

**BCMC Message**  
**“The Clock is Ticking”**

**November 15, 2007**

**Introduction**

I understand this is the first ever CBMC Dinner with friends and spouses. I'm humbled and honored that you would invite me to speak. There are so many others more qualified than me.

- You could have had Rudy up here quoting scripture.
- Or Dennis with his gift of Bible teaching.
- Or Rick with his commanding voice and his words of wisdom.
- Or Bryan who can put a great sermon together in a few minutes
- As well as many others. But tonight you have little old me, just plain Dewey with no coating. I'm just an old country boy from Burke County trying to get to Heaven.

I'll have to rework my sermon now since I can't tell any Bill Podubynskyj jokes and that was half my sermon.

**Just Say Yes**

Dennis Hamrick did the Bible study the other day at lunch and about all I can remember was his last point. "Just say yes." I was sitting beside Rick; I turned to him and said "yes" and that is the way I ended up here. It used to be "Just say no."

**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 tonight. 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.

## **Bicycling Across North Carolina**

I don't know what all I can say about this bike trip, but I rode my bicycle across the state of North Carolina. This was the second time that I rode across the state, I did it in 2005.

I started training for the ride in May and had to stop training in June due to the illness. I normally like to have 12 weeks of training to complete a ride this long.

But in August I decided to go for it, which left only seven weeks to whip myself into shape. Considering that in July I couldn't hardly walk from one end of the house to the other I was so weak. The only way that I can explain recouping my strength is that "God did it."

I went with an organization that calls itself "Cycle North Carolina." Their sole purpose is to organize, plan and promote this ride each year. It's a seven day ride and each year we ride through different cities and towns with over 1000 bicyclists. The ride is mostly on low traffic back-roads and we are fortunate enough to go into very old historic towns in the state and see some beautiful scenery along the way.

We start each year in the western part of the state and bicycle to the coast. This year we started in West Jefferson and went to Currituck, which is a small town close to the Virginia State Line.

This year the weather was cold at the beginning in West Jefferson, where we had ice on our tents the morning of the first day. And seven days later it was 80 degrees in Currituck.

Each route each day was from 50 to 106 miles. One day I took the over 100 mile route because I had not biked 100 miles in one day ever before and I wanted to do what we call “a century” which is a 100 daily mile ride.

I rode a total of 492 miles in seven days and I have my daily journals on the internet on my website if there is any interest.

### **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)*

### **Young Years**

I was born in Morganton and lived and was raised most of my life in the Glen Alpine area. When I was about eight or nine years old I got saved. Later on I graduated from Glen Alpine High School in 1960.

I got married, had a couple of boys. For a long time worked two jobs in order to get ahead. Built a house, went to Church and enjoyed family and life. You might call it “living the American dream.”

### **Getting Serious About God (Elohim)**

I have to admit to you tonight that it's not always been about Yeshua. 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 tonight. 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. 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 want to share with you some of the convictions and things that God has been dealing with me about in the past few years. 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.

*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)*

## **A Few Events in My Life**

### **The TVs**

About a little over a couple years ago the Lord started convicting me about watching too much television. You probably know what I'm talking about! You have a television and when you get home you are tired and maybe a little lazy and you sit down in that comfortable chair and you just don't want to get up. Well that's the way I was. I would get in that easy chair and use the remote and switch channels till bedtime.

Not that I did this every night, but a lot of nights I did. I should have and could have been reading a good book, the Bible or working on some Biblical material. Well, it's amazing how God takes care of things when you are under conviction.

One night I was watching the television and feeling guilty of course. All of a sudden my 36 inch idol, the TV, went out, the whole screen went blank. So much for that TV!

So what happened, I did what any red blooded American male would do with a TV remote in his hand. I moved to the bedroom to watch TV. You guessed it, that TV a few days later quit working also. Can you believe that, God was speaking to me; to put away that idol in my life?

I'm not saying that anyone in here has to get rid of their TV. But, in my situation God said, "To get rid of the TVs." If He tells me to get another I will, but not until then. Anything you spend more time with than God is an idol. If it's controlling us then we are to get rid of it.

**~Making it Right~ ~A Personal Story~**

In 1977, I was leaving work from the company parking lot and had an accident, I backed into a car. You say, so what, that happens every day. What was so unusual about this accident was that I left the parking lot without letting the owner know what I had done.

Over the years I thought about it a time or two. One reason I tell you this, it shows the way your heart can be hardened over the years and then softened by God when under conviction. Then about a couple of years ago I started getting convicted by the Holy Spirit about this accident.

I thought about it more and more over the past couple of years. I couldn't read the Bible or start writing a sermon or article because of the guilt. I felt unholy and anything I wrote was living a lie.

Sometimes when sitting in the pews and listening to sermons, God would convict me of this accident and tears would come to my eyes. I finally got so much under conviction that I had to settle it with the owner of that car, which, by the way, lives out of town now.

