

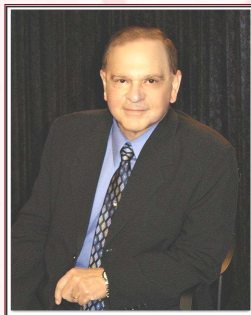
# the Informer newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PCAI & PCAI CLERGY  
ASSOCIATION  
PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL  
APRIL 2019 – ISSUE 4

## LEADERS USE GODLY WISDOM TO CONTROL THEIR AUTHORITY

*By Dr. Henry Harbuck / PCAI Int'l President & General Overseer*

A good leader guards against the human tendency to abuse and control others for selfish gain. The average person would rather be the head and not the tail. However, the Bible teaches us something different. The husband was never meant to “lord” over his wife, nor a pastor to “lord” over the congregation. The church is not an institution, but a living organism. Therefore, it’s important that the shepherd-leader be in tune with the Head of the church, Jesus Christ. In today’s church the image of “headship” too often tends to reflect someone who is in control of the people.



F.F. Bruce, the great British scholar has said that “head” probably is meant to reflect the “source” or “origin.” For example, the Father (God) is the source of life in the Son, as the Son is the

source of life in the believer. The “headship” that is given to Christ (Colossians 1:18) must be applied and interpreted by seeing Christ as One who is loving, sacrificing, compassionate, delivering, and transforming those whom He loves. Shouldn’t a shepherd-leader have the same attitude (or mind) that is in Christ Jesus? A pastor who sees their leadership role as one commissioned to love, nurture, and build up the saints will not require blind obedience to their every command. A husband who understands accurately biblical directives will consider his wife’s feelings and ideas. Likewise, a loving and understanding pastor will not become an authoritarian, but one who understands power and authority and one who encourages the saints to reach their full potential in Christ. ♥♥♥

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OFFICE HOURS :  
9:00AM to 4:00PM



# Obedience is the First Law of Heaven

## Part 1

By Pastor Lynn Burling / Christian Faith Church—TX



Obedience is the *principle* by which the *designs and purpose of God are accomplished*. Gen. 2:16-17 “*And the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it. But the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*” Hear me today. (Deut. 4:40) “*Keep the statues and commandment which I command thee this day that it might go well with thee—your children also—to prolong your days.*” (Deut. 30:19) “*Heaven and earth is recording My words to you today. I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing! Therefore CHOOSE life.*” (Obedience

is a choice. It’s as if God pleads with us to willfully make the right choice.)

No growth can take place until we first do that which we’ve learned. (Weak in math, first learn your math tables...they are the foundation for all math.) We see compliance in small matters has eternal significance and leads to blessing. (Deut. 4:36a KJV) “*Out of heaven He made you to hear His voice that He might instruct you*” (to prove yourselves to be doers of the Word and not hearers only!) Hearing *must precede* the doing. For instance take Saul’s onslaught (or lack thereof) on Amalek. There was up to a certain point, a perfect

agreement between...duty and inclination, God’s service or self-interest. There are times when truth and right goes further than we are inclined to go...when Saul left off his “inclining, and leaning on God’s instructions,” it cost him big time.

**Obedience** means no subtraction, no addition. If you don’t do it, you’re a law unto yourself you are your own truth giver. It is a false obedience when disobedience to God, in any form and under any circumstances, is regarded as a trifling thing. Saul’s *slight* disobedience *involved great principles and carried eternal consequences*. Here was a man entrusted with the

highest authority of the land and God did not micro-manage him. King Saul had the same chance as Peter, when Christ told him to do something, nevertheless “at thy Word.” Because Saul misused or misjudged, and leaned to his *personal inclinations*, he was stripped of his authority and didn’t end well. Every wish of the Father’s heart will be a visible feature in our life...sometimes painful to the flesh but pleasant to the soul. **There are no good rewards for bad behavior. The tongue is the servant of the heart “never the less”** (not what my inclinations are, not what I desire or not how I feel) but **“at thy Word” I will.**

(To be continued...)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Church/Ministries Tax Date to Remember

In addition to the regular semiweekly and monthly withholding requirements, churches should note the following dates for this month.

**April 17**—Federal income tax and self-employment tax returns by individuals for calendar year 2018 are due by this date.

