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# The Story of Jesus

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Published By Evangelist Van Billingsley

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## Giving Your All

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“Bless the LORD, O my soul: and **all that is within me**, bless his holy name.” — Psalm 103:1

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This Psalm continues with the words “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:” These benefits are described in the next three verses. “Who forgiveth all thine iniquities” speaks of the Salvation God gives to us. “Who healeth all thy diseases” promises Strength from Him. “Who redeemeth thy life from destruction” tells of the

Safety he provides in this life. “Who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies” assures us of the Supply from Him for all our needs. “Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things” reveals the Satisfaction in following Him. All these things come together “So that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

This gives us much reason to bless the Lord, or praise and magnify Him with “All that is within me!” We should give our all to the one who gives us all!

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## “Extremists”

by *Evangelist Van Billingsley*

Are you an Extremist? We hear this term frequently in the news media and it is normally used in a negative way. Going to the extreme is usually considered going too far, but is this always the case? Is it always going too far or going overboard to go to the extreme with something?

Extreme means, “The furthest or highest degree of something,” or “The point located farthest from the middle of something.” We usually hear groups or individuals described as extrem-

ists when the intent is to portray them as being radical, or going beyond what is acceptable. This is the way “Fundamentalists” are often described, as we discussed in a previous article.

The question to consider is “Extreme what?” If a thought, activity, belief system or even religion has error in it, then the

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# *Our Ministry News...*

## **From the Desk of the Editor**



Another year is rushing to an end as we get into our fall schedule. This is a busy time for our ministry as we make several trips to various meetings and work with several events in our mission church and our home church.

On this third Sunday of October we will celebrate our seventh anniversary at Gospel Light Baptist Mission, our mission church in Valley, AL out of Oakside Baptist Church in LaGrange, GA. During these years we've grown from and extension work with a S.S. class and children's church service, to a mission church reaching out to the rural areas of Chambers and Lee Counties. This area involves two communities known as Beulah and Cusseta which is the rural area between Valley and Opelika, AL. We currently rent a building in the lower area of Valley, AL and if the Lord continues to bless this work, we hope and pray to find a permanent home in the Beulah/Cusseta area. Please pray for us as we minister to the families and the events we have scheduled through the fall and into Christmas.

In other areas of our evangelism, our internet ministry is growing very fast. In our last two issues we reported several new features,

pages and even new sites. Our new site, [IFBsermons.com](http://IFBsermons.com) has many sermons to listen to and we are adding more as fast as my schedule will permit. The new Music Page, which can be accessed from both web sites by either [music.sojministries.com](http://music.sojministries.com) or [music.ifbsermons.com](http://music.ifbsermons.com), has several great musicians featured. This endeavor has really placed a work load on me. I have a stack of CD's to add and there are many others who I'd like to give this service to, but I have a lot of work to do. I hope you will visit these pages and reap the benefits they offer. In addition to these features, I am working with other ministries to provide web services where needed. One of the pages we announced in our last issue, the tribute to the "Greer Baptist Camp Meeting," has been made the official page for the camp meeting and moved to the director's website at [www.joearthurministries.com](http://www.joearthurministries.com). We will continue to develop that page as well.

Please pray for us as we continue to preach the Word of God on the radio, in meetings, at our mission church and strive to do all He places before us as we seek to please Him.

A Servant of Christ,  
Evangelist Van Billingsley

## “Extremists”

(continued from cover) --

extreme will be extreme error. On the other hand, is there anything wrong with being extremely right as in correct? Is there any problem with extreme truth? There is if you do not like the truth! That is the case with many in the world today.


In one sense, “extreme” refers to the distance from the center. In this case we usually have two extremes and when this is applied to beliefs such as political or theological positions, the middle is often considered moderate. Some people believe the moderate position or the center is the “balanced” viewpoint and where one should try to arrive. I’ve heard advice such as “Whenever there are two extremes to a position, the truth usually lies somewhere in the middle.” Is this true? Not necessarily! One of my cherished college professors, the late Dr. Russell Rice used to say, “Where good men disagree, tread lightly!” I consider that wise advise. To begin with, “good men” would mean sound and doctrinally straight. Then, the advise did not say to not tread at all, but to tread lightly, meaning be very careful. So if there are differing opinions or beliefs and some are to the extreme in each

direction, is the correct view somewhere in the middle? Life sure would be simple if this were true.

Without getting too wordy, I’m afraid most subjects do not even have two extremes along a straight line but have three forming a triangle or even more. One great example of this is the Hyper-Calvinist who says you have no choice in your salvation, and the Hyper-Free Will man who says you can pick it up and lay it down at will, then the Easy Believism proponent which is far from either but says if you simply repeat the magic words you are eternally saved. In this case, the truth may be described as somewhere in the middle, but there are more than two extremes.

This issue of balance has been one that has led us far from the truth in the world and the church. The problem is, society and even many Christians want to balance everything, when a balance between right and wrong is still wrong. A middle ground between God and man is far too distant from God. There is nothing wrong with being extremely right, in fact, it is the only way to be right. If it is not extremely right, then it is not right. Truth mixed with a little error is a lie. This is one way to

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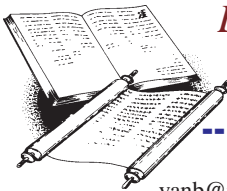
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test truth. Is it still the truth when you take it to the extreme? If you read a religious book and take it to the extreme and you blow up buildings and kill innocent people, then that book is wrong from the beginning. The Word of God, when rightly divided, can be taken to the extreme and it produces righteous and holy living, love toward one another, and love to those who do not believe as well. We should be careful with any doctrine which, when taken to the extreme, leads to error.

We live in a society which says you should not take your Christianity to the extreme. It's alright to be a sports fanatic, or a fanatic over just about anything else, but not a Christian fanatic. The Bible teaches that we should be extreme in our devotion to God and His Word. "With my whole heart have I sought

thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments" (Psalm 119:10). "Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart" (Psalm 119:34). We should be extreme in our praise to God. "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name" (Psalm 103:1). We should be extreme in all our service. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Col. 3:23). "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Ec. 9:10). We should strive to be extreme Christians; we should be extremely pure and holy, extreme soul winners, extreme Bible readers, extreme worshipers and when it comes to our relationship with Christ, we should be extremists!

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*Evangelist Van Billingsley*  
*proclaiming*

**The Story of Jesus**

**-- A Missionary to our Homeland --**

**(334)644-2391 ~ (334)644-4913**

vanb@mindspring.com ~ <http://www.sojministries.com>

1906 South First Avenue, Lanett, Alabama 36863

*Working out of*

*Oakside Baptist Church - LaGrange, Georgia*

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