I have done a lot of things a lot worst than this, but God convicted me of this one sin. I don't know what else to call it but, sin. I

did it and I wanted to repent and make it right with the owner of the vehicle I had backed into.

One night several months ago I got on the internet and as God would have it there was only one person in that town with his name. So I couldn't use that for an excuse anymore not to call him. I picked up the phone and dialed the number. All the time hoping that there would be no answer. (Can anyone here relate to this?)

As God would have it, that person answered the phone. I explained to him what I had done and wanted to make it right with him. He graciously accepted by apology and said I owed him nothing.

There was a weight of guilt that was lifted off me. Only by the Blood of Jesus was this possible; a cleansing of the Soul, through repentance for someone that was wronged.

### **25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

Martha and I celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary this past June. It was one of the most touching moments in our 30 plus years we have known each other. I cried through the whole ceremony.

We renewed our wedding vows and had a foot washing where we washed each other's feet as a renewing of our commitment to each other and our relationship to each other and as a servant to each other and to God. Jesus said in John 12:14; *If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.*

*(John 13:14 KJV)*

I'm not saying anyone here has to have a foot washing, but I had to do it. It was all part of the cleansing of my soul. Paul says in Galatians 2:20; *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.* (Galatians 2:20 KJV)

## **Do as God Leads You**

I have shared with you some of my moments with God. I believe God is having me to clean up my spiritual life.

When God tells you to do something, do it, don't ask any questions or try to figure out the reasoning behind it. I know sometimes he tells to go pray for certain individuals. Sometimes I don't know why, but I pray for those people anyway.

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)*

## **E coli Bacteria**

I have been blessed with good health. But, somewhere around the third week in June this year, I started feeling bad, with aches, pains, headache, etc. - Flu like symptoms. It had been as most of you know a very hot and dry summer. I just thought I had been in the sun too long. But as the week progressed along I started feeling worse and worse. By Thursday of that week I was bedfast. I just felt too bad and weak to do anything.

A week or so before I got sick I went to Pennsylvania on a church seminar and we stayed at a camp setting. The brother that went with me got sick on the way up for about two days and then was okay.

Also my wife Martha had the 24 hour flu a few days before I got sick. So I thought that was what I had because I had been exposed to two people who had the flu like symptoms and in a few days they were fine.

But as I lay on the sofa I kept getting worse. By late Saturday I told Martha that I've got to do something. This had been about three days I had been laid up. Why God chose that moment in time for me

to say I was ready for help, I don't know. But I believe we all have appointed times for everything that we do or happens in our life.

I took a quick shower and dressed and headed to Hickory to one of those urgent care facilities. I figured I just needed a doctor and he would prescribe some medicine and I would be good as new. Why God chose that doctor and that clinic to go to, I don't know. But I'm glad He did.

Some doctors may not have dug in as deep as this doctor did. They may have just treated me for flu symptoms and sent me home. -- -- Who knows! But, God (Elohim) took care of it!

After driving to Hickory the doctor wasn't sure they could help me, but after interviewing me they said they thought they could get to the bottom of the illness. They were very honest and straight forward about whether or not they could help. They ran many tests one by one. As they ran one test after another, they would come back into the room and say it doesn't look good, you are a sick man.

They finally diagnosed me with bacteria in my urine and blood stream. I found out a few days later, that it was the E coli bacteria. When in the urine it can be treated, but it turns deadly when it enters your blood stream. They put me on a strong antibiotic and sent me to the emergency room for IVs, since I was so dehydrated.

It was two or three days later that I found how serious it was when the doctor received the blood cultures back. He called me and said it was the E coli Bacteria Virus and if I had not gotten help I may not have lasted another couple of days. Then it dawned on me that I could have died. But the Lord, as He saved my soul, now saved my body.

Why I got the E coli bacteria, I don't know. Why my immune system didn't defense it, I don't know. Why God let me get sick with

this bacteria, I don't know. The only thing I know is that God is sovereign and God is in control and everything will be okay with God.

You know, a lot of times we may be close to death and don't even know it. Maybe that car accident that would have happened and you just missed it by a few seconds. Or that disease or sickness that you caught and you didn't even know you had it because of your immune system that kicked in and took care of it. That was God!

I think it was Martin Luther, when asked by someone about a staggering drunk walking down the road said, "If it wasn't for the grace of God I would be that man." Well, if it wasn't for the grace of God I may be dead today.

### **Sermon – The Clock is Ticking**

Time is constantly moving, there no stopping it. You will never be at this place in time again, you will never hear this message at this time again at this point in time, you will never eat the dinner you ate tonight 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. There's an old Indian proverb that says: "We never set foot in the same water twice, the river is always flowing."

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 Jesus wasted any of his time while here on earth? Even when He was twelve years old he was 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 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)

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

We have less time today than we had yesterday to fulfill this mission. Will our mission be fulfilled? Will God say to any of us? ***"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 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 while searching for some history on the Glen Alpine school district and its origination a few days ago.

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.

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.

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 Jesus Christ. (Yeshua)

“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.

**(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."

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