



THE GRAPEVINE

THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION; THE OLD HAS GONE, THE NEW HAS COME!

2 Corinthians 5:17



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

By Ekua Bransah

I was brought to Columbus West Church of God as a baby. My family had just moved into America and wanted to find a place that truly loved God. That was CWC. From then on I've basically grown up with that Church all seventeen years of my life. Being a part of this church and its community has brought such growth in my character especially because of their youth

group. My path for the future isn't quite clear but I know how to keep myself on a road that will truly follow Christ. That's thanks to the knowledge Youth gives on building a relationship with the Lord. Being a follower and not a fan.

I know that I should be aware of my blessings and thank God for what he's provided me. I do my best to strive and be a good example for others. Respecting them for who they are at the same time. Everyone should feel joy in their lives and part of that comes from having someone like our Lord Savior to depend on. I plan to take these views into college and develop it more. In five years I hope to graduate with the degree in some

type of arts design. With that, I also wish to travel the world, explore cultures and deepen my knowledge of worldly and spiritual conflicts.

SAY HI TO THE MILBURNS!

Our road to finding our faith and being saved started in Upwards. Taylor started in Upwards in 2016. There was a special Upwards service on one Sunday in March. As we attended we also did the Sunday school. That was it, Taylor was hooked. We tried other churches and Taylor told me she felt uncomfortable there. So we started coming every Sunday and I just sat in the back listening. Week

after week Pastor Rob was preaching on the things going on in my life. I started thinking that he was spying on me at home. I keep coming home every Sunday telling Johnny what the sermon was on and he agreed that we either had a spy or it was God calling us. That is when Johnny said that he had to go and hear this for himself. And that started a family movement of coming to church every week for we heard the calling from God. We gave our lives over to the Lord and have been here ever since.



Tracy Milburn

BIBLE TRIVIA

Which gospel is most concerned with the mystery and identity of Jesus?

Answer on next page

THE LAW OF ENTROPY

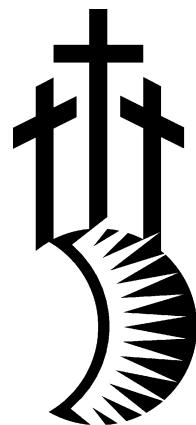
The second law of thermodynamics states that if left to its own devices, everything in the universe moves toward disorder and decay. Cars rust. Food rots. And of course humans grow old and die. It takes many forms, but it's call the law of entropy. And the only way to prevent entropy is to introduce an outside energy source to counteract it. The technical term is negentropy, and the refrigerator, or a freezer is a perfect example. If you plug it into an electrical outlet, it produces cold air that keeps food from rotting. If, however, the refrigerator/freezer gets unplugged from its power source, entropy will take over again. This I know from personal experience.

While living in South Carolina we had a freezer in our shed, because our house was very small and we had no garage. The neighborhood kids would help themselves to the popcicles that were in the freezer, I think led by our son Andrew. The problem came when they wouldn't get the door shut all the way. One day I walked out to the shed to get the mower to cut the church yard. I knew there was a problem before I ever opened the shed door. The smell was so strong that it permeated the yard. It almost knocked me out when I opened the door. The freezer had been left open and had completely thawed out. You can imagine the smell of all the meat that we had in the freezer that we had received from my father. All ruined and rotting. The law of Entropy had taken over.

The law of entropy doesn't just govern the physical universe. It has governed the spiritual realm since it was introduced in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve's original sin. They had been forewarned: "You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." While they didn't die immediately after eating the forbidden fruit, their disobedience introduced the process of decay that leads to physical and spiritual death. Sin is a slow-acting poison. Its immediate effects are often indiscernible, but the aftereffects are far more devastating than what we realize at the time. Original sin caused a disturbance in the Force, so to speak. It introduced sickness and suffering to the equation of life. Everything from genetic defects to natural disasters trace their origins back to original sin. We live in a fallen world—everything is affected by entropy.

Just like Adam and Eve discovered, sin opens the door to entropy. The more you sin, the more your life moves toward disorder and decay. Sin is much more than a moral dividing line between right and wrong. It's a matter of life and death. Jesus didn't die on the cross just to make bad people good. He brings dead people to life!

When you accept the Lord as your Savior. When you start walking that relationship with Him. When you come to the cross and are washed in the blood. You are moved from death to life, from entropy to restoration. You



start walking in eternity today, right now. Come to Him now and stop walking in decay.

Pastor Rob

Punctuality~ is honoring God's ways by the timing of a gift!

The young elk watched in awe as his majestic father reared up on powerful hind legs and aggressively charged a rival bull elk. The intruder was no match for his fathers' overpowering strength and menacing rack.

With one mighty blow he sent the unwelcome challenger reeling into the underbrush. Wounded from the encounter, the rival hastily retreated into the forest.

