

✠ COVINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS ✠

18350 US Hwy 84 Andalusia AL 36421
Phone 222-3009
Proclaiming Jesus, Serving Churches Since 1856
APRIL 2021

CORBITT'S COMMENTS

Corbitt's Comments for April 2021

I recently had an unpleasant encounter with a police officer. Not because I was unjustly accused but for the opposite. I actually was guilty . . . guilty as sin. Let me explain:

I was in an unfamiliar neighborhood of a town in a nearby county on my way to a meeting with some colleagues in ministry. I was actually early, so I wasn't in a hurry, but I was searching the house numbers along the road for the church where the meeting was being held. I topped a hill and on the other side was a crossroads with a stop sign - facing me!

I quickly stepped on my brakes, but it was clear that I was not going to stop on time, even though I was not driving very fast. I looked both ways and while I did see a car to my right, it was probably a quarter mile away, so I went on through the intersection. No one was in any danger, so everything was fine, right? Well, not so much. I can recognize a police car a mile away, so it was not hard for me to note that the one car in sight as I blew through the stop sign was a police car. And I knew he saw me.

Once on the other side of the intersection I idled along until the police officer turned right to follow me and hit his blue lights. License, insurance card, and an admission of guilt on my part followed, and ten minutes later I drove off with a traffic citation in hand. Sadly, the church I was looking for was just a couple of blocks up the road.

I had broken the law, but there were some mitigating circumstances, right? No one got hurt. I wasn't speeding or talking on my cell phone (really, I wasn't). I didn't mean to run the stop sign. I didn't make the officer chase me, and I even admitted my guilt.

Here's the thing, however: the law does not care about my excuses. It is very digital, either you comply with it or you don't. Either you obey it, or you don't. Either you are blameless, or you are guilty.

In Romans 3:19-20, Paul told us that, "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin."

The police officer who wrote me the ticket had every right to do so, and he also had the responsibility to do so. Although the law is righteous, the law is also harsh, and that is just the way it is.

The Good News, as in the Gospel, is that God is gracious, and He has provided us salvation from our sins through Jesus Christ our Lord. Paul went on to write in Romans 4:7-8 that, "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

Although I was chagrined about receiving a traffic ticket (Corbitt men are notoriously proud of our driving skills), my encounter with the law reminded me of a great spiritual lesson. It also reminded me to be ever the more grateful to our God who has saved me from my sin!

Every blessing, Director of Missions Otis Corbitt

ASSOCIATIONAL NEWS

WHY ME LORD

EVER ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS?

- WHY DO ALL OF THE BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO ME?
- WHY IS GOD PUNISHING ME?
- WHY CAN'T I HAVE MORE MONEY OR A NICER CAR?
- WHY AM I A FAILURE AT EVERYTHING I TRY TO DO?
- POOR ME....POOR ME....

NOTICE ALL THE "WHY" QUESTIONS! "WHY" QUESTIONS SHOULD RARELY, IF EVER, BE ASKED OF GOD BECAUSE THEY QUESTION HIS GOODNESS, LOVE AND SOVEREIGNTY. DO NOT "SHAKE YOUR FIST" AT GOD AND ASK "WHY" QUESTIONS. ONLY ASK HIM WHAT HE WANTS TO TEACH YOU THROUGH THE TRIALS OF YOUR LIFE. JAMES 1, 2-3 STATES: "COUNT IT ALL JOY, BY BROTHERS, WHEN YOU MEET TRIALS OF VARIOUS KINDS, FOR YOU KNOW THAT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH PRODUCES STEADFASTNESS. IF YOU WANT TO ASK A "WHY" QUESTION OF OUR GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, THEN ASK, "WHY DO YOU BLESS ME SO MUCH WHEN YOU KNOW ALL OF THE SINFUL THOUGHTS AND CHOICES I MADE YESTERDAY AND IN MY PAST?"

“Preach The Gospel”

Almost Jesus' entire time spent on this earth was done preparing His followers to continue His work after He went to Heaven. The Bible records that even at twelve years old Jesus is proclaiming the Good News in the temple. It is so so easy for us in this 'free and comfortable' United States of America to drift through life ignorant of the fact that there is a spiritual warfare constantly all around us! That is exactly what Satan wants! But Paul in Ephesians calls for us to become aware, "...Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." (Eph. 5:14B) Do your neighbors know that you are a Christian? Seriously? Or are you just perhaps a nice American citizen who does the regular church thing and put money in the offering plate who minds your own business?

Do not be fooled! "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:15-16)

Life is short.

People are dying daily without Christ!
What are you going to do about it?

The Baptist Faith and Message

In the year 2000, the SBC adopted a revised statement of faith.

This is what the BF&M 2000 says about Christians and the Social Order:

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

The entire Baptist Faith and Message can be downloaded from:

<https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000>

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

JUDSON BAPTIST CHURCH

Judson Baptist would like to invite all males, including youth, to come join us in prayer on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. We want to bring our prayer warriors together to pray for a great awakening in our community, our state, and our nation. If anyone has any questions, feel free to call or text me at 334-806-1195. We are located 7 miles south of Andalusia on Hwy 55 South.

HAVE A BLESSED DAY!
Pastor Donnie Uptain
334-806-1195