Last day to file an amended federal income tax return (Form 1040) for calendar year 2018 (unless you received an extension of time to file your 2018 return).

**April 29**—Churches/ministries hiring their first nonminister employee between January 1 and March 31, 2018, may exempt themselves from the employer’s share of Social Security and Medicare taxes by filing Form 8274 by this date (nonminister employees are thereafter treated as self-employed for Social Security purposes). The exemption is only available to churches opposed on the basis of

religious principles to paying the employer’s share of Social Security and Medicare taxes.

**April 30**—Churches/ministries with nonminister employees (or one or more ministers who report their federal income taxes as employees and who have elected voluntary withholding) must file an employer’s quarterly federal tax return (Form 941) for the first calendar quarter of 2019 by this date. Enclose a check in the total amount of all payroll taxes (withheld income taxes, the withheld employee’s share of Social Security taxes, and the employer’s share of Social Security taxes) if these taxes were less than \$2,500 on March 31, 2019.

**Keep good records!  
Dr. Jan Harbuck -  
PCAI Office  
Need Help?  
Call 1-866-268-5600**



### IRS Standard Mileage Rate for 2019

- 58 cents per mile for business miles driven (up from 54.5 cents in 2018)
- 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes (up from 18 cents in 2018)
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations (currently fixed by Congress)



## Taylor: Persevere, fight the good fight of faith to obtain the prize

*By Rev. Mike Taylor / Religion Columnist*

Webster's dictionary defines the word persevere as a steady persistence in a course of action or something in spite of obstacles or opposition.

If you are trying to obtain anything of lasting value today you must persevere. The world and culture around us today requires us to hold fast to the goals we have set. There are and will be many obstacles along the way. It will be easy to get discouraged and give up. To get the prize today we must be tenacious.

The Bible speaks of the prize believers will receive when we get to Heaven. However, unlike the prizes here on Earth which will one day perish, the believer competes for a prize in Heaven that is imperishable. We must be willing to fight the good fight of faith.

The Bible tells us in the book of Romans that we can glory in tribulations because tribulation produces perseverance. Why is that good? Because perseverance builds character and character brings hope. In the end hope is all we have. It's our hope and trust in a God that we know loves us and He cares for us and He will bring us through.

The Bible tells us that in the last days men will be lovers of themselves. People will be proud, blasphemers, unthankful and without self-control. They will be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

We see this everyday now. If we ever needed to persevere it's now. Our one true hope is in a God who knows us and loves us and only wants the best for us.

I sense that we are on the brink of another great spiritual awakening. I have felt this and written about this for many years now. I am more convinced than ever that we are now very close. Things in us and around us continue to line up.

When I study the great awakenings of the past and see the condition of our world and the culture, I know we are close

I feel God is trying to position us for what is to come. That is why I believe there has been so much difficulty and so many obstacles along the way. It's all the more reason we must persevere. Like it or not. Believe it or not. The Bible tells us that we have an enemy, his name is Satan. If we plan to do anything good for God, you can count on opposition coming your way.

I want to encourage you today to continue to fight the good fight of faith. God is up to something good. The battle is the Lord's. Our job is to trust and obey and persevere. Push past the pain and always do what is right in the sight of the Lord. If we will hold on until the end, we are promised a crown in Heaven that will never perish. Let us be like many in the past who never gave up and ultimately received the prize. ♥♥♥

## DEVOTIONAL: Mission Impossible

*By Rev. Joseph Adam Davis*



*Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible." Matthew 19:26 NLT*

"Hey rookie, what are you doing in the patrol briefing room at this time of day?"

The pasty-looking sergeant wasn't really concerned with Robinson's reason for being there. He just wanted him gone from his presence.

"Hey sarge, I was wrapping up some paperwork and heading back out. About to meet my wife for lunch."

"You married?" the sergeant asked.

"We've been married six years. Two kids."

Without wasting a breath, the sergeant replied, "I give it five more. Five years on this job and you'll be divorced. It's impossible for a cop to stay married with the crap we see every day. Good luck kid. You're gonna need it."

That conversation didn't quite hit the encouragement level the newly sworn officer was looking for from a supervisor, but it was a clear wake-up call.

