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to help our family do just that. We desire to be faithful in every situation and to find peace in God's plan for our lives. Rev. James McDonald, in his article, "Building the Kingdom of God is a Family Mission" said: "Our God oversees and superintends every aspect of who we are, including where we work, where we live, and how we carry out our daily lives." That being said, it's important for us to rest in God's good care for us and diligently seek to be good and faithful servants in whatever portion of God's vineyard He has placed us. Too often, we harbor contempt toward a task or duty we deem lowly or of little value, yet if we could see from Christ's vantage point the Kingdom significance, we'd be blown away.

It's tell-tale of our sinful hearts that we value only the "big things" we can do for God. In all honesty, it's those jobs that might bring great glory to us, therefore, giving opportunity for us to boast in ourselves and take pleasure in our "abilities." In James 4, we're reminded that God opposes the proud (even those doing His work) but gives grace to the humble. No matter the daily duty or the one-time opportunity, we are called to be faithful and to be salt and light. Let's not waste a moment this summer but instead ask the Gardener of our hearts to cultivate our souls and bring forth good fruit where He has planted us.



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What's Your Strategy? by Donna Bramlett



We're taking the Jeep into that swamp – on purpose?!" As the drive train lodged on a submerged log, I began climbing out through the roof, across the hood, and onto comparatively dry ground. I was done. I saw every possible problem with being there, not the least of which either crawled, slithered or swam. My brother, however, was just starting to enjoy himself. Trevor is the consummate strategist. For him driving the Jeep is only a means to getting it stuck so he can come up with a unique and clever way to get it out in one piece – or at least be able to put the pieces back on. He sees the solutions. It has taken me a long time to really appreciate this amazing gift he has, and it has served him well. Who but a genius strategist would use a chain saw and repelling gear to fix an amusement park ride? (That's a story for another day.)

In fact, thanks to Trevor I have come to realize that Jesus also had a genius strategist for a brother, James.

When the disciples didn't know what to do with the new Gentile believers, James came up with a plan (Acts 15). Paul recognized the gift, and when he returned to Jerusalem amid great turmoil, it was James he went to for advice (Acts 21). Strategists can seem to be a little cold hearted, as the book of James seems like a book of do's and don'ts, but if you look closely you will find someone who just solves problems. Just the first chapter of James is bulging with game plans. Need wisdom? Verses 5-8 tell you the best approach. Trying to overcome a bad temper? Dig into verse 21. Think you might be slipping into hypocrisy? Stop looking in the mirror and spend more time looking at the Word (vs. 23-25).

Here's to the strategists among us. Thank you for getting us out of the swamps of life!

THE CORNERSTONE

a ministry on the move



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Don't Get Off In a Ditch by Bill Powell



When I lived in Ohio, I lived in the country. Along the rural roads there were ditches on both sides. It wasn't uncommon to see where someone had gone off into the ditch. Unfortunately, as Christians it's just as easy to run off into a ditch, a theological ditch. Let me explain.

Ditch #1

Many professing Christians have an inordinate emphasis on works when it comes to their assessment of what it takes to secure eternal life. They conclude that they should go to heaven if they make every effort to follow a standard based on their criteria of things one must do. One must attend and give to the church. One must be involved in helping others. One must read the Bible and generally do good. It would also include many don'ts. Don't gamble, smoke or look at pornography. Don't steal or cheat on your taxes or spouse. If they would compile a list, or should I say their list, it would be pretty substantial. After all, what more would God expect from me other than doing my best? For many this is a ditch that is easy to go off into. Let me ask a few questions concerning this logic. Is your list complete, and what if it isn't? Why is your list different from the list of others? Where did you get your list? How much can you miss in fulfilling your list?

There are others who conclude a more general approach to works salvation. This is a much easier approach. I am a good person. I am better than most. I have never murdered anyone. I work hard and have tried to treat others right my whole life. I try to help people and I give to the United Way. The last example is of those

who have achieved many things during their life. Some have achieved political success. Some have contributed greatly to people's health needs with medical breakthroughs. There are those who have written beautiful music, put a man on the moon, written great literature or produced fine art work. Surely those of great accomplishment will inherit eternal life.

