

## **Bermudian Church of the Brethren**

**WEDNESDAY'S WORD** – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler  
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week  
April 10 in the year of our Lord 2019 - #783

### Shopping Cart Citation

On Monday we celebrated the life of Bill Replogle. I was honored to share in the service. For those reading this from Bermudian, Bill is Brad Replogle's father. Our prayers certainly continue to undergird Brad, Brenda & Meghan and all of Bill's family as we walk thru this time of saying our earthly good-bye to a great family man, a committed Christian who served the Church in many ways, and a man who lived & worked with great integrity and great love.

For my sharing in Bill's funeral service I shared how Bill was part of my life for as long as I can remember. Growing up in the Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren found Bill & my Dad so often at the center of Stewardship work of the Church together. In high school & college, Brad's older brother Doug & I were nearly inseparable. And Bill & my Dad worked together A LOT to hold the reins in on the two of us. They gave us enough freedom to test our wings and learn and grow ... even when we were about some foolish things and wild ideas ... yet stood firm with us when we were in danger of crossing the line. In many ways Bill was like an extra Father to me.

At the funeral I told a number of stories about Doug and my shenanigans and Dad & Bill guiding us. But one story that I didn't mention at the funeral, but was brought to mind, and is such a good application for these days drawing close to Easter.

DISCLAIMER! I'm not proud of this, nor am I recommending it as a fun activity for any of my young readers!

Doug and I would go to the parking lot of the Camp Hill Shopping Center after hours. E.J. Korvettes at one end and Montgomery Ward at the other. We would round up shopping carts left out in the parking lot and push them with the car back to their corral. Ahh ... of course along the way a few of the shopping carts may have smashed into light poles! Ahh ... a few may have crashed. And sometimes the speed of travel from point A to point B with a shopping cart on the front bumper may have gotten just a little too fast! On one of these excursions a Camp Hill policeman saw us at work and came after us. Off we went on a wild chase through the streets of Camp Hill. Up alleys. Down side streets. Lights off. Trying to lose the police car. Along with Doug & I, another person you may know, Bermudian Church Board Chairman, Bob Meck, was in the back seat ... an accessory to the crime!

Well we did it! We lost the policeman. Escaped! Free! So proud of our daring misadventure! But then it happened. A letter showed up at the Replogle mailbox. The officer had gotten close enough to the back our speeding escape car to get the license number. Just one problem. Doug's car was registered in his mother's name. So the citation & fine came ... yep ... in Doug's mother's name. Betty had done nothing wrong. She was completely innocent of this

crime. Yet in her hand was the citation & fine in her name! Betty was not happy! Bill was not happy! My Mom was not happy! My Dad was not happy!

I can remember being afraid that Betty & Bill would hate me. But there was love not hate ... consequences yes ... but love not hate.

Now here's the Easter application. I'm a sinner. I pushed the (shopping cart) boundaries of sin. I ran from the Law. I laughed at getting away with it all. But on a hill far away, on an old rugged Cross, the citation & fine for my sin was paid by my innocent Lord. And He has not shown me hate ... but love!

You are guilty! You are a sinner! But if you have entrusted your life to the Lord Jesus ... placed your sin under His shed blood ... then the citation comes in His name! He pays the fine. His cry from the Cross, "τετελεσται" (*"It is finished!"* John 19:30), is a Greek word we find on ancient bills of sale ... meaning *"paid in full."* Isn't that an amazing thought to fully consider? Doesn't that fill you with love for your Lord! Praise Him!

***"Christ did no wrong thing. But for our sake God put the blame for our wrong ways on Christ. So now God sees us as good, because we are in Christ."*** 2 Corinthians 5:21 WE

***"Christ in His own body took the wrong things we have done to the Cross. He did this so that we would stop our bad ways and live right. Because He was punished, you were healed."*** 1 Peter 2:24 WE

Holy Week is just around the corner. We'll walk with our Lord from the glory of His Palm Sunday Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem; to His powerful cleansing of the Temple and conflict with the Jewish leaders; to His quiet anointing in Bethany; to the sacredness of the Upper Room with foot tub, towel, bread & wine; to His bloody sweat & tears in Gethsemane; to His Passion on Skull Hill. Don't take Holy Week lightly!!! Don't let it be like just every other week!!! Don't think you can arrive for the celebration of Resurrection (Easter) Morning without first considering the reality of His suffering on the Friday we call Good. Your sin ... His name on the citation & fine! Paid in full! Praise His Blessed Name!

My "fine" paid in full! Pastor Larry <><