

Holiness and Quakerism

I. Introduction

This presentation is my response to Carole Dale Spencer's book *Holiness: the Soul of Quakerism*. Spencer's book reminds modern Friends of an important part of our heritage, which we need to be aware of and to consciously incorporate in the practice of our faith. Holiness should not be confused with self-righteousness, and it is more than a mental concept. Holiness should be found in our daily walk with the Lord, but the messages we hear today in our meetings for worship rarely address holiness by name or in terms of what it means to live in obedience to Jesus Christ in our current world.

Holiness originates with and is a feature of God. Things, places, times, and persons engaged in His Service can be holy. Personal holiness grows gradually, requiring prayer, perseverance, and watchfulness of ourselves. It involves experiencing the inward presence of Jesus Christ and responding to Him in obedience. Robert Barclay states in his Apology, "The inward work of holiness and forsaking iniquity is necessary in every respect to the being a member of the church of Christ." Barclay goes on to note that in holiness we have "a living experience that enables us to overcome evil and the temptations of it, by following the Lord and walking in His light and waiting daily for wisdom and knowledge."

II. Holiness in the Scriptures

In researching for this presentation, I noticed an important shift that occurs in the New Testament concerning holiness. The Old Testament emphasizes the experience of God as holy and urges His people to respond appropriately to God's holiness. For example, in Exodus 3 we read about Moses and the burning bush. Moses was commanded to remove his shoes because the ground he stood on was holy, made holy by the presence of God who was speaking to him. Later (in Exodus 29 and 30) we read about the temple in Jerusalem, which had an inner sanctuary called "the holiest of all." There, once a year after much sacrifice of animals, the high priest could enter that inner sanctum to approach God in order to make intercession on behalf of the people.

In contrast, the New Testament tells us that now, in the New Covenant, our bodies have become the temple of the living God (I Corinthians 6:19). As humans who follow Jesus Christ we are repeatedly called to live into holiness in obedience to Him. (For instance, ... *gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called*

you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. 1 Peter 1:13-16.) In addition, Acts 3:1-12 describes the workings and fruits of holiness: *Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God: And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him. And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? Two more relevant scripture passages (but by no means all of them) are 1 Thessalonians 4:7 (*For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*) and Hebrews 12:14 (*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.*)*

III. Holiness Explored Further

Holiness in the highest sense belongs to God. We people take it on gradually as we become conformed through obedience in various ways to the will of God. In John (15:5) Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches." Romans 11:16 extends that metaphor to declare "If the root be holy so are the branches." Ephesians 4:24 directs us to "put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Carole Spencer defines holiness as "a spiritual quality in which human life is ordered and lived out as to be consciously centered in God." Holiness involves both experiencing God's presence through His Word, Jesus Christ, and doing what is right in obedience to His leading. Living in holiness, even briefly, may seem

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Worship Groups

These groups practice waiting worship in the manner of Conservative Friends. It is best to make contact before making plans, as their schedules need to be adjusted to accommodate their regular participants. For worship at OYM monthly meetings see www.ohioyearlymeeting.org

| Meeting | Location | Contact Person | Contact Information |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Friends of Jesus Fellowship | Washington, DC | Micah Bales | 316-210-6224 micahbales@gmail.com dcmetro.fojf.org |
| Friends Gathering in Jesus Christ | Evanston, Illinois (near Chicago) | Kevin McMurtrey | kevinmcmurtrey@gmail.com |
| Friends in Christ | Harrisville, Michigan | Kimberly Anne Makela | plainquakers@gmail.com www.plainquakers.org |
| Goshen Meeting | Scone, Scotland | Paul Thompson | UK # 01738 620688; Bookseeker @blueyonder.co.uk www.plainquakers.org |
| Lubbock Friends Meeting | Grace Presbyterian Church Building, Lubbock, Texas | Sara Scribner | sarabscribner@aol.com meeting is at 4820 W. 19th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79407 |
| One in Christ | 15 th St. Meeting House, NYC | Brian Doherty | 212-279-6200 brianj.doherty@verizon.net |
| Midlands Quakers | Stonebroom, Derbyshire, UK | Allistair Lomax | UK # 01773-875962 ripleychristianquakers@hotmail.co.uk weekly online meeting, First Days, 10:30 AM |
| Uxbridge Worship Group | Corner of Routes 98 and 146A, Uxbridge MA | Connie Bair-Thompson | First Days, 9:00 AM |
| Whittier Worship Group | Whittier, California | Kim Palmer | kimpalmer11@yahoo.com |

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to each of us like an impossible task. However, being divinely called to holiness implies that we are capable, with God's help, of both hearing and obeying God's commands. Through grace the Light is available to us all. When we open ourselves to the Light within, justification occurs and sin is overcome. The working of this process through our continued yieldedness and obedience leads to sanctification. This then leads to perfection, which does not mean that we become flawless, but rather that we become more complete or whole.