Here is the problem. You cannot set the standard for what you should or shouldn't do. You did not create the heavens and the earth. The Lord sets the standard of what it takes to inherit eternal life. Let's face it; we cannot even meet our own standards, let alone the Lord's standards. The Ten Commandments are the Lord's standards. If you break them down, you will see that you break each one every day. Jesus and He alone has met the standard of works. Eph 2:8 (KJV) says **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"** Eph 2:9 **"Not of works, lest any man should boast."**

Bottom line, you are not good enough and no amount of works you do will qualify you to inherit eternal life. We must become sinless to qualify and sin is the breaking of the law and we break it every day. You may say then, "What difference does it make what I do?" Should we adopt a defeatist attitude? Are we to continue in sin? Rom 6:1 **"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?"** I will have more to say on this at the end.

Ditch #2

This is the ditch of no commitment or can I call it "Who needs works?" or the ditch of "anything goes." Jesus loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. He wants us all to prosper and

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Save the Dates

June 14
Flag Day

June 15
Father's Day

June 21
First day of summer!

Prayer Corner

Hooray for Dads! This Father's Day pray for the many faithful dads who care for their kids day-to-day, unsung heroes among us. Pray for the Lord's strength to uphold them, to keep them faithful and faith-filled.

We have a construction permit for a new station in St. Augustine, and we desperately want to move forward with that. Pray for the funding to get it up and running and for a location for our antenna.

Pets, Radio and One of Those Things You Can Understand by Edie Schmidt



Psalm 139:13-14 (ESV)
¹³ For you formed my inward parts you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Most people said my neighbor in the hills was a little "teched." Considering he could go from a good natured guy just trying to score a box of Little Debbie cakes to a gun-wielding maniac bent on taking out the preacher, I guess "teched" was about as delicate as gentle southern folk could put it. Sometimes he would do things I just couldn't understand like picking up small pieces of road litter and storing them under his cap. Other times, I just needed all the information to fully appreciate his perspective, like the naming of his pets, for instance.

One day we were sitting in my front yard when his cat came over. I said "What's your cat's name?" "Tick," he replied. A few minutes later his dog came over. "What's your dog's name?" I asked. "Tick," he replied again. Thinking perhaps there was some miscommunication between us, I let it go. A few minutes passed and his other dog came into my yard. "What's this dog's name?" I questioned. To which he answered, "Tick." "You named them all three Tick?" I said. "Yep," he answered. I sat there thinking this was another one of those things I wasn't going to understand, until he went home to feed his pets. Nothing was on a leash

in the hills and so all of them had disappeared in different directions by that time. He walked out on to his front porch with a big bag of dog food in hand and called out "here Tick!" And they all three came running. I laughed so hard. Who knew he was an efficiency expert!

While the individuality didn't matter to my neighbor, I'm surely glad it matters to God. Can you imagine if he just generically addressed all the "Edie's" in the world? I wouldn't feel very special; would you? Furthermore, many of the other "Edie's" would probably wonder why they were being convicted about talking too much. When God calls to His children, it's a call specific to that wonderfully made person. He might call one to repentance. Another might hear a call to missions. Another might be inspired to be more forgiving and two hundred or several thousand more under the sound of the same sermon might hear their personal call through God's awesome Holy Spirit. At Cornerstone, we know this and that's why we refuse to forgo the Gospel message in exchange for ratings. It's not that we don't know how to make Cornerstone bigger, cooler and more lucrative; it's just that it's more important to us that every listener has the opportunity to hear what God is saying to them through His word. I'm not saying we never do things that make you scratch your head and wonder about us, but we're thankful that this is one of those things you definitely understand.

