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4/22

THU  **80°** 53°
4/23

FRI  **80°** 54°
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**Coalfield Genealogical and
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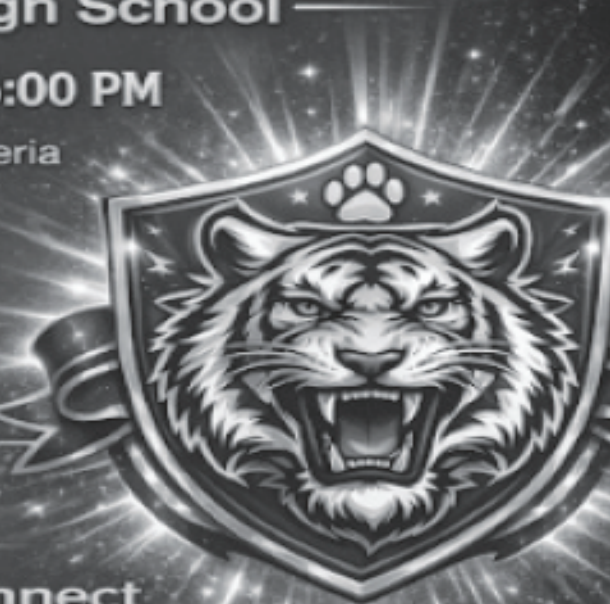
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— In Loving Memory —

Stella Bunch Kelly, 100



She was preceded in death by her parents Walter and Lillie Bunch; husband Clyde; special son-in-law Mark Shelton; sisters Aletha Bunch Spainhour and Florence Bunch Worthington; and brothers, Harvey, Isaac, Paul and James Bunch. She is survived by brother Earl Bunch; daughter Brenda Shelton; sons C.A. (Marcia) and Gary (Kathy); grandsons Stephen, Darren (Jess), Joe (Amanda), Patrick (Heather), and John (Jessi); 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Stella Bunch Kelly age 100 passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 28, 2026. Stella grew up in Coalfield and was a true Coalminer's daughter. She was born on January 15, 1926 to the late Walter and Lillie Bunch. She served her country during WWII as a Calutron Girl at the Y-12 plant. Her husband, 2 brothers and 4 brothers-in-laws all served overseas during WWII. She was a very dedicated Christian always working in her Church and teaching many Sunday School Classes. She took pride in her ability to raise her 3 children by working off the land to provide for them. Between milking a cow and making butter and cheese, to raising a garden and canning vegetables, fruit and meat, she provided most of the food for her family. As her children grew, she started working. She worked many years as a Head Start teacher and was very proud and honored to volunteer at the Methodist Medical Center's Coronary Rehabilitation Facility.

The family will receive friends Monday, March 2, 2026, from 12:00 until 2:00 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 2:00 pm with Ronny Jones officiating. Internment will follow in the Union Cemetery, Wartburg, TN.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105. 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Stella Bunch Kelly.

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.



William "Bill" Phillips, 55



Liam, Oaklynn, Hunter; brother Barry (Diana) Phillips; step brothers Steven Aytes (Holly), Ken Aytes; step sister Crystale Aytes; special friend Donna Gunter and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles.

The family will receive friends Sunday, February 22, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 1:00-3:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 p.m. with Bro. Robert Freels and Bro. Tyler Trout officiating. Graveside services will be Monday at 11:00 a.m. in the Frankfort Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of William "Bill" Phillips.

William "Bill" Phillips, age 55 of Deer Lodge passed away Friday, February 20, 2026 at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville.

He is preceded in death by his father Robert Alton Phillips; special friend Steve Gunter.

He is survived by his parents Peggy and Butch Aytes; children Kailyn (Logan) Simmons, Kelsey Phillips and fiancé Adam Pass; step sons Dylan Hughett, Shade Underwood; fiancé Amie Underwood; grandchildren Sophia,

David Walker, 69



Also surviving are 18 Grandchildren and 13 Great Grandchildren whom he loved to see come and visit. He will be especially missed by his brother Dale. Dale became his main caregiver when he became sick. He also had a special place in his heart for his dog Fancy.