One important manifestation of that perfection is love - love of God and His Son Jesus Christ, love of our neighbors (the greatest commandments), even love of our enemies. Perfection includes growth in love, a continuing expansion of the heart. Perfection involves non-violence, moral purity, honesty, kindness, charity and patience to name a few more signs. Holiness requires a detachment from the things of the world that hinder our relationship with God, but holiness also impels us into the world to spread the love of God and to promote justice. Holiness is a process of deepening union with God and increased obedience to Him, according to the measure (capacity) of each person to respond to the presence of God in their life. In sum, holiness means coming into the image and likeness of Christ and following Him in obedience.

We may be conscious that this process of growth in holiness is at work within us. We may sense that we have been changed, becoming what has been called a new creature. As people, we have an important role to play in that process of spiritual growth - inviting, encouraging and allowing growth into holiness to happen. We must continue in obedience to Christ, that we not fall back to our former state.

Both personal righteousness and community are important to Christianity, and both are fruits of holiness. The struggle between good and evil occurs both in people and in communities. New life can also occur among a community of believers, as well as in individuals. In community with other believers we become more than our individual selves. Furthermore, the community that results from faith in Christ is greater than the sum of the individuals who are part of it.

IV. Holiness as Experienced by Friends through the Years

Holiness was an important part of the development of early Friends, both individually and as a movement. Their focus on holiness was a result of their discovery and ongoing experience of the presence of the Inward Christ and the great love that Jesus Christ has for us. Their acknowledgement of the presence of the Inward Light that is Christ led to an intense transformation of their lives, quite beyond the power of reason. Several stages of this process occurred. There was a conviction of our sinful nature and that we had done

wrong. This was followed by repentance and commitment to a new way of going forward in obedience.

Many Quaker journals recount these stages of spiritual development. Sometimes ministers of the gospel played an important part in this process for other Friends. For example, read Joseph Hoag's *Journal* from the very bottom of page 35 to the top of page 38. Robert Barclay in his Apology writes "as many as resist not this Light, but receive the same, it becomes in them a holy and spiritual birth, bringing forth holiness, righteousness and all those other blessed fruits that are acceptable to God; by which holy birth, to wit, Jesus Christ formed within us, and working his works in us."

Later, in 1895, an English Friend, J. Rendall Harris wrote a good piece that is still challenging and relevant for us today: "Christ is the teacher of holiness. All the situations of His life and all the teachings of His lips express one purpose-namely, the restoration of the image of God in man....Jesus Christ never preached any half gospel; He neither gave us a deficient calling, nor offered to us a measure of grace that was insufficient for the calling. He never preached a series of impossibilities and offered them to you so that you might take hold of them as though they were possibilities, and then be deceived and disappointed by having taken hold of something which would not bear your weight. It is quite possible to have holiness teaching of a sentimental sort that will not stand a day of trial or time of cross, but Jesus Christ's preaching of holiness is not sentimental holiness; it is not the holiness which is meant to make people happy in meetings and unhappy out of meetings. It is the holiness which is meant to swim the dark river with, and to carry us over every stream of trial and difficulty that we may have to pass; it is the holiness that is meant to be an experience for the cloudy and dark day, which will keep our testimony bright, and which will keep us true, loyal, and happy, and full of the gracious Spirit. Such was the holiness of Christ, of this holiness those that believe are made partakers."

George Fox's most extensive writing on holiness was in his epistle number 260, written in 1668. To quote from part 2 of this epistle, "And a highway there shall be and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it (Isaiah 35:8) This way which is called the way of Holiness....this way is Christ...who is above the unclean and destroys it. ..And this way of holiness, which the prophets prophesied of, it is Christ Jesus, the Way."