It was late autumn, snow was falling on the mountains, and the lush alfalfa pastures would soon be covered with a thick white blanket for the winter.

The young bull confidently trotted toward the nearby meadow. He cast an entreating glance in the direction of his father, but the older elk remained motionless, cautiously sniffing the air. Danger was present.

Without warning, two hungry wolves burst through the brush near the edge of the field. They paused for an instant.

With a twinge of fear, the young elk looked apprehensively to his father. Surely he would protect him from this impending danger. Then, with the wolves out of the way, he could graze to his hearts content in the pasture.

Surprisingly, the large bull stood still and silently beckoned to his son. With a whirl, he turned his massive frame and bolted toward the nearby mountainside.

The young elk followed close behind his father as other wolves broke through the thickets and joined the two scouts in pursuit.

The life-and-death sprint was an even race until the elk reached the rocky slopes of the mountain. Higher and higher they climbed. As the air grew colder, the hot breath of the elk formed clouds of steamy vapor.

Bible Trivia
Answer:
Gospel of John

The higher they climbed, the stronger the elk appeared to their weary pursuers. Finally, the wolves abandoned the chase. The young elk affectionately nuzzled his father, who had given him a valuable lesson.

There is a time to give protection and a time to flee. The experienced elk had given his son a better gift by teaching him to flee from dangers that would damage his life.

How are the consequences of a gift that dishonors the ways of God illustrated in Scripture?

One of the ways that God maintains humility in the life of a leader is by establishing a division of power. God gave the authority to govern His people to the kings of Israel. The kings were to be limited by the counsel and influence of the priests.

Who in Scripture tried to disrupt this delicate balance of power by accusing a priest of tardiness and offering a presumptuous gift?

The leader of the nation's newly formed army was worried. The night before more of his soldiers had slipped into the darkness, hiding in nearby caves and escaping to neighboring countries.

In the distance the clamor of thirty thousand charioteers, six thousand horsemen, and a multitude of soldiers could be heard. The troubled leader looked nervously down the road awaiting the arrival of God's anointed priest.

The priest had promised that he would arrive in seven days. The seventh day had come. "Where was the priest?" the impatient leader began to reason within himself. "He may be anointed by the Lord, but so am I. God has called me to fight this battle. If I delay much longer, my entire army will desert me. If I go out to battle before the priest comes, I will not have to share the leadership with him."

The leaders proudly remembered his last battle. Many had mocked him when he had been appointed. They claimed that he was weak and ineffective, but they had to take their words back when he was victorious. Surely God would give him the victory once again.

Before the battle could begin, a vital procedure had to be carried out. A sacrifice had to be offered. This was the priest's duty and responsibility, but he appeared to be tardy.

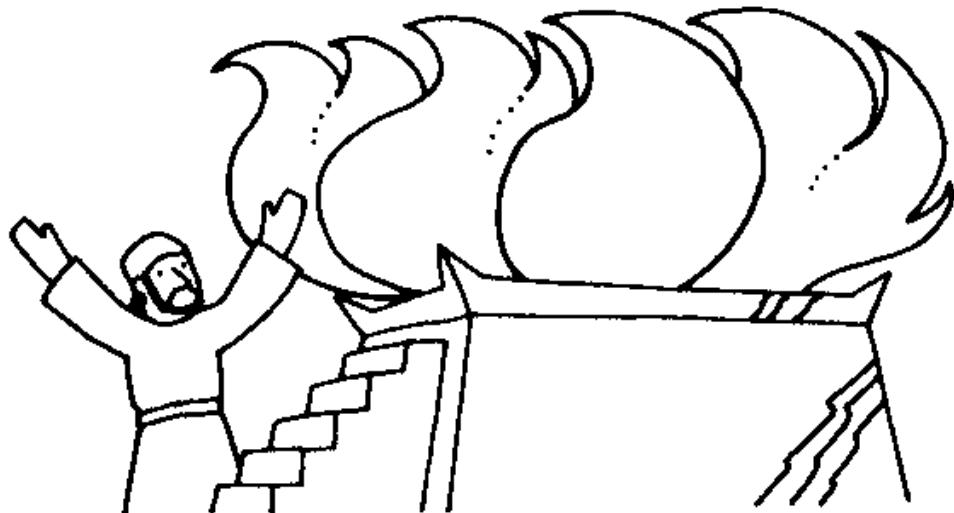
Finally, the orders were given. Several soldiers gathered large rocks and constructed an altar. Others collected wood and a sacrificial lamb. The leader ceremoniously slew the lamb and placed it on the altar. Six hundred men quietly watched as he solemnly ignited the wood. The flames slowly consumed the sacrifice.

YOUTH NEWS

The commander quickly ordered his troops to prepare for battle. Suddenly the priest entered the camp. He looked at the altar in disbelief and then focused his penetrating eyes on the leader.

