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*Happy  
Mother's  
Day!*

Motherhood has been honored in some fashion since before Christ's birth. The Greeks and the Romans did it through spring festivals that that were dedicated to their maternal goddesses. And the early Christians celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent as a day to honor the Virgin Mary. In England that Christian festival day was transformed to include all mothers which they called "*Mothering Sunday.*" After a prayer service in worship to honor the Virgin Mary, children brought gifts and flowers to express love and admiration for their own mothers.

In the years following the Civil War in our country, the writer and poet, Julia Ward Home — probably best known for her song, "*Battle Hymn of the Republic*" — suggested that the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June should set aside as a day to celebrate mothers and also be dedicated to peace. To underscore her vision, she wrote a stirring piece in Boston

in 1870, entitled "***Mother's Day Proclamation.***" (*I have included a copy of it elsewhere in this month's Mustard Seed.*)

Mrs. Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis, a social worker and activist in West Virginia, spoke out constantly in support of a day to honor mothers. But it was her daughter, Anna Jarvis, who never married or bore children, who actually achieved her mother's hope. On May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a Joint Resolution designating the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in May as "***Mother's Day.***" Eventually, Anna lamented how commercialized the holiday became. It was never her intention to foster anything more than a special day set aside to honor mothers.

Dr. Jonas Salk, who is best known for creating the polio vaccine, once said, "*Good parents give their children roots and wings. Roots to know where home is, wings to fly away and exercise what's been taught them.*" So, on Mother's Day, if you are so inclined, create your own greeting card and consider the following words for the card's verse: "***Thanks, Mom, for giving me deep roots and good wings!***"

In a time of such constant change and radical upheaval, it is critical to have strong roots. Undoubtedly, both roots and wings are necessary in life, but it seems that much parenting in recent decades has focused on giving children wings, almost as if parents hoped that their children would quickly fly away from the nest.

If we want to reverse this trend, parents (*and grandparents*) will provide children with a strong sense of unique family traditions and history, strong religious/spiritual practices and memorable household rituals as roots for future growth. Such roots are essential to withstand the storms of change that are brewing all around us.

***Happy Mother's Day!***

Godspeed,

*Gary*

# MOTHER'S DAY PROCLAMATION

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be of water or of tears! Say firmly: "We will not have questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us reeking of carnage for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience. We women of one country will be too tender to those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the bosom of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm! Disarm!" The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession.

As men have forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after his time the sacred impress not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, and the great and general interests of peace.

**[Reprinted from Wikipedia]**

# 7 UNBIBLICAL STATEMENTS CHRISTIANS BELIEVE

*The common misconceptions about what the Bible actually says.*

BY SHANE PRUITT

APRIL 7, 2015

We don't often stop to consider the magnitude of what the Bible represents. It is literally God revealing Himself and communicating Himself to mankind in written word.

Orthodox Christianity teaches that the Bible was inspired and authored by the Holy Spirit of God using human instruments. And many Christians believe that—in its original languages of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic—it is without error and fault.

However, there are many things that Jesus-following, Church-going, Bible-believing Christians believe that are completely unbiblical. How does this happen? Often, we'll hear someone quote a statement that sounds nice to us, and we'll begin repeating it as though it's biblical truth without ever researching it in Scripture.

Several of these unbiblical statements have gained enough traction that many people believe they're actually Bible verses. Not only are the statements unbiblical; some of them teach the opposite of what the Bible teaches.

Here are some popular unbiblical statements that Bible-loving Christians tend to believe:

## 1. GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES

This statement is actually anti-Gospel. Obviously God gave us gifts and talents that we're supposed to use, but self-reliance and self-righteousness, or the attitude of trying harder and doing better actually gets in the way of the work of God.

In reality, Jesus saves those who *die* to themselves: "Then Jesus told His disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me'" (Matthew 16:24).

