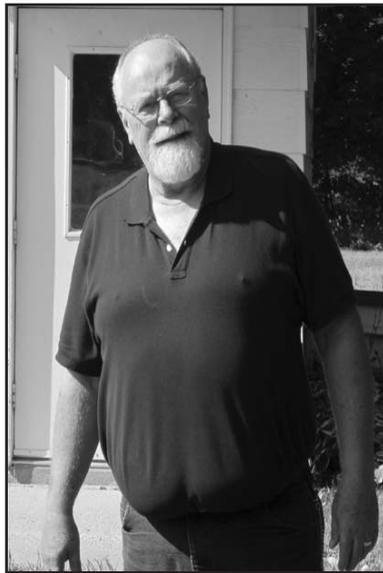


No Problem, Right?

So, you thought that religious folks never have any problems? We have heard some say that if you want a problem-free life all you have to do is get religion. I guess I missed that boat somewhere down the river. Maybe I was at the bus station. After a couple of years fighting with "something not quite right" on Ol' Blue, I finally got her fixed down at Deluxe H-D Restorations and back on the road last fall. I got to put a few hundred miles on before I discovered a flawed rear tire. Half of it had decent tread, and half looked like the top of my head. Reel Brothers HD in Mauston set me up with new rubber and babied Blue through the winter, from whom I took delivery a couple of weeks ago. Of course, I missed all that March summer riding weather! Now it is cold, wet, windy, and spittin' ice, and I have to ride home today. When I left for the truck stop on Tuesday, the temps were in the low fifties, and I thought it was going to get warmer. Huh!



Wednesday evening, I was sitting in the chapel at PETRO when one of the managers came in to tell me something was wrong in my trailer. We went out to find out why the electric had popped a breaker in the main box. I had not left anything on, but there had definitely been a short somewhere and I had no power. When they tried to reset the breaker, smoke began coming out of the connection on the power pole. Something or someone had caused a short which burned up the receptacle and I was without heat or light for the rest of the night. It got pretty cold. Even those employed in the pursuit of God will find that things don't always go smoothly. We don't ride satin pavement. Good thing, too, since yesterday was filled with rain and wet satin is slippery.

This morning, I woke up to a nifty 37 degrees and decided to crawl back under the covers and let things warm up a bit. I had forgotten that biker duds are pretty warm, and the ride home was going to be beautiful. I'll never forget the biker who told me one night at a rally, "You must really be a biker!" He had just seen me and Beverly ride Ol' Blue into town in a cold, pouring rain and assumed that anyone doing so must be really committed to the biker's lifestyle. I guess we are. So, I threw the covers off the bed, dressed and went out the door, threw the cover off of Blue, and put in 50 chillingly beautiful miles on a new rear tire.

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." (Psalm 23:4,5)

God's promise to us is not to take away all of our problems, but to be with us as we face life's dangers. We know that our enemies will not disappear, but that they will become even more opposed to us when we turn our lives to God. The god of this world seeks to kill, steal, and destroy those who recognize Jesus Christ as their Shepherd. God is not helpless in times such as these, and neither are we. We have learned to trust in and rely upon Him for every situation we may face in life, up to, and including, the valley of the shadow of death. When we are in the very presence of our enemies, God provides our every need. For this to be possible, we must turn from sin, and turn to Jesus Christ in faith. Part of believing in Jesus Christ means that we accept His death on the cross as the only sacrifice for our sin, and commit our lives to His constant care and keeping - even in the face of danger, discouragement and death - until we meet Him face to face in heaven some day. That will make this morning's exhilarating ride seem like nothing in comparison.

Pastor Sam Downey
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Pastor Sam Ministry Schedule
for you to check out:
PETRO Truck Stop Chapel, Portage, WI
I-90/94/39 exit 108 (SH 78 exit)
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Chapel
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