In Fox's Epistle 384 written in 1683 we read, "In Christ in whom you have peace, purity, holiness and righteousness, you must be kept holy and righteous to the glory of God. Righteousness, holiness and purity must wear and outlive all that is contrary to it. Patience, meekness, humility, kindness, and sobriety must wear out passion, envy, strife, wrath, high-mindedness, loftiness, and willfulness, and therefore the holy men and

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women of God must not strive but be gentle to all....for truly Friends, love gathers into love, and edifies the body of Christ...and all as the tender plants may grow together, as the Lord's planting, and he watering them and giving the increase and growth to His glory. "

Finally, from Fox's Epistle 375, written in 1682: "And therefore you must be a holy people, walk

in the holy truth, obey the holy Word of God and walk godly, as the grace of God teaches, ... and the Lord God Almighty preserve you all....in His power and Seed, Christ Jesus."

- John (Jack) Smith

*Member of Rockingham Monthly Meeting
taken from his presentation at Ohio Yearly Meeting
2017; Susan Smith assisted in editing.*

How to Be Clerked

Introduction

One of the many enjoyable experiences at Yearly Meeting is catching up with Friends between sessions. It was in just such a conversation with Sharon Helms where I pointed out that we see a lot of workshops on Clerking, but not so many on *Being Clerked*. I went on to complain that we expect too much of Clerks these days and that there is another side to the equation. Not only do we need skilled Clerks, but we also need to know how to function *as a Body* in Meeting for Business.

There is danger in talking to someone on the Agenda Committee like this. They might give you an opportunity to do something about it. In fact, Sharon did call and ask me if I might facilitate a discussion on *Being Clerked*. However inadequate I might be for this task, my previous complaints made it difficult to refuse. So, I ended up preparing for an evening program at Yearly Meeting. Fortunately, Bridget Casterline agreed to help. Ostensibly, she was to transcribe our discussions onto a white board. But, her presence was reassuring since she has significant experience in leading discussions.

Our plan was to establish guidelines for Meeting for Business by drawing upon the knowledge of those attending the program. Although everyone present was sure to have experience with the subject, it seemed important to begin by reminding Friends of what Business Meeting is and what it is not.

Meeting for Business

Friends have a reputation for being egalitarian. This suggests a democracy. But the Quaker Meeting for Business is *not* a democracy. The goal of a democracy is to determine and implement the will of the majority. The goal of Friends' business practice is to determine and implement the *will of God*.

Consider the exercise of a democracy. The democratic process relies on a number of very complicated sets of rules. For example, Robert's Rules of Order lists *five* different kinds of *motions*.

On the other hand, determining the will of God cannot be accomplished through a set of rules. Instead we look to the Meeting for Worship as a model. It is in the Meeting for Worship that we hear the voice of God. And it is His voice that should guide us in our business decisions.

Think of a legislature or parliament in action. There is a lot of outward activity: rules, motions, debates, votes, etcetera. Now consider a Meeting for

Worship. The activity is inward. It is quiet, prayerful, waiting. It should be admitted that our business meetings do not always reach the ideal of a Meeting for Worship. But it is this ideal we should be striving for.

Guidelines from Meeting for Worship

If Worship is the ideal form of a Meeting for Business, then appropriate behaviors in a Meeting for Worship should have application to Business Meeting. With this in mind, we turned to the Friends gathered for the evening program. We asked them for guidelines to Waiting Worship. These were placed into four categories...

Preparation for Meeting
In Worship
Delivering Messages
Receiving Messages

It should not have been surprising, but the collective wisdom of the group was remarkable. Some of the suggestions they made had occurred to me while preparing the program, but many were new. Powerful insights were common. Unfortunately, the power and energy of the discussion cannot easily be recreated. However, we did save what Bridget wrote on the white board and I have included it here...

Preparation for Meeting

Common advice for Meeting for Worship is to come with hearts and minds prepared. These are the activities that Friends suggested before Worship

Get enough sleep
Eat/fast as needed
Disengage (from work, TV, phone, radio, unhelpful music)
Avoid stimulation
Meditational work
Pray (for submission...)
Read scripture or other inspired writings
Arrive early
Don't be late
Do not come expecting to speak or remain silent.
Expect to receive
Start preparation for next time at the end of Meeting

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In Worship

The group was also able to come up with advices for behavior *during* the experience of silent worship.

- Look up
- Listen inwardly
- Wait *on* and *for* the Lord
- Expect to receive and be challenged
- Be aware of Friends' condition
- Pray
- Engage
- Empty yourself

Delivering Messages

We were also able to discern guidelines for Vocal Ministry...