David Walker, age 69 of Mossy Grove, took his journey to heaven on March 25, 2026. He was born on November 5, 1956, in Sunbright, TN. David was a carpenter by trade. He took pride in building and remodeling houses across Morgan and surrounding counties.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mary, Parents; Georgia (Leroy) Daniels and Jr. (Wanda) Walker and granddaughter Celina Price.

He will be missed terribly by his brothers and sisters, William (Rebecca) of Dayton, TN., Dale of Mossy Grove, Kay of Wartburg and Becky of Milton, FL.

Children: Louanda, Greta, Denise and Sondra of Wartburg and Stepdaughter Amy (Spunky) Brown of Mossy Grove.

We want to give a special thanks to the doctors, nurses and staff of the ICU Unit at Methodist Medical Center. They are like a family in there and welcomed us in taking such wonderful care of Davey. Also special thanks to Schubert Funeral Home, their attention to detail and kindness shown to our family over the years can never be matched.

The family will receive friends on Monday, March 30, 2026, from 12-1pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral Services will follow at 1pm with Bro. Herb Judkins officiating, internment will follow the funeral services in the Byrd Cemetery, Sunbright, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of David Walker.

— In Loving Memory —

Inez Carroll, 91



She is survived and missed by her children, Gladys Tucker, Wade (Maxine) Carroll, Warren (Sandy) Carroll; grandchildren: Hannah (Glenn) Hembree, Joseph Carroll, Jacob Carroll, Jessie Wayne Carroll, Logan (Camden) Carroll, Claude Carroll, Wendy Carroll, Debra Carroll; special family friend Richard Carroll and a host of great grandbabies, family and friends.

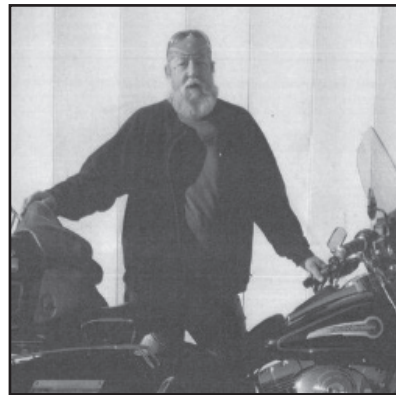
Inez Carroll, born March 2, 1935, passed away peacefully at her home in Devonia, TN surrounded by her family on April 2, 2026.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne Carroll Sr., sons Wayne Carroll Jr., James Carroll; grandson Lee Carroll, sisters: Mindy Patterson, Ada Seiber, Polly Byrge, Ruthie Byrge, Mary Duncan; brothers: Otis Carroll, Eli Carroll

The family will receive friends Monday April 6, 2026 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg, funeral at 12:00 with Bro. Gary Armes officiating. The graveside service will immediately follow at Seiber Cemetery in Devonia, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Inez Carroll.

David Gordon Henry, 69



ter Joyce Halloway of Knoxville and a host of friends and loved ones.

David enjoyed riding motorcycles, ATV's and going to the races. He collected football and Nascar cards. He was of the Baptist faith.

The family is honoring David's wishes to be cremated. No services will be scheduled at this time.

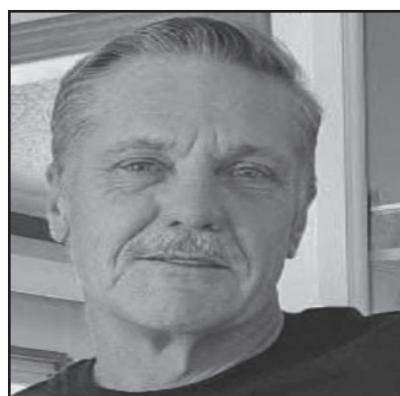
Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of David Gordon Henry.

David Gordon Henry, age 69 of Oliver Springs passed away April 8, 2026. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Elmer and Juanita Henry.

