
I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7 CJB)

~Want to Carry the Ball?~



The coach said to the quarterback, "Give the ball to George." But instead he gave it to John, and there was no gain.

"Why didn't you give the ball to George," Demanded the coach?"

"Sir," replied the quarterback, "George said he did not want the ball."

Well that's the way I feel today. I didn't want the ball, but God gave it to me so I have to carry it, and hopefully for a gain. Thank God you don't have to be qualified, just willing to work for the Master.

~No Rain!~

An Indian had attended Church services one morning. The sermon which contained very little in the way of spiritual food had been rather loud in spots.



The Indian, a good Christian, was not impressed. When asked how he liked the sermon, he said, "High Wind, Big Thunder, No Rain."

This Indian is kind of like me, few words; - just give me the bottom line.

~I Peter 4:11~

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:11 KJV)

~Getting Serious About God (Elohim) ~

I have to admit to you today that it's not always been about Yeshua (Jesus). For most of my life I have been on the fringes of God and did not honestly and truly know Him as I should have. That's my first admission or

confession to you today. I think it says in I John 1:9; *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (1 John 1:9 KJV)

I've been a Christian of some source for a good time. But nine or ten years ago I decided that I wasn't getting enough of Yeshua (Jesus) and I knew



it was my fault. Elohim (God) has always been there, just waiting for me to get closer to Him. He has never moved. To get more of Jesus you have to talk with Him and the way we communicate with Him is with prayer and Bible reading. I decided to do both. I'm not there yet.

Elohim (God) has been dealing with me for the last couple of years. He wants me to come into a deeper and closer relationship. And I've been trying to deal with Him in the sense of obedience to His mission for my life. I know He has my roadmap and all I have to do is stay on the road. Paul puts it another way; *For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.* (Gal 1:10 KJV) Are we serving God or the traditions of men? We each have to ask ourselves this question. Every man has exactly as much of God as he desires!

~Do as God Leads You~

I believe Elohim (God) is having me to clean up my spiritual life. I think He would have each of us to clean up our spiritual life. Are we closer to Elohim (God) today, than we were yesterday, or last month or last year? We are either moving toward Elohim (God) or away from Him! It's one of the other; we never stand still!



When Elohim (God) tells us to do something, do we do it, or do we start asking questions or try to figure out the reasoning behind it. I know sometimes he tells me to go pray for certain individuals. Sometimes I don't know why, but I pray for those people anyway.

God told me to pray for an individual at our CBMC Luncheon a few months ago. I sensed in my spirit that he needed a word of prayer for some

reason. At the end of the meeting I walked over to him and asked if I could pray for him. He welcomed the prayer. I don't know what he needed prayer for, but I did what Elohim (God) asked me to do by His Spirit.

We should be like Peter in the Book of Acts; *But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29 NASB)*

We are in this secular world all the time and I know it's very difficult to be set apart and holy for Elohim (God). The writer of Hebrews tells us about Abraham; *By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; (Hebrews 11:8-9 NASB)*

Abraham's life was filled with faith. At Elohim's (God's) command, he left home and went to another land—obeying without question the commandment of Elohim (God) even though he was seventy-five years old and starting over ago in a new land. He was obedience to Elohim (God) and he showed it by his faith. Let us look at Genesis Chapter 12 and verses 1 through 4;



Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. (Genesis 12:1-4 NASB) (Lived to be 175 years old.)

As one author put it; not just "tents"! Abraham set his steady gaze on heaven as his real home, being a mere pilgrim on earth. He looked for a city which hath foundations - Whereas a tent has none. Whose builder and former

is Elohim (God) - Of which Elohim (God) is the sole contriver, former, and finisher of our faith.

~**Sermon – The Clock is Ticking**~

Time is constantly moving: there's no stopping it. You will never be at this place at this point of time again, you will never hear this message at this point in time, and you will never eat the dinner you ate last night at that point in time. The clock is ticking.

We can't stop the clock; it continues to move regardless of what we want. You can unplug your clock or take the batteries out, but time continues on. There's an old Indian proverb that says:



“We never set foot in the same water twice, the river is always flowing.” The river of time continues to flow!

Let us check out Matthew 9:35-38; *Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. (Matthew 9:35 NASB) Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36 NASB) Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. (Matthew 9:37 NASB) "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:38 NASB)*

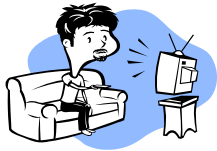
Do you think Yeshua (Jesus) wasted any of his time while here on earth? Even when He was twelve years old he was learning and spreading the Word? *And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? (Luke 2:49 KJVR)*

Yeshua (Jesus) and His disciples were totally exhausted at times. *And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.) (Mark 6:31 NASB)* They had an urgency about them!

Yeshua (Jesus) had only three or 3 ½ years after He started His
III ministry to train His twelve disciples to carry and spread the Word
and to prepare them to teach others to help reach the world with The
Good News Gospel. Do we all have that urgency? The clock is ticking.

