



Volume 16 Issue 18

May 2, 2021

BRIDGE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

History was made when the bridge connecting Wellsburg with Brilliant was floated down the river. With a superstructure weighing 10 million pounds, the bridge traveled less than one mile an hour on four barges, steered by towboats but propelled mostly by the force of the river. While there is anticipated hope of a significant boost in shared businesses, there is also the opportunity for collaboration between 911 services to be able to provide mutual aid to one another. The idea of placing a bridge between two separated locations in order to be able to respond to help in emergency situations reminds me of the concept of Jesus coming down to bridge the gap between two separated locations, heaven and earth, in order to provide emergency aid to those in need. "And He said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to

you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man,'" John 1:51. This statement by Jesus was a reference to the ladder Jacob dreamed of where he saw angels "ascending and descending" on it. "Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place. He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your

descendants. Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.' He was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven,'" Genesis 28:10-17. The gate of heaven, the ladder extended bridging the gap between heaven and earth, allowing for the interacting and exchanging of heavenly powers and angels between man and God, was Jesus Christ. This is why Jesus said angels would be ascending and descending on "the Son of Man," because Jesus, Himself, would be this ladder allowing sinful men access to the healing powers from heaven. What's truly incredible about this bridge extending across the river between Wellsburg and Brilliant, is that it literally becomes the way that we, the

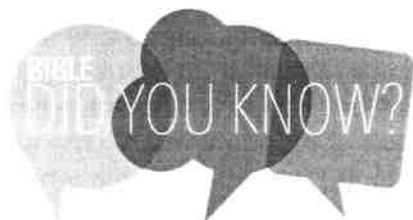
messengers for Jesus' gospel, may cross over to further extend the message of hope to connect others on the other side to the bridging ladder of Christ to heaven. When the bridge becomes accessible for travel next year, let us be prepared to cross over with our feet prepared with the gospel of peace to help more lost souls find the bridge to heaven in Christ. - Daniel Ruegg **Are You Slipping?** I was walking along a steep bank in my hunting boots the other day and began to wonder why my feet were slipping. That's why I had put them on, because the deep teeth of those boots grip very well into any kind of turf providing me sure footing regardless of how steep the slope might be. But that day I was slipping. I looked down and discovered the whole bottom part of my boot had come off, which is why I wasn't having such sure footing along the bank. It makes me think about the sure footing that the preparation of the gospel of peace is able to give us as well to keep us from slipping. "*Stand firm...having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace,*" (Eph. 6:14,15). When the powerful world forces of this darkness and the spiritual

forces of wickedness launch a full force attack upon us, good solid footwear would come in handy if we are to remain standing firm against the enemy. Just as Roman soldiers would have equipped their feet with shoes having nails or spikes driven through the soles to ensure a firm, solid stance with secure footing was achieved in battle, so Christians must equip their feet with the gospel of peace. The peace we now have with God can provide us with the sure confident footing needed to replace intimidation and fear with courage and confidence when face to face with the onslaught of trials and temptations. Paul tells us to put on our shoes of the confidence given to us through the gospel of peace, knowing that another walks with us, Jesus, the Son of God! We have the assurance that the very one who withstood every temptation thrown at us when He dwelt on this earth in the flesh is coming to our aid to give us the strength needed to stand. *"Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who*

through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives...For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted." (Heb. 2:14-15,18).

Let us put our shoes of confidence on, remembering the power of the gospel that brings us peace with God, gives us access to the only one Satan could never bring down, Jesus our redeemer. Are you slipping? Put on the shoes of sure footing of the gospel of peace, knowing that you have access to all the powers of heaven at your disposal to fight against the evil one. "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" Romans 8:31-32.

— Daniel Ruegg



"But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out."

Jn. 19:34



MONTHLY CHALLENGE

DIRECTIONS: Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

1) Praying For Others Challenge

James 5:16 *"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."* Prayer can turn night into day, and can change the worst of circumstances into amazing blessings. There are so many areas where our prayers can make a difference. We can pray for one another. "Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God," Col. 4:12. We can pray for our enemies. "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," Matt. 5:44. We can pray for those we wish to share the gospel with. "Praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word," Col. 4:3. There are so many areas where prayer is the difference maker. Devote this month to praying diligently in these specific areas and watch God clear pathways to make progress. "I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert," Is. 43:19.

2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

Titus 3:3-8

"For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men."