Everyone may tell you the alarming statistics regarding marriage, adultery, substance abuse, and suicide associated with your career in the military or as a first responder. But what they fail to mention is that nothing is impossible when you cultivate a daily, intimate relationship with God and place Him at the center of your life. That means your marriage does stand a fighting chance. That means your marriage has room to grow and thrive and you do not have to be a statistic. Get beneath the superficial, fluffy discussions that have no bearing or fruit. Go deep. Have meaningful conversations with your spouse and discuss the threats, discover solutions, and create practical steps to combat the challenges you will face in your marriage.

### Quick Tip

It's time to decide who you will believe. Are you going to believe the voices who say your marriage

*Continued on page 4*

## How Long Should you Keep Tax Records

*(Church Finance Today Excerpt)*

Pastors and other employees may wonder about how long they should keep personal tax records. If they don't they probably should. If they toss records too early, they could be unprepared for the possibility of a surprise audit. Still, how long should employees keep those records? Here's some common-sense advice worth sharing.

You should keep your federal returns at least three years. As a general rule, that's how long the IRS has to question items on your return and to bill you for any additional tax. It's also the time frame for you to file an amended return and seek a refund. But don't automatically throw out returns and records after three years. State tax returns may have to be retained longer. Check your state requirements. Also, look over the old documents to make sure you do not need any parts of them in the future. For example hold on to records that help establish you tax basis in real estate. Ditto for investments such as stock, bonds, and mutual funds. If you made nondeductible contributions to IRAs or after-tax pay-ins to a401 (k), keep records until three years after the accounts are depleted. □

## Can We Remove Board Member???

*(Taken from Church Law & Tax Report)*

Do your ministry bylaws clearly articulate a process for removing a board member? If so, does it comply with state law?

One of the biggest difficulties faced by a church board occurs when the pastor/president, congregation or other board members decide that individual board members should be removed from the board. In many instances, there is not effective means of removing board members without costly litigation.

Recently, several church members sought to have two church board members removed because of perceived moral failures. The board anticipated a quick and smooth process. However, the church's bylaws were not very clear about how to remove board members, and the targeted board members, perceiving a personal vendetta, fought back. Tension between the two factions escalated, and a lawsuit was filed with the hope of driving the entrenched board members into a quick resignation. But the opposite effect occurred. The targeted board members dug in and the matter went to trial. After two years of litigation, the church was hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, and barely survived. While the facts behind the dispute were tragic, the costs of resolution were caused to a great extent by an inadequate process set forth in the church's bylaws for removing board members.

To reduce risks of litigation like this, and the disruptions it causes to church life churches should review state law where it is organized, as well as any articles of incorporation and bylaws that address the process of removing a board member. If a church finds its governing documents do not state a clear and appropriate means of removing a board member from the church board then the church should consider adding a provision to the bylaws that best meet the expectations of the church. The right time to undertake the creation of such a provision is when the board is operating smoothly. It is often too late to address the problem after the need to remove a board member arises. □

## DEVOTIONAL... continued from page 3

will become a statistic, or will you believe what God's Word promises to those who are obedient and practice His truth? It's up to both spouses to go deep in your discussions. Don't let the dating years be the only lasting memory of meaningful conversation in your relationship.

### Sheepdog

Think about the last conversation you had with your spouse. If that was your final conversation, would it be worth remembering? It's great to talk about family-related issues, but make an effort to sit down with your spouse, grab a cup of coffee or tea, read the Bible together, and talk about it. Learn from and challenge each other. Grow together spiritually. The longer you are together, the closer you will grow in your intimacy and the more richly blessed your life together will be.

### Spouse

Take the first into deep-diving discussions together. If this doesn't interest you, or if you have no desire to dig deep with your spouse and grow together check your heart to see if you've allowed apathy to dominate your life. Find something that interests you both intellectually and spiritually and explore it together. These things will serve as a conduit of conversation between you and your spouse and help keep your lines of communication open and clear.

### Questions for Discussion

- What are some things you would like to discover and explore with your spouse so that you can grow in intimacy?
- What is one simple way to implement biblical discussion and study in your marriage? Share your ideas.

*Heavenly Father, we acknowledge your power as the Almighty Creator of all heaven and earth. You are the Creator, and you created us in your image. Help us awaken our desire to learn, grow wiser, and take this journey together as husband and wife. May this journey lead us into a deeper place of intimacy. Amen.*