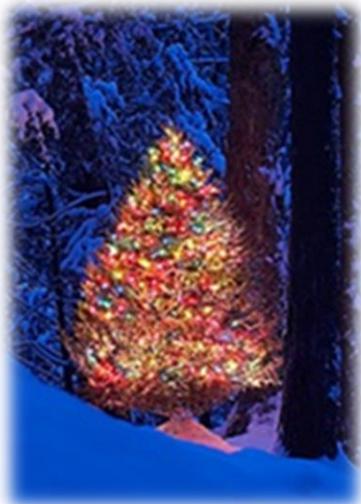


# Dave's Laptop

December 16, 2014



Well, it's getting dark on the sixteenth day of December. CHRISTmas is just a week away.

Twenty-four hours ago, Jill and I were celebrating our 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary in a restaurant near the end of Tilghman Island on Maryland's Eastern Shore, watching darkness fall on Chesapeake Bay as I'm watching darkness fall on Columbia right now. I give thanks and praise to God for the blessing of a godly woman who is as beautiful within as without and who has been willing to put up with me and my crazy life for these many years!

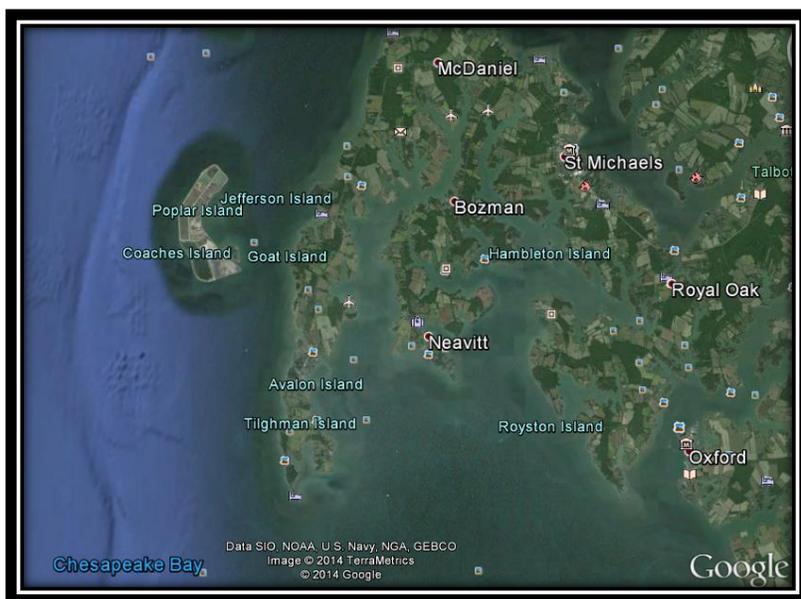
I've recently come home from spending the day with many of you as we celebrated the earthly life of Kenneth Brooks. In 2014 we've said farewell to Helen Belton, and now to Kenneth, both of whom were persons who loved the Lord and whose presence in Glory we celebrate as we lean toward glad reunion in God's time.

I have been reminded today once again how truly unique and wonderful the CBF family is, and of how truly blessed Jill and I are to be able to be a part of the journey with you. Thanks for being you!!

And since I've asked you to read some long *Laptops* recently, that's all I'm going to write today.

Sleep well. God is awake.

Dave



## **The Joshua Code: Fifty-Two Verses Every Believer Should Know**

O.S. Hawkins (Thomas Nelson, 2012)

### **Week forty-eight: God Calling!**

*And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely (Revelation 22:17)*

The Spirit of God and the bride of Christ both beckon us to come to the Lord Jesus. The bride is clearly a reference to the church in the New Testament, that body of born-again believers who one day will be reunited with their Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the supreme task of the church to call people to come to Christ. It is also the Spirit who says, "Come." While the church issues this outward call, the Spirit of the Living God issues the inward call to hearts. They work in tandem: "the Spirit and the bride, say 'Come!'"

### **THE INWARD CALL**

The Bible says that the Spirit is calling us to come to Christ. This is the inward call to our hearts. I could beg you on my knees, with tears in my eyes, describing the horrors of hell and the wonders of heaven, but you will not truly come to Christ unless the Spirit is drawing you. It was our Lord Himself who said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him" (John 6:44).

### **THE OUTWARD CALL**

Here is a wonderful partnership of the Spirit of God working in and through the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has chosen to use the church to issue the outward call to the hearts of men and women across the world. Not only does the Spirit call us to come to Christ, but the bride says, "Come!" as well.

This is actually what happened at the grave of Lazarus, one of our Lord's closest earthly friends. Many nights the Lord had stayed in his home in Bethany. Many meals He had shared at his table along with his sisters, Mary and Martha. Now Lazarus was dead and buried. Jesus came upon the scene and found the funeral party in deep mourning. There was the outward call; there was something for the people there to do. They were to roll away the large stone that sealed the tomb, but only Jesus could bring Lazarus back to life.

Thus, after the stone was rolled away, Jesus issued the inward call. Jesus spoke to Lazarus, saying, "Lazarus, come forth" (John 11:43). And he did! The church's responsibility in the outward call is to roll away the stones today. As we call people to faith, we seek to roll away stones of indifference, stones of unbelief, stones of presumption, stones of pride, and stones of procrastination. Our apologetics and our witness enable men and women to be more sensitive to hearing Christ's inward call to their hearts.

Our part is to believe and receive. For the Bible says, "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12).