He is survived by his wife, Tammy Henry of Somerset, KY.; daughter Tabatha Berryman of Somerset; 3 grandchildren David (Cora) New, Samantha (Andrew) New and Damien Berryman all of Somerset' sis-

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Doyle Van Daugherty, 58



wife Keisha Daugherty, Tessa Daugherty and significant other Tristan Mitchell, Robert Hawthorne and wife Heather, Brandon Gould and significant other Sarah Daugherty, Dallas Cooper, Ethan Reynolds, Ashton Reynolds, and Cameron Daugherty; brother Chad Daugherty and wife Dawn; sisters Hazel Carroll and husband Rick, Storm Hammons and Raven Hammons; 25 grandchildren; special cousins Ricky and Mike Rich and a host of nieces, nephews, friends and family.

Doyle Van Daugherty, age 58, of Wartburg went to be with the lord on April 9, 2026.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, son and brother. Van enjoyed camping, fishing, and spending time with his family.

Van is preceded in death by his mother Betty Hammons; father Isaac Daugherty; sons Tyler Daugherty and Dustin Cooper; grandson Dalton Daugherty.

The family will receive friends Sunday, April 12, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Armes Chapel Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Doyle Van Daugherty.

He is survived by the love of his life Deborah Lester Daugherty; children Amanda Davis and husband Mitch, Dustin and



— In Loving Memory —

Caroline Pauline (Huckelby) Miller, 76



Special thank you to her nurses from Quality Hospice that have provided excellent care over the past several months, Billie Bilbry and Renae Gaddes.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Schubert Funeral Home, P.O. Box 326, Wartburg, TN 37887.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Mike Smithers officiating. Graveside services will be Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the family cemetery.

Pall Bearers:
Randy Huckelby
Joe Miller
Tim Loggins
Randy Henry
Dwayne Russell
Jackie Norris

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Caroline Pauline (Huckelby) Miller.

Caroline Pauline (Huckelby) Miller, age 76 departed this life on April 12, 2026 at her home in Glenmary. She was born June 28, 1949.

She is preceded in death by her parents; infant sister; son Jimmy; grandson Sean; as well as many others.

She is survived by her husband and verbal sparing partner of over 60 years Jim Miller; daughters Karen Webb of Sunbright, Debbie Miller of Glenmary; son Chris Miller and wife Lisa of Sunbright; special grandson William Miller of Glenmary; grandchildren Greg (Quinette), Liz Marie, Abbigail, Lindsay, Addison, and Gabriel; great grandchildren Brycen, Rowen, Alyssa, Lincoln, and Amelia; brothers Ronnie, Charles, and Jackie and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Psalm 123:1

**Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**

Allen Redmon, 90



Nicholas Shannon, Patrick Shannon, and Michael Chapeskie. He was also blessed with great-grandchildren Tegan Smith, Ryder Smith, Liam Shannon, Danielle Shannon, and Raylan Shannon. In addition, he is survived by his nephew, Charles Bullen.

Allen will be remembered for his kindness, strength, and the love he shared with those around him. His legacy lives on through his family, who will cherish his memory always.

The family will receive friends Saturday, April 18, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 11:00-12:00 p.m.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Allen Redmon.

Allen Redmon, age 90, passed away peacefully on April 12, 2026. Born on August 11, 1935, he lived a full and meaningful life surrounded by family and friends.

He is survived by his son, Robert Redmon; his daughters, Allison Cooper and her husband Bill Cooper, and Deborah Chapeskie and her husband Leo Chapeskie. He was a proud grandfather to Angie Chapeskie, Ashleigh Cooper,

John Thomas Hall (Little Bear)



He loved making Indian dream catchers and Indian jewelry. Anyone that knew him was well aware of his love for CB-ing and junking. He loved to strip for copper and hang out at the dumpsters with his friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Fay Hall, and aunts Bernice Ritchey and Lucille Branim.

Mr. John Thomas Hall (Little Bear) passed away on April 9, 2026 at his home. He always had a smile and a kind word for everyone he came in contact with. His friends meant everything to him and he would do anything he could to help you.

Little Bear was devoted to his church and was a longtime member of the Lancing Presbyterian Church, which he attended weekly. He also helped deliver meals for the church's food ministry.