- Wait, but don't suppress
- Discern if the message is God-given
- Discern who the message is for
- Stand up
- Speak loudly and clearly
- Stay on topic.
- Don't embellish
- Speak only as long as divine inspiration lasts
- Leave space between messages
- Deal tenderly with controversy
- Do not reply to previous messages (although completing a previous message *is* appropriate).
- Be open to eldering

Listening to Messages

While Vocal Ministry is important for the success of a gathered Meeting, it is also important for Friends to listen to and receive messages. The group came up with suggestions for hearing Vocal Ministry...

- Pray for the one speaking
- Expect to receive
- Don't judge the speaker
- Listen; don't preform opinion or answer
- Be open to surprise and change in all forms of messages
- Assume the Spirit is using the speaker
- Listen to the message, not the words
- Discern if the message is inspired
- Discern if the message is for you
- Be tender to inexperienced speakers

Applying the Gathered Information to Meeting for Business

After establishing this long list of guidelines, we reviewed them to see how they applied to Meeting for Business. I had expected that most of the advices would transfer over to Business. But when the group reviewed them, we found that *all* fit very well in a Business Meetings. Although, during this part of the discussion we added a few *more* advices. These were...

- Disengage from outcome

- Be informed about agenda items, but hold them lightly

- Physical environment can encourage a worshipful experience

The Clerk

Although Meeting for Worship is the model for Business Meetings, there are differences. One is the presence of an agenda. Another is the presence of the Clerk. As with discussing the Business Meeting, it is useful to remember the Clerk's role.

The Clerk is an individual who has volunteered to stand outside of the decision-making process, observe it, report back what the decision is and record it. Unlike a chairman of a legislature, the Clerk should not influence the decision-making process.

At times, the Clerk may recognize an individual before speaking. This can be nod, verbal recognition or simply a meeting of the eyes. Some Friend's traditions have verbal calls for recognition such as "Clerk please." Ideally, the formality of requesting and receiving recognition should be minimized. The exercise should be as close as possible to speaking in a regular Meeting for Worship.

The clerk may remind a Meeting when it is off topic or spending too much time on a particular item. The clerk can call for a moment of silence to return the focus to our True Guide. But the obligation to recognize and point out these difficulties is not the Clerk's alone. Every member of the Body must be prepared to do the same when it becomes apparent that the Body is losing its center.

The clerk will record the sense of a Gathered Meeting, but it is not the responsibility of the Clerk to do the gathering. The gathering occurs out of a common prayerful commitment to seek the Lord's will. To attain this requires the involvement of every member of the Body.

A skillful clerk can compose a minute that establishes a unity when none is outwardly apparent. However, it is the Body itself that is accountable for unity. So, in all issues brought before a business meeting, speak and listen in the love that our Lord commands us to.

Interacting with the Clerk

As the group considered the Clerk's role, they came up with advices to guide our interactions with him or her...

- Give agenda items and reports to Clerk ahead of time

- Realize that the Clerk is a servant

- Hold the Clerk in the Light

- When speaking, address the Body, not the Clerk or any other individual Friend

- Give the Clerk time to write a minute

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Salvation

Christians of other denominations place a great emphasis on “salvation.” For almost all other denominations, the first step toward salvation is water baptism. Yet Enoch was never baptized, but he was taken bodily up into heaven and never seen again. When Jesus was confounding the Sadducees’ denial of an afterlife, He said that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were alive in heaven. But none of them was baptized. So water baptism is not necessary for salvation. Neither is it sufficient. Hitler was baptized, yet it seems unlikely that he was “saved.”

For some Christians, salvation is pursued by participation in a human-prescribed liturgy, confession, acts of mercy, and so on – “salvation by works.” For others, salvation was bought and paid for by Jesus on the cross; all one needs to do to obtain it is to believe- “salvation by grace.” For both of these groups, the ultimate meaning and purpose of “salvation” is for a person to someday, after the death of the body, spend eternity in heaven while, in the meantime, bungling along on earth as an inevitable sinner.

Friends have been blessed with a different understanding of what salvation is and, therefore, how it is gained. Adam and Eve, before the fall, walked and talked personally with God in a paradise that was here on earth. They had unrestricted access to the tree of life, and could have spent eternity in that blissful state. Their expulsion from the Garden was not for failure to perform rites and rituals and not for lack of God’s grace offered to them. They were expelled because of disobedience to God.

Ever since then, human beings have longed to return to paradise, but have always tried to get there by

their own means. God has a different plan and, after we failed to understand the Word to Noah and Abraham and through Moses and the prophets, He sent His Son, His word, in the flesh, to reveal to us by example the meaning of that Word.

Over and over, Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven is at hand – it is here with us, it is in us. When He was teaching His disciples how to pray, He said, “Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy will be done. Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.” It is God’s will that His kingdom come into being here on earth, in our time with our lives. But how?