*God gave us gifts and talents that we're supposed to use, but self-reliance and self-righteousness, or the attitude of trying harder and doing better actually gets in the way of the work of God.*

## 2. GOD WANTS ME TO BE HAPPY

It's a common belief that God exists to be our "personal genie" waiting to give us our every wish. It's amazing how we will justify our sinful actions by saying, "God just wants me to be happy."

Happiness is tied to feelings and emotions that are often based on circumstances, and those change all the time. God wants us to be obedient to Him, trust Him and know that everything He does is for our good, even if it doesn't make us feel "happy" in that moment.

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

## 3. WE'RE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Although God has created everyone, not everyone *relationally* belongs to Him. Only those who have repented of sin, placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and possess the Holy Spirit of God inside of them can claim Him as their Father:

"But you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' *The Spirit himself* bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Romans 8:15-16).

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ ... *If you belong to Christ*, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:26-29, emphasis mine in both verses).

#### **4. CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS**

The people around you may appreciate you staying clean, but this is not Scripture. Parents may use this to motivate their kids to clean their rooms. However, I'd suggest using an actual biblical statement: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12). (I can't guarantee that will make your children want to clean up either, though).

#### **5. GOD WON'T GIVE YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE**

The point of living in a fallen world is not for us to try really hard to carry our heavy burden, but rather realize we can't do it alone and surrender to God instead.

Actually, all of life is more than we can handle. The point of living in a fallen world is not for us to try really hard to carry our heavy burden, but rather realize we can't do it alone and surrender to God instead. That's what faith is all about.

Everything is more than I can handle, but not more than Jesus can handle: "For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself" (2 Corinthians 1:8).

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

*The point of living in a fallen world is not for us to try really hard to carry our heavy burden, but rather realize we can't do it alone and surrender to God instead.*

#### **6. BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE**

The sentiment of this makes sense, but if we follow it all the way through, the idea of a good person is very subjective. Often, we place ourselves in the judgment seat of what is *good* and *bad*, or *who* is good and bad.

The most popular way to make that judgment is by comparison. For example, Bob is a good guy, because he is not as bad as Sam. However, according to the Bible we're all on equal ground because none of us is inherently good: "as it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one'" (Romans 3:10).

#### **7. WHEN YOU DIE, GOD GAINS ANOTHER ANGEL**

Plain and simple. Humans are humans, and angels are angels. This remains so even in eternity. In fact, angels are intrigued by the interaction between God and His "image-bearing" humans: "It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look" (1 Peter 1:12).

The fact that many Christians believe these unbiblical statements shows our unfortunate overall biblical illiteracy. Instead of swallowing popular statements hook-line-and-sinker, may we be like the Bereans in the Book of Acts. When they heard Paul preach, they wanted to research the Scriptures themselves to authenticate what he was saying: "They received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:10-11).

*This article was adapted with permission from Alreadyam.com.*

**[Reprinted from RELEVANT MAGAZINE – a publication of faith, culture and intentional living]**

## **WOMENS FELLOWSHIP**

Winter caps and gloves had been given to the kindergarten class during cold weather. A wonderful THANK YOU poster, with names and pictures, drawn by the students, has been received and is posted on the bulletin board.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch with the women at 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church in Grand Junction, on Thursday, April 16. The program was enjoyed. There was a wonderful collection of Golden Books brought back memories for everyone.

The Senior Tea will be held for Graduating Seniors from Plateau Valley School and Grand Mesa High School and attending staff and Board members. Mothers, fathers, and grandparents often attend with their student. There are times 3 or 4 generations of the same family is in attendance with parents and grandparents recalling their own Senior Tea. Dave Walden will perform his table side magic which has enthralled the students and parents for over 30 years.

Sandwiches, cookies, and candies are requested for the tea table. Contact Nancy Karlson with information about what you will be bringing. 487-3740.

The Womens Fellowship has been asked to prepare and serve a luncheon following the graveside services for Carol Stromberg. The luncheon will be May 16, 2015 at 12 noon. We will be asking for donations of sandwiches and salads or desserts.