Little Bear was a member of the "Over the Hill Nation" Cherokee Tribe (Long Hair Clan).

He will be missed by his church family. Best friends Mike Byrd, Debra and Casey Gorsuch, Matilda and Grace, Monica and Shelly, all the guys at the dump sites, best CB buddy "Witch Doctor" Richard Marcum, and lifelong friend, Mary Martha Pemberton.

As John would say to everyone he met when he left was, "God Bless".

There will be a graveside service on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 3pm at the Forrestner Cemetery, Lancing.



Historically Speaking

How a 65-year-old Union Carbide booklet sparked interest in past and present stories

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

This story came to me from David Keim, and I asked Carolyn Krause to conduct the interview. She has captured a most interesting story of nuclear energy education and a special booklet that has a special place in one family's memories. I am sure you will enjoy learning about "The Atom in Our Hands."

Here's a story about the international circulation of information about Oak Ridge and nuclear energy in the last century, and about a great company that promoted nuclear energy and advanced it in Oak Ridge but no longer exists.

Eliam Hermann, a freshman at Oak Ridge High School, and his father, Raphael Hermann, and mother, Katrien Sevrin, all natives of Belgium, flew from Oak Ridge to the Namur province of Belgium last December.

On Christmas Eve, they had an interesting conversation at dinner with Christina Bastaens, whom they visit twice a year. She is Eliam's grandmother and the mother of Katrien, a teacher assistant for special education at Linden Elementary School and an Oriental dance teacher at the Dance Center of Oak Ridge in Jackson Square. Katrien was featured as a dancer in a photo on the front cover of the Feb. 23, 2023, edition of The Oak Ridger.

Raphael told Christina about a brand-new, two-semester course Eliam is taking at ORHS called the Nuclear Energy and Innovations pathway. The curriculum covers the fundamentals of nuclear energy, clean energy solutions, and the innovations driving the industry. The purpose of the course is to prepare students for the local workforce that will be supporting the advanced nuclear reactor and fuel fabrication facilities being built in Oak Ridge.

In an interview, Eliam and his father, a scientist who works at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the Materials Science and Technology Division, where he uses neutrons to analyze materials, said that the course implementor and instructor is Kathy Foust, who serves as the work-based learning coordinator for Oak Ridge Schools.

"I mentioned to Christina that Eliam was engaged in a class on fundamentals of nuclear energy that he will take this semester," Raphael said. "She said, 'Wait a minute.'"

She left the dining room and returned with a pristine copy of the 1961 edition of "The Atom in Our Hands," a 40-page booklet produced by Union Carbide Corporation's office in New York City. (The first edition was printed in October 1955. The March 1961 edition of what might be called a brochure today was the sixth printing.)

She then told the family about her assignment to prepare a speech on any subject as a 16-year-old student in a Belgian high school

in the mid-1960s. She said she chose nuclear energy as the topic.

"To learn about the topic, she wrote to a nuclear research center in Belgium," Raphael said. "We believe it's the research center in Mol. They sent her documentation, which was this booklet here. She gave the talk. And now that booklet is back here in Oak Ridge."

Some 60 years later, after working as a nurse, Christina gave to her family the glossy, two-color Carbide booklet (blue and black inks on white paper) that helped her with her talk. She said they are welcome to take it back to their home in Oak Ridge, which she learned about while reading the booklet as she drafted her speech.

Raphael and Eliam looked through the publication and noticed all the photos of historic Oak Ridge buildings and descriptions of nuclear production and research in Oak Ridge. The

had never seen this document before.

Union Carbide Nuclear Company (later called the Union Carbide Nuclear Division) managed ORNL for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission from March 1948 until 1984. That's the year when the contract for ORNL and four other facilities (including the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant, first operated by Union Carbide in 1943) was awarded to Martin Marietta Energy Systems.

Since 2000, ORNL has been managed by UT-Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy. Along the way, copies of previous contractors' publications may or may not have been archived.

