historicist approach reads the book of Revelation as a visionary symbolization of the sequence of events that will occur throughout the course of the history of the church, from Christ's first coming until His second coming. Historicist interpreters of the book typically read its visions as a presentation in chronological order of the most significant developments in the history of redemption.

The Idealist Approach

The idealist approach differs from the first three approaches in its reluctance to identify any particular historical events, institutions, or people with the visions of the book of Revelation. This approach views the visions of Revelation as a portrayal of the church's struggle throughout the entire period between the first and second comings of Christ.

We've also learned that there seem to be quite a few Bible scholars, from beginners to renowned theologians, who seem to have figured out all of the details of most of the events recorded in Revelation. As for our small Sunday morning class, we've decided to remain thoughtful concerning the details, but to focus on the major themes of Revelation, with which most commentators seem to be in complete agreement!

God's sovereignty— God is sovereign. He is greater than any power in the universe. God is not to be compared with any leader, government, or religion. He controls history for the purpose of uniting true believers in loving

fellowship with Him. Though Satan's power may temporarily increase, we are not to be led astray. God is all-powerful. He is in control. He will bring His true family safely into eternal life. Because He cares for us, we can trust Him with our very lives.

Christ's return— Christ came to earth as a "Lamb," the symbol of His perfect sacrifice for our sin. He will return as the triumphant "Lion," the rightful ruler and conqueror. He will defeat Satan, settle accounts with all those who reject Him, and bring His faithful people into eternity. Assurance of Christ's return gives suffering Christians the strength to endure. We can look forward to His return as King and Judge.

God's faithful people— John wrote to encourage the church to resist the demands to worship the Roman emperor. He warns all God's faithful people to be devoted only to Christ. Revelation identifies who the faithful people are and what they should be doing until Christ returns. You can take your place in the ranks of God's faithful people by believing in Christ. Victory is sure for those who resist temptation and make loyalty to Christ their top priority.

Judgment— One day God's anger toward sin will be fully and completely unleashed. Satan will be defeated with all of his agents. False religion will be destroyed. God will reward the faithful with eternal life, but all who refuse to believe in Him will face eternal punishment. Evil and injustice will not prevail forever. God's final judgment will put an end to these. We need to be certain of our commitment to Jesus if we want to escape this great final judgment. No one who rejects Christ will escape God's punishment.

Hope— One day God will create a new heaven and a new earth. All believers will live with Him forever in perfect peace and security. Those who have already died will be raised to life. These promises for the future bring hope. Our great hope is that what Christ promises will come true. When we have confidence in our final destination, we can follow Christ with unwavering dedication no matter what we must face. We can be encouraged by hoping in Christ's return.

Online Source: Theopedia.com

A pastor of a small rural church in Texas would occasionally call on an old farmer in his congregation to pray, and every time this brother would pray, he would end his prayer with the strangest phrase, "And, oh Lord, prop us up on our leaning side."

Finally, the pastor pulled him aside, and he said, "I love how you pray, but I don't understand how you end your prayer. What are you talking about – prop us up on our leaning side?"

The old man responded, "Well, Pastor, I'm a just a farmer. I live out on my farm in the country. I've got a real old barn. It's been there a long time. It's been through a lot of weather, and a lot of storms, and a lot of bugs and termites have eaten at it."

He said, "I got to looking at it one day when I was plowing on my tractor, and I noticed that it was leaning to one side. So, I thought to myself, oh no! The barn is leaning, and it's just a matter of time before the whole thing falls. He continued, "So, you know what I did? I went and got some big beams, and I propped it up on its leaning side." He said, "It still leans bad, and probably always will. But I propped it up on its leaning side. And it's not going to fall now, because I propped it up on its leaning side. It's leaning against something stronger than itself!

And I also got to thinking some more later when I was riding on my tractor again, about the kind of year I've had, and some of the storms I've been through, and some of the people that are bugging me, and eating away at my joy and eating away at my spirit. And I just started to think, you know, I'm still here! I'm still standing after all that stuff

I've been through. The storms, and the howling winds – they couldn't topple me because I've been leaning on Jesus! I'm still standing by the grace of God."