Kingdoms do not have citizens, they have subjects – people who are committed to obey the king in all things, whatever he commands, even over life or death. We enter the heavenly kingdom, then, not by moving to a new place or waiting for an “end time,” but by making ourselves fully subject to the Kingship of God/Jesus. The death that precedes this return to the state of Adam and Eve before the fall is not the death of the material body. Rather, it is our material lusts and our personal will that we put to death on the daily cross. Salvation is the total death of the worldly self and the birth of the new, regenerate spiritual self.

We have the Bible to remind us of how God would have us live. We have His law written on our hearts. Our consciences tell us when we are not being obedient but we do not have the power in ourselves to be consistently good. That is why we have Christ as our savior. We must join Him in Gethsemane and completely submit our wills to that of God. We must follow him in offering up our worldly lives on the cross. Christ shows us how. Christ leads the way. Christ gives us the power to follow.

Salvation is to spend eternity in paradise with God. We start that life here and now, on earth. We cannot do this as individuals, for a kingdom has many subjects, and God’s law involves much about how we are to relate to one another. That is why we meet together for worship – so that we as a unified body can submit and be regenerated and obey and be the kingdom, that earthly body of Christ.

When we are asked, “Are you saved?” let us proclaim the kingdom here and now, with us and in us! Let us praise Jesus our king present in us and among us on earth! Let us preach what true salvation is! Let us defend the One who has befriended us!

- Conrad Lindes

Member of Salem-Upper Springfield Monthly Meeting
from vocal ministry given during the
Salem-Middleton Outreach Weekend, 10-13/14-2017

How to Be Clerked, from page five

Allow the time during the writing of a minute to be worshipful

When a minute is read, ask for repetition if needed

Verbally approve minutes in an unhurried manner, but without delay

Help with the wording of a minute if needed. But only for substance and clarity, not editing

Conclusions

There was a strength in the evening’s discussion that profoundly impressed me. I had always known that there was a deep well of wisdom in our Yearly Meeting. To see it bubble to the surface was very encouraging.

- Charles “Chip” Thomas, Jr.

Member of Marlborough Monthly Meeting

taken from a discussion at Ohio Yearly Meeting 2017;

Bridget Casterline and Penny Thomas assisted.

Morning Song

I sit out on the deck in the early predawn. The ocean and sky stretch endlessly before me. The heavens are glorious in their starlit darkness. As my gaze wanders over the heavens and I focus on the different stars, I remember that not only has God placed each one of them, He has given each one a name (Psalm 147:4). My mind took flight into the darkness beyond this cluster of stars to wander through our own galaxy where other clusters of stars grace someone else's morning. Flying through the boundaries of our galaxy, I wandered mentally among the hundreds of billions of galaxies placed in the giant void by our Creator and over which our Lord God spreads His loving and compassionate care.

I am one tiny speck on one tiny planet in one small galaxy among these hundreds of billions of galaxies that our Creator formed. Yet, the wonder of it all! He has "inscribed me" ~ this tiny speck ~ "in the palm of His Hand!" (Isaiah 49:16) As Job said, "I speak of things too wonderful for me to know" (Job 42:3) and thus I am overwhelmed with wonder and awe.

The deep silence of the morning embraces me with a cloak of peace. The sound of the waves washing gently onto the sands, cleansing, smoothing, shaping, awakens my spirit to the same purifying waves of His Spirit that wash over me to cleanse, smooth, and shape me into the being I was created to become. It is in the silence that God "whispers" to us (I Kings 19:11-13) and draws us to yield to the transforming work of His Spirit.

Slowly the power of this morning's Holy silence begins to fade. The stars dim, a heavy cloud banks the horizon. And then the beautiful surprise! Flickering at first through breaks in the cloudbank, the bright and glorious Morning Star begins to rise in the East, blessing me with another sign of His presence (Revelation 22:16). As our Creator God emblazons the horizon with flaming clouds burning away the darkness, songs of praise rise from my heart humbled by the Gift of this morning:

"The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1).

"The heavens praise your wonders O Lord" (Psalm 89:5)

"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever" (Psalm 89:1)

"I will go out in joy. . . and be led forth in peace" (Isaiah 55:12)

What a glorious morning this has been! And is! Amen.

