

# The **SEARCH** Light

News & Information from *In Search of the Lord's Way Ministry*

## From Friend to Friend

by *Phil Sanders*

We do well each day to spend time counting our blessings and remembering the graciousness of God. God gives us physical life, provides for us, sustains us, strengthens us, and gives us the hope of eternal life. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (James 1:17).

The kindness of God leads us to give thanks for all He has done for us. The kindness of God leads us to repent of our wrongs and to walk in the light. The kindness of God leads us to be kind to others. God has been so kind to me, and brethren have been so kind to me, that it makes me want to be thankful, to continue walking in the light, and to serve others.

This year I have grown to love those whom I have met in several states and to renew healthy relationships with those I've had the privilege to meet in earlier days. Each situation has encouraged my heart and refreshed my spirit. God was so very wise to build a kingdom of brothers and sisters who love each other.

This love encourages us all to serve one another as we serve the Lord. It also opens our hearts to those who are not yet part of the Lord's church. There is room in God's heart for all. Let's continue to reach out to the lost with the gospel of Christ at every opportunity.

## Getting Involved Matters!!

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).*

Byron R. Johnson of the Institute for Studies in Religion at Baylor University recently reviewed 766 studies demonstrating the protective and prosocial effects of religion on physical and mental health.

He found that involvement in religious activities (Bible study, prayer, worship at church, and Christian service) was linked to reduced levels of hypertension, greater longevity, reduced risk for depression, lower likelihood of promiscuity, less tendency to abuse drugs, reduced delinquency and criminal activity, greater happiness and well-being, increased self-esteem, and improved educational attainment. These are indeed remarkably positive outcomes linked to our religious involvement!

Active and faithful Christians, however, do not need a review of hundreds of studies to tell them what they already know from practicing the Christian life. Drawing close to God matters. God gives us hope in the Scriptures (Romans 15:4) and the peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4:4-9). He meets our every need (Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19). He gives us now all the spiritual blessings that are in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3) and assures us of home with Him in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-5). God's provision of all these things lavish upon us an abundant life (John 10:10). Consequently, we have a joy that is inexpressible and full of glory (1 Peter 1:8).

When God gives us something so good, we must not keep it to ourselves. We must share it with all who will receive it. This is why we preach the glorious gospel of Christ with joy and love. We want everyone to be saved and to know the Lord. We want them to have an inheritance in heaven.

Will you help us get the word out about **In SEARCH of the Lord's Way**? Will you generously remember us in your charitable giving? We need your support.

May the Lord be with you,  
Phil Sanders



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