There will be no meetings during the months of June, July, and August.

## **Trustees Report**

Following the water damages to the east entrance near the gym doors, the Trustees have begun meeting with roofers to prepare for repairs or replacement of the roof. The roofers have presented different options and varying ideas for repairs and replacement. The next few weeks will bring the Trustees and Church Council to a decision of what is to be done over the summer.

At this point, Servpro has removed their dehydration equipment and Terry Brown has made the needed repairs to the ceiling, walls, and floor in the damaged hallway.

## **Stewards Report**

The Stewards have had a busy month with Palm Sunday and the Easter Celebration. Two beautiful palm plants still bring a bright green spot to the foyer. Easter lilies were brought in to decorate the sanctuary for the two Sundays. Members of the congregation make donations toward the purchase of the lilies, often in memoriam of loved ones or to honor special people in their life. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Sanctuary so beautiful.

## Christian Ed Report

Sunday School will not continue during the summer after Memorial Day. Classes will resume mid-September.

An Egg Hunt was organized for the Sunday School students following class on Easter Sunday. The children enjoyed the toys, games, and candy they discovered in the eggs hidden in Mother's Park. Thanks to Nancy Karlson for working to fill the plastic eggs for the children. Thanks to the parents for helping to hide eggs.

Vacation Bible School will be held for 3 days from June 24, 25, 26 from 9am to 12 noon. A program will be held Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>, at 10am. We will need teachers, helpers, art and recreation leaders, and snack ladies. If you would like to join in on the fun please let me know.

Sue Bellotti, Director 487-3474 [bellotti4@msn.com](mailto:bellotti4@msn.com)

## CONSIDERING SUMMER CAMP?

Hello!

My name is Megan Stacy, and I am one of the counselors for MADD camp, which is our UCC conference high school summer camp. I am so excited about counseling this summer, and we are really trying to fill our summer camps this year. I am emailing to see if I can help your church get some kids and adults registered for our life-changing summer camp programs!

I attended MADD (Music, Art, Drama, Dance) camp every year when I was in high school, and it truly shaped who I am today. I met lifelong friends, and camp created a sense of love and faith in my life. Camp was always a place where I felt accepted, and it was a place where I could express myself and my faith through the arts. I am now an elementary school music teacher, and I contribute a lot of my passion for the arts to summer camp at La Foret! PLEASE refer me to anyone who would like to hear more about the many UCC camps at La Foret. There are plenty of camps for all ages of kids AND for adults. You can also learn more by going to [www.rmccucc.org](http://www.rmccucc.org). Go to the camps and retreats drop down menu. If you register for any summer camp by May 15th, you can get the early-bird discount! There are also scholarship opportunities from the conference. Just call **303.984.9118**.

Thank you so much for your time. I hope to see some of your congregation at camp this summer!

-Megan Stacy

FORMS AND APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE OR FROM SUE BELLOTTI  
970-487-3474

**REMINDER: SUMMER CHURCH SCHEDULE  
CHURCH WILL BEGIN AT 10AM THE 30<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY  
THROUGH SEPT 6, 2015. DON'T BE LATE!**



## SENIOR TEA

**MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 4:15 PM IN THE COLLBRAN  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH DININGROOM  
ALL GRADUATING SENIORS FROM PLATEAU  
VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL AND GRADUATS FROM  
GRAND MESA HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE  
HONORED. DAVE WALLEN WILL BE  
PERFORMING! CONGRATULATIONS!**

ANYONE WISHING TO PROVIDE COOKIES, TEAS SANDWICHES, CANDIES  
OR FRUIT FOR THE TEA TABLE PLEASE CONTACT NANCY KARLSON

### **THE MUSTARD SEED**

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
COLLBRAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
P.O. BOX 160  
COLLBRAN, CO 81624

**MAY 2015**

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Worship ~ Sundays 10:00 am 5/30-9/6/15