Blessings, Judy Ceppa
Member of Rockingham Monthly Meeting
11-01-2017 Nags Head, NC

After writing this morning's song, I was curious about what I had written and so looked up some of the information on Galaxies and Stars. Thought you might enjoy it too:

The Universe Just Got 10 Times More Interesting. New research estimates there are two trillion galaxies in the observable region of the cosmos, an order of magnitude more than previously thought.

10-14-2016

How many galaxies can be seen from Earth?

"We know it's a very large number." In just one image for example, the Hubble Ultra Deep Field, above, there are about 10,000 galaxies visible. In our own galaxy, there are between 4 billion 100-300 billion stars in the Milky Way. At most, 8,479 of them are visible from Earth.

Aug 3, 2009

All the stars we can see in the sky even using a telescope are in our galaxy which we call the Milky Way. Our Sun is a single star which is one of about 200 billion other stars making up our galaxy. The Milky Way is a spiral galaxy which if we could see it from above would look like a Catherine Wheel or a whirlpool.

Galaxies. Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is typical: it has hundreds of billions of stars, enough gas and dust to make billions more stars, and at least ten times as much dark matter as all the stars and gas put together. And it's all held together by gravity.

A star is a luminous sphere of plasma held together by its own gravity. The nearest star to Earth is the Sun. Many other stars are visible to the naked eye from Earth during the night, appearing as a multitude of fixed luminous points in the sky due to their immense distance from Earth.

I Am The Clay

Gathering in communion with the
Light that shines out of darkness,
These treasures in earthen vessels.

One coming in the door, "wanting to laugh for joy"!

Sharing about baptisms -
The water and the blood -
Spirit cleansing. Life changing.

"joyful, joyful, we adore Him. . ."

While a golden glow of autumn leaves
Lifts us higher on heaven's breeze.

- Evelyn Groves
Member of Chestnut Ridge Monthly Meeting
Eleventh Month Ministry and Oversight
and Quarterly Meeting Meetings, 2017.

The Conservative Friend #52
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Return Service Requested

How Shall We Escape?

I have read the scriptures through and every day I pick up the Bible and read a little morning and evening almost without fail, expecting to be given strength, understanding and encouragement to discern what the Holy Spirit is giving to me.

This verse from the scriptures which I had forgotten about was given to me at the meeting held at Chesterfield Monthly Meeting by Kim Palmer which I was able to attend with him. My first thought was, "Lord, are not these Friends aware of the wrath to come if we reject the perfect gift of God's salvation to all those who will accept it?" The weight to give the message was not lifted and I finally stood and gave the message from Hebrews 2:3: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" The rest of the message has left me but I am grateful to our Heavenly Father that I was given strength to be a faithful servant in the Lord's work.

Following a commitment to David Eley to attend Open House and Open Worship at differing pairs of monthly meetings I headed to Middleton and Salem Monthly Meetings to share in their programs feeling the Lord's hand upon me to be a presence there. Sixth day evening at Middleton Monthly Meeting opened with a meal at 5:00 with much good food and a blessed time of sharing. Worship followed at seven where Henry Jason spoke on Friends beliefs and practices as the meeting opened.

We had a blessed time of worship and ministry in which the presence of the Lord was felt. After sharing a room with Henry Jason at the Quaker Inn we had breakfast with Nancy and Becky Hawkins. A good time of fellowship around the table and a message from the Bible was read by Nancy Hawkins.

After a good dinner at the home of Kim and

Carey Newlin where continuing blessings seemed never to end, we proceeded to Salem Monthly Meeting for open house and worship, some thirty people present.

The meeting fell into worship in the Holy Silence of the Lord and ministry was forthcoming from two or three led to speak. Feeling the presence of the Lord heavy upon my heart again this same message came to me from Hebrews 2:3 and after wrestling with this again knowing there were many wonderful Christian Friends sitting there before me I stood and gave this message, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation? How shall we attain a life with Christ if we fail to take up our cross daily and follow him? The scriptures teach us, 'There is a way that seems right to a man but it leads to death and destruction.' Jesus said, 'if ye deny me before men, I will also deny you before my Heavenly Father.' Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh to the father except through me.' He that hath an ear to hear let him hear."

- Burton Doudna

Member of Chestnut Ridge Monthly Meeting

Christian Friends Conference - Western Region Palo Alto Friends Meeting

**Saturday December 2, 2017
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

The quarterly meeting of the Christian Friends Conference - WR will take place on Saturday, December 2nd from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Palo Alto Friends Meeting, located at 957 Colorado Avenue in Palo Alto. Lunch is brown bag (bring your own). Beverages and bagels will be provided in the morning.