[I sometime wonder about the three years of ministry, the three days between
His death and resurrection, the three days they searched for Jesus at age 12
and the three days of Jonah in the large fish. How are they connected? #3]

We have allowed Satan to keep us trapped in schedules, sports,
television and all other activities so that we don't have time to work for Jesus.
There is nothing, absolutely nothing in this life more important than telling

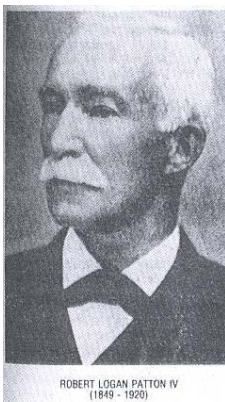


someone the “Jesus love story” and what He did for us all! He
died on the tree to save us from ourselves. May Elohim (God)
forgive us for allowing Satan to steal the time that belongs to

Yeshua (Jesus)! Don't let Satan have his way with our time; Honor our Holy
Elohim (God) with our time. Do His mission in our life while here on earth.

We have less time today than we had yesterday to fulfill our Godly
mission. Will our mission for Yeshua (Jesus) be fulfilled? Will Elohim (God)
say to any of us what He said in Matthew 25:21? *"His master said to him,
'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I
will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'*
(Matthew 25:21 NASB)

~Robert Logan Patton IV – Setting the Example~



Robert Logan Patton IV was one of the Patton family
members that the Robert L. Patton High School in Morganton
was named after. He was the beginning of many of the Pattons
that helped mold the school system and public education in
this area. I came across this information about Mr. Patton
while searching a few weeks ago for some history on the Glen
Alpine school district and its origination.

The greatest driving force of his life was the influence of his Christian mother who died in his eleventh year, laying upon him the injunction “Be a useful man and meet me in Heaven.”

The life of Robert Logan Patton IV was characterized by intense loyalties to religion and education. Being devout by nature and belief, he frequently preached, and during the week never opened school without religious exercises. This is a long way from the school system we have today where you can't mention or teach the Bible and Jesus Christ without being sued, fired from your job, or expelled from school.

In a private letter that Patton hastily wrote to a daughter, he unconsciously epitomized his conception of life and its supreme duty: “At best life is short. Opportunities will soon be behind us. I am doing all I can in school for the Master.”

To Robert Logan Patton IV religion was a way of life –not a creed. This conception induced him to devote his major energies to the school rather than



to the pulpit since he was also a preacher. In the classroom he found the fullest opportunity to mold youth and build character. Having no toleration for foolishness, he strictly enforced discipline, and, if the

event demanded, did not spare the rod.

In his twilight years he was partially paralyzed, but with an active mind he continued his contacts by distributing Christian literature to former students and friends; always enclosing an inspirational personal message that was warmly received and appreciated.

He was buried in Forest Hill cemetery in the year of our Lord 1920. On his tombstone is a fitting epitaph (ep-I-tap) chosen from the Book of Timothy. “I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course.”

Will we all be able to say what Paul said.....; *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:* (2 Tim 4:7 KJV

~Preachy Dewey~



Some say, Dewey you're too preachy. I've found out over the years that people usually say that when you tell them something they don't want to hear. But what did Paul say in Romans 10:13-15? *for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."* *How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"* [ROMANS 10:13-15] [NAS] People may not like it! But you are bringing them the Good News of Yeshua (Jesus Christ). Yeshua (Jesus) was crucified for bringing the Good News to this lost and sinful world. We have a small price to pay for life! *Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas; and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth¹ and kill Him.*

(Matthew 26:3-4 NASB) It's not that serious in American, as yet!

"The Bible alone is the Word of God."

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.



(Matthew 4:4 KJV)

*Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (John 14:6 NASB)*

preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. (2 Timothy 4:2 NASB)

~Sooner or Later Everyone Runs Out of Time~

Sooner or later, everyone runs out of time.

¹ The act of moving, proceeding, or acting in a covert way. ¹

([Hebrews 9:27](#)) Paul states that everyone has an appointment with

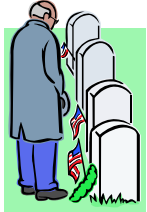


death and then the judgment. The only time that you can decide whether or not your death will be a blessing is today while you are alive. ([2 Corinthians 6:2](#)) Behold, now is "THE

ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"--

Today is the day to do the Lord's work.

([Ecclesiastes 9:10](#)) "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all of



your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working, nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom."

Sooner or later, everyone runs out of time but no one runs out of eternity. Doesn't it make more sense to spend your time

preparing for that which will not end, rather than squandering your time trying to hold on to that which will not last?

"Careless soul, O heed the warning,
For your life will soon be gone;
O how sad to face the judgment
Unprepared to meet thy God."



One day we will stand before a Holy God and give an account of the way we spent time here on earth.

Will you and I be prepared on the day that the clock stops ticking and we run out of time?

Will we be able to say what Paul said in the Book of Timothy; *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;*

([2 Timothy 4:7 NASB](#))



I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; From God, internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take full credit for these writings since there are many. I did not in some cases keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. My comments, writings and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this writing. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things.
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Dewey E. (Obed) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
