

Some time back my Aunt Olivene taught me a simple, little prayer: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer.” This is Psalm 19:14. I think about this prayer a lot and my hope is that it is true today and every day. The first part may seem easy.

James 3:3 says put bits in the horses’ mouth and you control the whole body. The meditation of my heart, my thoughts, aren’t so easy to control. I ask the Lord to help me to be slow to anger and quick to forgive. This helps with both the mouth and the heart. When my heart is in the right plate, my mouth ain’t so quick to respond in anger.

Let’s take a look at where my heart and mind were last night. I may seem to ramble on at times, but the ones that have heard me in Sunday School are used to that. For 18 years I worked for Winston Cup race teams. My thoughts then were on making race cars go fast and winning races.

I would study Nascar’s rule book to find things I could do that the rule book didn’t say I couldn’t do. In a way I helped them with their rule book because if and when they caught me, they would make a rule against whatever it was I had done.

Sometimes they would give fines and call it testing the integrity of Nascar. Hal Needam would tell me: “Keep on looking, I’ll pay the fines.”

I study a different book today, not to get around the rules, but to try and live by them. To try and learn more about the way of life Jesus taught us to live. There are those today that want to teach a watered-down version of the Bible, but just like taking medicine, if you water it down, it just ain’t as effective.

On July 5th I stood up here and reminded you of a lesson Mike had given us a few months ago. I remind you of that again today about the Pilgrims going to Holland looking for religious freedom. They found this freedom and also round a very liberal way of looking at the Bible.

This caused them to leave Holland, go back to England and then come to America. They were afraid if they stayed in Holland, their children would learn this liberal view of the Bible.

Maybe the Pilgrims were taking heed to Matthew 10:14: ***“Jesus said, ‘Who so ever shall not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.’”***

Now I wonder, would the Pilgrims be gathering supplies today and looking for a boat? I think they wouldn’t like a lot of what they see today.

As for me, I ain’t leaving. I will continue to believe that the Bible is the Word of God and He means what He says in the Bible.

I believe there is a reason there 10 Commandments are written in stone. They are unchanging. Written in stone, get it. No where in the Bible can I find where it says when we accept Jesus into our lives that God will change to fit our lifestyle. We are to change our lifestyle to fit God’s plan.

Some say a loving God wouldn’t deliver such punishments as listed in the Bible. Well God isn’t just sitting up there in heaven waiting for us to mess up so He can punish us. He even sent His Son down to live among us, teach us a way of life, and carry our sins for us. This really sounds like a loving God to me.

He wants us to spread His Word, not some watered-down version of it. As they used to say on Perry Mason, the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

This world is not a perfect place, with Coronavirus, riots, killings, sickness and more, but we have to remember that no matter what our situation, or what we have to go through, if we have faith in Jesus, He will always be there with us. Remember the 3 boys thrown in the fire, but when the king looked in, there was 4? Jesus never leaves us. It is us that leaves Him. The good thing is He will always accept us back.

Now with this imperfect country, do we look for a boat? I think not. I believe we continue to tell the truth, try to live a Christian life, and continually pray.

Mama used to tell me that she thanked God every day for our good health. We had never really been sick. I have come to believe there is a reason for this. It is so we can help others around us.

I told a friend the other day if they could just put on my tombstone "He Helped Someone", that would be good.

So, don't get in the boat. Look around, spread the Truth, help someone in the name of God. Amen.