He concluded, "From time to time, I still find myself leaning... toward old desires, leaning toward anger, leaning toward becoming bitter or hateful at the people who are bugging me, or leaning toward going back to the old habits and the old life I used to have. And when I feel myself start to lean toward those things, I just remember that I'm supposed to lean on Jesus! Then I think about my old barn, and I pray out loud - "Lord, thank you for propping me up on my leaning side."

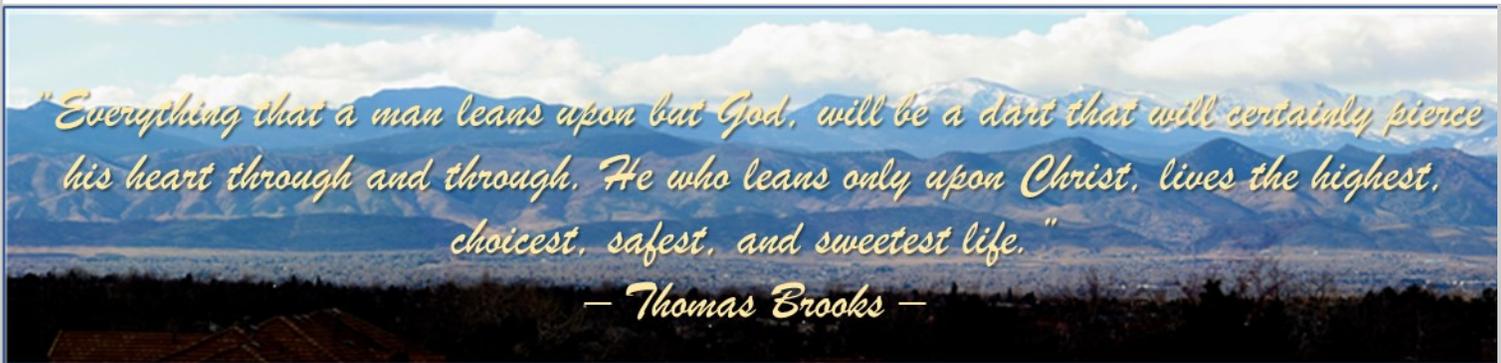
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
 E. A. HOFFMAN A. J. SHOWALTER

1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, Leaning on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
 2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, Leaning on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on the ev-er-last-ing arms?

What a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, Leaning on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, Leaning on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, Leaning on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

REFRAIN
 Lean - ing, lean - ing, Safe and se-cure from all a-larms;
 Lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

Lean - ing, lean - ing, Lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,



CHRISTIAN MILITARY FELLOWSHIP
 An Indigenous Ministry • Discipleship • Prayer • Community • Support
 Encouraging Men and Women in the United States Armed Forces, and their families, to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are pleased to announce that MinistryWatch has listed CMF as one of their "Shining Light" Ministries. To become a MinistryWatch "Shining Light," a ministry must have earned a 5-star rating on MinistryWatch's 5-star financial efficiency scale. Further, those ministries on this list have a Transparency Grade of "A." That's MinistryWatch's highest transparency grade. Out of 700 ministries, only 13 meet these strict criteria.
<https://ministrywatch.com/ministrywatches-annual-list-of-shining-light-ministries/>

Mailing Address: PO Box 449
 Veradale, WA 99037-0449
 (800)798-7875
 (303)761-1959
<https://www.CMFHQ.ORG>
office@CMFHQ.org

We are members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability and Christian Service Charities in order to maintain the highest standards of excellence and accountability.