Keim liked the story Raphael told about Christina and asked that an interview be conducted with Raphael and Eliam. Raphael sent an electronic copy of the Carbide booklet to Ray Smith, editor of the Historically Speaking column of The Oak Ridger, and Carolyn Krause,



Eliam Hermann and his father, Raphael Hermann, show the special booklet given to them by Eliam's grandmother, Christina Bastaens (Courtesy of Raphael Hermann)

booklet is filled with solid, easy-to-read information that could provide Eliam with excellent background information for his fundamentals of nuclear energy class at ORHS.

Raphael said that the family "might keep it as an heirloom for a while, and I'll make sure it does not disappear. It might be worth something someday." He did not rule out eventually donating it to an Oak Ridge museum if no other copies show up.

During the interview, Eliam was asked about the ORHS course and his interests. He said he enjoyed the first class, which focused on clean energy – solar, wind, biomass, fusion energy, and power from hydroelectric dams.

He said he likes science but is leaning toward becoming an engineer. He mentioned nuclear engineering, military engineering, and mechanical engineering.

Eliam said he was one of the students at Robertsville Middle School who participated in building RamSat, the first miniature satellite from a middle school to be selected for NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative.

He is also in his fourth year as an active member of the Technology Student Association, a STEAM organization (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics). "I'm participating in a TSA project called website design," he said. "You code a website according to a prompt they give you."

After the family's return from Belgium, Raphael took the booklet to the lab and showed it to David Keim, Director of Communications and Community Engagement. Keim said that he

volunteer journalist.

The booklet contains photos of three gaseous diffusion plants on the K-25 site in Oak Ridge and the X-10 Graphite Reactor at ORNL, the first continuously operated reactor in the world, and the source of many radioisotopes.

Union Carbide engineers were key to solving the immense technical challenges of the gaseous diffusion process for enriching uranium for use in the atomic bomb and later nuclear power plants, as well as nuclear weapons. They helped to develop a nickel-based barrier for separating uranium isotopes in a corrosive gas and to make materials that would not dissolve in contact with the gas.

The booklet provides simple explanations of how uranium enrichment works and how radioisotopes are made in the Oak Ridge reactor. It mentions the importance of two radioisotopes from ORNL –radioactive iodine for curing thyroid cancer and radioactive cobalt, which is used as a source of radiation for sterilizing potentially contaminated food and medicines.

"Cobalt-60 is a gamma emitter that's used around the world specifically for irradiating food," said Raphael. "I don't know if ORNL produced cobalt-60 and pioneered its use for sterilizing food."

According to Wikipedia, cobalt-60 was produced at the X-10 Graphite Reactor during the 1940s, but cobalt-60 from Oak Ridge was not used to irradiate food until 1953. That's when the U.S. Army launched a food irradiation program to sterilize rations for soldiers.

- Continued on Page 8

Historically Speaking

How a 65-year-old Union Carbide booklet sparked interest in past and present stories

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Other photos and text in the booklet show and describe the Oak Ridge Research Reactor and other ORNL reactors, the lab's first cyclotron (compared to a "giant slingshot"), and adult students at the Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology.

Booklet photos show hot cells, a mouse colony, and an early fusion machine in Oak Ridge. Also shown is the predecessor of the American Museum of Science and Energy – the American Museum of Atomic Energy, operated by the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, predecessor of Oak Ridge Associated Universities. The publication served as an excellent vehicle for promoting Oak Ridge and nuclear energy. "I wish DOE would make booklets like this for the general public," Smith told Raphael after looking at the electronic copy of the Carbide document.

The booklet reflected well on the professionalism and quality of the employees and work at Union Carbide Corporation (UCC). For the most part its management of the federal government's Oak Ridge facilities met the government's expectations for 36 years.

UCC was once a titan among 20th-century American industries because of its innovations in the manufacture of chemicals and plastics and in nuclear technology. However, its reputation as a great company was badly damaged by a series of high-profile industrial disasters, ethical scandals and management failures. The reporter handed Raphael a printed summary of UCC's problems generated by Google Gemini.

