

Spreading the **WORD** Ministry



THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

As July stretches into August and the sun blazes high in the sky, we find ourselves in what many call the “dog days of summer.” It’s a phrase we’ve all heard—often uttered with a sigh as we wipe sweat from our brows or seek relief in the shade. But have you ever wondered where this curious expression comes from? And more importantly, what might it teach us about endurance, faith, and the divine rhythms of life?

The term “dog days” doesn’t actually come from panting pups sprawled out on porches—though that image certainly fits. Its roots trace back to the stars, specifically to the ancient Greeks and Romans. In ancient times, the “dog days” referred to the period when Sirius, the Dog Star, rose and set with the sun. Sirius is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major—Latin for “Greater Dog.” The ancients believed that the combined heat of Sirius and the sun caused the sweltering weather typical of late July and early August.

However, in many ways, the dog days of summer can be compared to the spiritual trials we all face. Just as the earth endures the scorching sun, we too go through seasons of dryness, fatigue, and testing. The prophet Isaiah spoke of such times, writing:

“When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”
—Isaiah 43:2 (ESV)

The heat of life’s challenges can feel overwhelming. Whether it’s the weariness of daily responsibilities, the burden of grief, or the ache prayers that seem to be unanswered, we all know what it’s like to feel scorched by circumstance. But the Bible reminds us that these fiery trials are not meant to destroy us—they are meant to refine us.

The apostle Paul, no stranger to hardship, offers this encouragement:

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”
—Romans 5:3–4 (ESV)

Hope. That’s the gift hidden in the heat. Just as the dog days eventually give way to cooler breezes and golden leaves, our seasons of struggle are not eternal. They are part of a divine cycle—one that shapes us, strengthens us, and draws us closer to the heart of God.

Consider the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19. After a great victory over the prophets of Baal, Elijah flees into the wilderness, exhausted and afraid. He collapses under a broom tree and prays for death. But God does not rebuke him. Instead, He sends an angel with food and water, saying, “Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.”

In the heat of our own journeys, God meets us with sustenance. Sometimes it’s a word of encouragement, a friend’s kindness, or a moment of peace that reminds us we are not alone. The dog days may be long, but they are not without grace.

There’s another lesson in these dog days of summer—one that invites us to slow down, just like that dog lays on the porch we too must rest. In a society that prizes productivity and speed, the slower pace of summer can feel like a disruption. But perhaps it’s a divine invitation.

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

—Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

Stillness is not idleness. It is a sacred posture of trust. When the heat slows our steps and silences our striving, we are more able to hear the gentle whisper of God. Like the cicadas humming in the trees or the sunflowers turning their faces to the light, we are reminded that creation itself rests in the rhythm of our Creator.

So as we endure the dog days of summer, let us not merely count the days until cooler weather. Let us embrace this season as a time of spiritual renewal. Let us dive into the well of God’s Word, seek shade in His promises, and find rest in His presence.

Let us remember that even in the hottest, hardest days, the light of the Morning Star—Jesus Christ—shines brighter than Sirius ever could.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

—Revelation 22:16 (NIV)

May the dog days draw us not into despair, but into deeper dependence on the One who walks with us through every season.

Stay cool, stay faithful, and keep looking up.

**“So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing
by the **WORD** of God.” Romans 10:17**

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Why We Praise

BY: Dr. Chris Kolker

We’ve all been there:

You’re sitting in church on a hot and steamy Sunday morning. The air is stifling, and the three-year-old boy in front of you won’t quit squirming around. The preacher goes on and on, while your Sunday-best clothes itch more and more. You begin to sweat, and all you want is out of there.

The preacher finally finishes, and the choir belts out:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow....

The heat, having made you tired and cynical, causes you to think, “Why should I praise Him? I’m miserable right now. And why does He need my praises anyway? He sounds like an insecure teenager.”

Maybe the heat makes everyone a theologian, but that is a legitimate question. Why do we have to sing praises to him? He clearly commands us: *Sing praises to God, sing praises; Sing praises to our King, sing praises. Psalm 47:6.*

The answer lies in another story from the pews. Just a few months ago, I had the pleasure of attending a service that also served as a celebration for a pastor who had been at the same church for forty years. Several members came to the front and gave testimonials to his devotion and service. Afterward, the congregants served cake and punch.

What I noticed was the number of smiles leaving the church after the service. Everyone was in a great mood; everyone beamed. But why, I thought? They weren’t being celebrated.

Then the answer hit me: By acknowledging and praising the good, they became part of the good. They approved of the good, and then felt the energy of that good. And thus, they felt the good, too.

And that is why we should praise Him. As the Creator of the universe, God does not need our approval, and He certainly does not need our praise. He is not an insecure teenager.

But if you praise Him, you acknowledge Him. You become part of that good, and you feel its energy. We praise Him because we need to, not because He needs to hear it. The praise is for us, not for Him.

So go ahead and shout praises to God. It is fitting, just, and proper. And the blessings come back to us.

PREACH THE WORD –PREACH THE CROSS

The passing of Bro. Buck, over a year ago, has left a deep void in our hearts, but his legacy continues to shine brightly through the ministry he so faithfully built. *Spreading the WORD* is not only alive—it is thriving. What began as a humble effort to share the Gospel has grown into a global broadcast reaching souls across continents, cultures, and languages.

Each week, **94 thirty-minute broadcasts** go out across radio waves and digital platforms, proclaiming the truth of God’s Word. From small villages to bustling cities, listeners tune in to hear the same powerful preaching that Bro. Buck delivered with conviction and compassion. His voice may be silent, but his message echoes still.

With over **800 archived sermons** *Spreading The WORD* remain available for new broadcast. These messages—rooted in scripture, rich in wisdom, and filled with the Spirit—continue to minister to hearts hungry for truth. Responses and emails pour in from around the world, testifying to lives changed, faith renewed, and hope restored.

What makes this ministry even more remarkable is that it operates entirely through the dedication of **volunteers**. There are no paid employees—only servants of Christ who give their time, talent, and energy to keep the mission moving forward. Their labor is a living testament to the words of Galatians 6:9:

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

As we reflect on Bro. Buck’s life, we are reminded of 2 Timothy 4:2:

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

Bro. Buck lived this verse daily. His preaching was bold, his heart was tender, and his commitment unwavering. Though he has gone on to glory, the seeds he planted continue to bear fruit.

Now, more than ever, *Spreading the WORD* needs our **prayers and financial support**. The harvest is plentiful, and the fields are vast. With your help, this ministry can continue to reach the lost, encourage the faithful, and honor the memory of a man who gave everything to share the Gospel.

Let us carry the torch forward. Let us be the hands and feet that keep the **WORD spreading**. And let us rejoice that, through God’s grace, the message lives on.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” —Romans 10:17



LOOK WHO WE HEARD FROM



Keep up the good preaching and good Southern Gospel Music. I enjoy it ALL and listen to you on Radio Station WBXR. Birmingham, Alabama

Bro Buck:

The first time I heard you, I was delighted. Your speaking speed was my thinking speed! Then I realized I understood and agreed with everything you said. Bakersfield, CA

Bro. Buck,

Thank you Jesus I have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, with his love, in Christ. Blessing after Blessing... Amen..... A Godly Lady