Thanks for all your support

Bloom Where You're Planted by Chris Johnson



School's out for summer! Wow! I'm the father of a rising 3rd grader and a 21-month-old and I love every minute of it. I remember so vividly those first few days of Noah J's life. I would hold him close and whisper to him, "We're going to have some great times together." As I daydreamed about his life I imagined our "man-dates" (as they've affectionately been called) filled with daddy-son camping trips, 'McDongalds' (as Noah called it) lunches, body surfing the waves at the beach, and of course go-kart racing, just to name a few. All these, of course, wrapped

with the greatest labor of any parent to bring up our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. I'm so grateful for my wife and both my boys. And as with any family, we are looking forward to enjoying a great summer together making memories, loving one another, and loving the Lord together. Summertime can be pregnant with great expectations and fulfilled plans, but my prayer has been that in this season, we'd be found faithful with the "everyday" tasks of life too. Many times on "Chris and Edie in the Afternoon," we will say, "bloom where you're planted" and I've really been asking the Lord

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Don't Get Off in a Ditch continued from page 1

be healthy. He doesn't require anything from us but to just love Him. Live happily; enjoy yourself. Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of sin for all humanity. Don't worry; be happy. Go to church. Sit back and have a latte in your bare feet and shorts. Enjoy a sermon that has a little cussing in it for effect, some stretching of the truth with a feel good story. Reject traditional Christianity because it is too stiff and rigid. We need to be more relevant to the times. Lighten up! Have a good time. Let's party! The Bible is a great book, but was written a long time ago for the people of that time. Much of the morality stuff in there, well, that was just Paul. It was written for the Jewish Pharisees. The culture was so different and they considered women to be inferior. Even Jesus rebuked them for all their rules of do's and don'ts. The references concerning homosexuality were referring to improper sexual behavior between men and men, women and women –not being against same sex marriage. The only thing important is that we love one another.

Here is the problem. The Bible has always been and will always be relevant as it is written. It was written for all people for all times. Jesus doesn't change with the culture. Heb 13:8 *"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever."* You cannot cherry pick the Bible. The Bible is the inspired word of the living God for our time as well as the past and future. 2 Ti 3:16, 17 *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

You see, we are not saved by our works; we are saved by grace through faith but our works bear witness to our faith. Eph 2:10 *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* We are required to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord. He tells us to be transformed and more like Him. He even said to be perfect because He is perfect. We should do as He did. The beauty of it is, it is Him in us doing the work and His righteousness is imputed to us wherein we will not suffer the penalty for our sin if we confess Him as our Savior and repent of our sin. We are not to use our grace as license to sin. If you read your Bible, and you should, we are to not be like the world. John 17:15, 16 (KJV) *"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."* John 17:17 *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* If you were to do a study of what the Bible tells us a transformed Christian looks like, you would see they look nothing like those who are steeped in this world.

The best way to stay out of the ditches is to keep your eyes on the road. Keep down the center. Be aware of all the laws and rules and do your best to maintain them. Pray for direction and follow the Lord. Listen to what He says. Go where He tells you and follow His example. Be aware of the world around you but watch that you don't fall into temptation or ditches. If you do, repent and He will deliver you. Don't let yourself be drawn after your own human nature or the foolishness of man. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind and you will find yourself on the road to eternal life and not in the ditch.



Programmer of the Month



with David Platt
WMFJ AM - Monday – Friday 9:00 am
Website :
<http://www.radical.net/about/moody-radio.html>

The Cornerstone offers a wide variety of local and national programming designed to nourish and enrich believers and beckon the lost to the Savior. Check this out:

This is a brand new program on The Cornerstone, and you should definitely check it out. Coming from Moody Radio, **Radical** features David Platt in a ministry that longs "to see the church making disciples who make disciples throughout the world." In these daily broadcasts David Platt presents solid Bible teaching consistent with The Cornerstone's values, aimed at equipping and mobilizing Christians to make disciples worldwide. In addition, **Radical** offers multi-lingual materials and resources and facilitates opportunities for God's people on a global level. Some of their core values include desperate prayer, unconditional devotion, humble service, Biblical integrity, and global compassion, among others. Tune in and find out why this ministry fits The Cornerstone's high expectations and standards for Bible teaching.