Raphael recalled hearing about the Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984 when he was 11 years old. It was the single most damaging event in the company's history, and it remains the world's

worst industrial accident. UCC was no longer an Oak Ridge contractor when Oak Ridgers heard about the Bhopal disaster.

On the night of December 2–3, 1984, in India, more than 40 tons of highly toxic methyl isocyanate gas leaked from a pesticide plant operated by a UCC subsidiary. At least 3,800 people died immediately. More than 15,000 to 20,000 people eventually died from the exposures.

At least 500,000 people in India suffered permanent respiratory, neurological, and vision damage from a tragic accident. UCC paid a \$470 million settlement in 1989, which was widely criticized as inadequate.

UCC's long-lasting image as a responsible government partner in Oak Ridge was tarnished by the release of over two million pounds of mercury into East Fork Poplar Creek in Oak Ridge. The accident resulted from defense work by the Y-12 Plant, which used mercury to separate lithium isotopes (from 1955 to 1963) in support of the national project to develop the hydrogen bomb.

In the late 1950s, a fraction of the workers tested at the Y-12 Plant showed mercury levels in their urine far above safety limits. The extent of this contamination, which included toxic methylmercury in the creek's fish that was eaten by area residents, was kept secret from the public for decades. It was fully revealed in 1983 by a Department of Energy news release.

By the late 1990s, the combination of the Bhopal settlement, mounting asbestos lawsuits, and a lack of investor confidence made UCC a



Eliam's grandmother and Katrien Sevrin's mother, Christina Bastaens (Courtesy of Raphael Hermann)

"toxic" asset. In 2001, the company was acquired by Dow Chemical for \$7.3 billion.

"It's hard being a chemical company," Raphael said. "This is a sad story."

Thanks, Carolyn, for undertaking this most interesting interview. The family's connection to nuclear energy is unique. The booklet that traveled from Belgium to Oak Ridge is a special artifact that will be retained. I was able to locate one on eBay, which I purchased. I appreciate the electronic copy given to me by Raphael, but the paper hard copy is special as a historic artifact.



Romans 15



Melvin Howard

Romans (15:1-13) unity and Christ's example: after discussing the potential conflict between the weak and strong, it is only natural that Paul should emphasize the need for unity within the body of Christ. Clearly, the greater degree of responsibility will rest upon the stronger. They must divest themselves of any vestige of self-centeredness and help bear the infirmities of the weak.

The infirmities result from their lack of perception of the difference between essentials and nonessentials. Those who seek to put others first contribute to the building up of the church. Christ is the supreme example of subordinating himself to others, as reflected in Psalm 69:9; he suffered the consequences of humanity's hostility toward God. Can we not, to a far lesser degree, suffer inconveniences for other (v. 3).

While the Old Testament law was cancelled by the death of Christ, there still are hundreds of valuable lessons to be learned from that library of sacred literature. In fact, those things were written for our learning that through those examples we might develop endurance. Additionally; through the comfort of the Scriptures, we embrace a greater sense of hope (v. 4). God himself is most patient with us, and from that we ought to gain comfort, thus being patient with one another according to the will and example of Christ (v. 5). It is tremendously important that Christians operate with a united front, speaking the same thing, that God may be glorified. Therefore, receive each other just as Christ received you (v. 6-7).

Jesus did not come for one segment of the human family to the exclusion of the other. He came to serve the Jews, thus fulfilling God's promise to the fathers, and likewise to the Gentiles, that they might glorify God for his mercy (v. 8-9). Four citations from the Old Testament---two from Psalms, one from Deuteronomy, one from Isaiah---are cited to show that this unity was to find its fruition in the church of Jesus Christ (v. 9-12). The absurd notion that these texts must await their fulfillment in the so-called "millennial reign" of Christ is utterly without support and would have had no compelling force in Paul's plea. "May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace by your faith (which comes by listening to his word) (10:17) as you, by this means, are empowered by the Holy Spirit."