"What have you done?" demanded the priest. "When I saw that my men were leaving and you had not yet come in the time that you specified and that the enemy was gathering for war, I feared that they would attack me before I made supplication to the Lord. So I forced myself to offer a burnt offering."

Sadness fell over the countenance of the Godly priest. Years earlier he had anointed this leader to be the first king of Israel. "You have acted foolishly and violated God's command. If you had followed my



instructions, Your kingdom would have been established forever. Now, because of your disobedience, God will search out a man after His own heart."

On that day the kingdom was taken from Saul and given to David, because the ways of God had been dishonored by an improper gift.

From 1 Samuel 13:5-14.

It has been awesome to see the excitement in our youth group as they prepare for our Mission Trip in July. We now have the dates; we'll be leaving July 5th and returning on the 15th.

As we head out on this monumental trip, we would ask your prayers for the decision that are being made, the preparations that are being made, and for each of the youth as they work to raise the funds to go on the trip.

For those who haven't heard, we will be traveling to the Ute Indians in Ute, Colorado and ministering with puppets each day. The other thing that we will be doing is ministering with odd jobs throughout the reservation. There will be painting, woodchopping and stacking, and any other odd jobs that is needed to be accomplished. We realize that there is not much time and hope that we will be able to accomplish a lot while we're there.

We are also hoping to be able to take a day or two and do some sight-seeing. Again, this will depend on time and funds. We want to help out the missionary, Christine, in any way that we can while we are there. She is overwhelmed and the churches on the reservation are going through some major transitions right now at the present time.

We covet your prayers in a huge way. If you are able to donate money toward the trip, please give those funds to Dawn O'Keefe and mark it for the youth trip. Thank you and we know that the Lord will bless you as you give.



Remember to buy a candy bar from one of the youth to help them raise money for the trip.

The cabins for the Family Retreat have been reserved. If you still owe money for this weekend, please get that money in. That would be greatly appreciated.

We also wanted to let all of you know that we have had a cabin open up since making the reservation. If any of you are interested in attending this awesome weekend, please see Pastor Rob for more information.

Each year the group that has been in attendance has come back excited, refreshed, and renewed. This is a time where we all gather and share together. So, take the time to come as a family or by yourself, and let's get to know each other better. Again, if you have any questions, contact Pastor Rob through the church office, or call his cell.



CW SPORTS

For God so loved the world that whosoever would come to him should not perish but have everlasting life....John 3:16

Well, this letter has been long in the writing and I am sorry for that. We had a wonderful season....I know we said that last year but it keeps on gettin' better and better.

I would like to first thank Tracy Milburn for all of her hard work. I ended up in the hospital and home and unable to be up and driving. Tracy and Johnny took over and finished working out the roster, helped make sure all the extras were in place and got us through the start of the season. It's not as easy as she makes it look believe me.

The games began and the athletes showed us that they meant business with the sport of basketball. We did not have as many sign up as we hoped so we adjusted the teamsnot a great way to start the season. The kids and their parents were amazing...in ability to play but most of all in showing us the meaning of sportsmanship , caring for one another ,and showing each and everyone of us how to support each other.

The games went well, the money collection brought in close to \$500.00 and the fun level raised the roof at the church.

I want to take time to thank Pastor Rob and Miss Dawn for their hard work to feed us....I'm hoping that everyone got a taste of Nathaniel hot dogs....inside joke.... The food was yummy and the planning was done so that we raised a good amount in the Cafe for the program next year. The helpers were amazing and I loved hearing the enjoyment going on in the kitchen.

I also want to thank Pastors Rob and Ralph....for their share in our growing in the Lord. The half time messages were terrific and just what we needed to hear. The weekly devotions challenged us to think about each other and how we can work in the Kingdom. Thanks guys.

The games began and we met the snow head first. The snow and cold were a force that could have stopped the season but it did not. We played all the games thanks to parents, athletes, coaches and other volunteers. We had a successful season. Thanks to all.

Blessings to all, Commissioner Karen

We are so excited to have Jimmy Dooley here for Mother's Day service on May, 12. We are also looking forward to The Anita Renfro Show on May 17.



With all these great events, plus all the graduations and graduation parties, it will be great to just take some time and sit and relax. On May 26th we will be having our Memorial Day Worship Service outside ministering to the community. Immediately following we're going to have our Annual Church Picnic Lunch. So, here's what we need. FOOD!!!! Meat, drink, and table service will be provided, we need everyone to bring everything else that goes with a picnic. We will be grilling and having a great

time in the yard ministering to whoever is out and about in our community. Make plans now to join in all the fun, all the festivities, and most importantly the worship of the Lord. If you have any questions, contact the church office 614-878-6808.



Worship Opportunities:	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
	Wednesday 7:00 p.m. (Adult, Youth, Children)
Sunday Night Bible Study	6:00 p.m. (Every other week)
Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Friday Morning Craft and Verse	10:00 a.m.

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