ECFA ACCREDITED

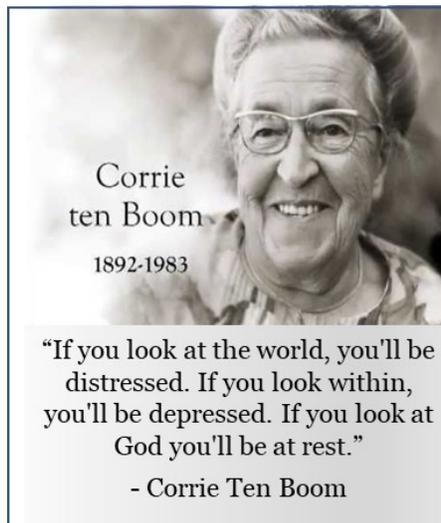
10538 A Member Of
CFC CHRISTIAN SERVICE CHARITIES
 Combined Federal Campaign
 Approval Charity

Where we focus effects how we feel. Ask yourself, “Where is my focus these days?” Many are feeling distressed with the latest news. My emotions these last months show that I have been looking within. During the dark months after Thanksgiving my soul subtly slipped into darkness as isolation and introspection turned me inward on myself. “Myself” is a miserable master for any of us.

Focused inward, our hearts gradually drift from the moment-by-moment belief in Christ’s sacrifice as totally sufficient to reconcile us in relationship to God. Don’t you find within yourself an unceasing low-grade impulse to add to Christ’s saving work through some effort or contribution of your own? There the darkness deepens as we can never do enough or be good enough.

Romans 8:33-34 unites the truths of Jesus Christ’s justification of me in the past with His intercession for me in the present ... my moment-by-moment life. “God is the

one who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interced-



ing for us.” As Dane Ortlund observes in his book, *Gentle and Lowly*, “(Christ’s) intercession is the constant hitting “refresh” of our justification in the court of

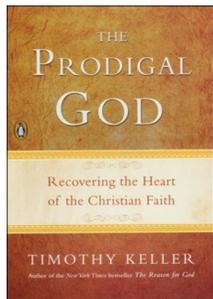
heaven.”

God’s plan to reconcile us to Himself was something the Trinity delightedly agreed to together in eternity past. The Father’s own deepest delight is to say yes to Jesus’ “present moment pleading” on our behalf as the Holy Spirit Himself also groans within us with words that are beyond our own....right in this present moment-by-moment life. We Christians are ongoing sinners which is why looking within makes us depressed. But Christ continues to intercede for us in heaven because we continue to fail here on earth. Looking to Christ Jesus brings joy, peace and rest for our souls.

Let’s pause and check our emotional vital signs – are we distressed, depressed or at rest? It depends on where we are looking.

- Michael and Lorelei Schmid have served with the Navigator Ministry for over 40 years

Book of the Month



The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith

Using his characteristic intellectual ap-

proach to faith issues, Keller uncovers an unexpected message in the familiar — and often misunderstood — New Testament parable of the prodigal son. Seekers and believers alike will see Christianity in a whole new way when they learn how Christ’s followers

are supposed to love, so they can join him in heaven.

As a member, you may order this book for free either through our website or by emailing us at Resource@cmfhq.org

Are You Interested in Becoming a Local Leader?

Christian Military Fellowship exists to help you fulfill your calling in Christ to share the hope that is in you with those with whom you interact as part of your daily life. Toward that end we encourage you to complete the briefing material we send to our new members:

[Orientation \(Brief #1\)](#) that shares an overview of the Christian Military Fellowship ministry.

[Developing a Local Ministry \(Brief #2\)](#) that shares the Biblical foundation for you local ministry and delineates the logical steps in beginning your local ministry.

[Pray and Plan \(Brief #3\)](#) that shares the most important activity of all! Asking Jesus what He would have you to do and then being obedient to follow His leading in your local ministry.

By completing the Orientation Exam, Leader Certification Questionnaire, and Developing a Local Ministry Exam you can become a CMF Local Representative. This will begin your journey of obedience to the Great Commission (Matthew 18:28-30). If you choose to begin this process, you may send your completed briefs to us by snail mail, e-mail

or FAX. You may download and complete the Adobe Acrobat Forms ([Brief 1 Exams](#) [Brief 2 Exam](#)) and forward them to us as an attachment or just include the information in the text of an e-mail and send them to Leader@CMFHQ.ORG.

They are also available at the CMF Web Site at Members Only->Member Downloads->Be a Leader tab.