(Romans 15:14-21) Paul's reason for writing: as emphasized earlier (1:8), the Christians in Rome had a wonderful, widely acclaimed reputation throughout the empire. Paul, therefore, had confidence in them as godly people. He believes they are "good" (prone to kindness) and "knowledgeable" (skilled in Christian graces), and therefore are qualified to admonish one another---likely toward unity in the Lord. Paul writes with the authority of an apostle but with the heart of a brother in Christ, a partaker of the same grace both shared. He reminds them of their common bond and of his divinely appointed ministry of bringing the gospel of God to the Gentiles. He draws the picture of a priest offering sacrifice to God (v. 16). He hopes his work among the Gentiles is accepted since they have been "sanctified" by the Holy Spirit, by means of the gospel and their response to the same (Eph. 5:26). Paul gives glory to God for his role in this matter (v.17). There is no direct operation of the Spirit in the sanctification process.

While others are worthy of praise for their work on behalf of Christ, for his present purpose he will discuss only matters pertaining to himself. Note again that the Gentiles' acceptance by God depended upon their obedience, as motivated by Paul's ministry in word and work (v. 18), both of which were empowered by the Holy Spirit by means of signs and wonders (v. 19), His ministry had spanned from Jerusalem in the east to Illyricum (formerly Yugoslavia) in the west---some fourteen hundred miles. In this region he had "fully" proclaimed the gospel, attempting to focus his efforts where others had not preached. He was a trail-blazer, not a trail-follower (v.20).

Paul quoted from a messianic portion of Isaiah (52:15). It speaks of the Gentiles who had not been exposed to a direct preparation for the coming Messiah, as the Jews had. Later, however, through his ministry in particular, they were able to "see" and to "understand." Two important points: (a) Understanding is necessary for the reception of the gospel (Jn. 6:44-45; Mk. 16:15-16). (b) Isaiah's prophecy points to

the Gentiles' acceptance of the gospel in the Christian age, not to the Lord's Second Coming (as some speculate).

Romans 15:22-29) travel plans: Paul had wanted to visit the Roman saints many times but had been hindered. Since he had so thoroughly evangelized the region mentioned above, he proposed a journey to Spain. En route he would plan to stop in Rome. These saints would refresh his soul by their zeal, and perhaps even help him financially on his further missionary travels (v.24; Tit. 3:1-3). But before he could come, he must complete his trip to Jerusalem from where he was in Greece (Acts 20:2). He was conveying a contribution from churches in Macedonia and Achaia to the poor among the Jerusalem saints (v. 25-26). Little did he realize that from the time of this letter until his arrival in Rome, it would be some four years, and the trip would not be without great difficulty. He would visit them bound with a "chain" (Acts 28:20).

The mostly Gentile saints in Achaia and Macedonia had taken pleasure in sending this gift, for they felt under obligation to their Jewish brothers for the gospel. They had been spiritually blessed; it was but a small matter to return the favor with material support (v.27). When this task was accomplished, he would travel on to Spain and likewise visit with them. He was confident that in so doing he would be richly blessed by Jesus (v. 28-29). The trip from Corinth, eastward to Jerusalem, and then from Jerusalem back westward, and finally on to Spain, would involve about three thousand miles. The tough apostle was a tireless traveler. We complain about four or five-hour jet flight!

(Romans 15:30-33) a request for prayers: Paul believed in the power of prayer---his own and those of his brothers in Christ---for he urged his fellow saints to "agonize" with him in prayer, be motivated by their faith in Christ and love of the Spirit. Surely these words cannot be read without thinking of the Holy Spirit as a personality! The apostle's prayer had a three-fold thrust: (a) that he might be delivered from the "disobedient" Jews in Judaea; (b) that this contribution he was bringing from Gentile Christians would be graciously received by the Jewish saints in Jerusalem---a potentially stressful situation; (c) that his desire to come to Rome would be granted by the will of God, and that together they would have time for "rest."

In the apostle's case: (a) He was delivered from the disobedient in Judaea (Acts 21:30). (b) The Jewish brethren did receive him and the gift from the Gentiles "gladly" (Acts 21:17). (c) Paul was permitted to go to Rome (Acts 25:11), but unable to enjoy the rest for which he longed; he remained under house arrest (28:20) for the following two years (28:30).

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



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