

GET KEN BOA'S SELECTED STUDIES

These selected spiritual resource titles are available for 50% off from **Kenboa.org** and are a great resource for personal bible study, small group discussions, or to give to a friend.

50% OFF

Be sure to take advantage of this great offer while quantities last.



How can I believe God is Good?

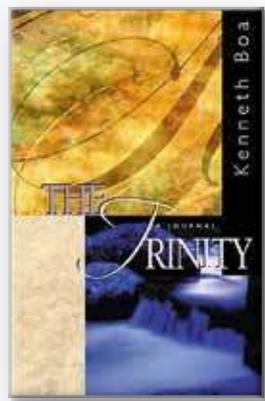
The problem of innocent people suffering is one of the greatest hindrances to believing in a loving, all-powerful God. Dr. Boa tackles perhaps the thorniest question in Christianity in this three-session teaching.

Audio Download – Regular price \$2.99
NOW ONLY \$1.50

Record Your Journey...

...with a devotional tool that guides you through the four-step process of reading, meditation, prayer, and contemplation of ninety Scripture texts that deepen your knowledge of each of the Persons of the Trinity.

Trinity Journal – Regular price \$10,
NOW ONLY \$5



All these items can be ordered through our online bookstore at **KenBoa.org** (www.kenboa.org/shop/) (Georgia residents: please add 8% sales tax)

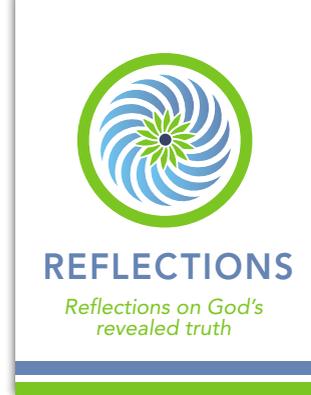


We invite you to visit Ken's website to see the growing number of resources that are available to help you in your thinking and practice. Also previous issues of the *Reflections* newsletter are available on the website.

(Georgia residents: please add 8% sales tax)

www.kenboa.org

Please make your checks payable to Trinity House Publishers.
All prices include shipping and handling.



THE PROMISES OF GOD

CHRISTIANS IN COMMON – Acts 2:42-47

As every parent of two or more children can attest, the concept of “sharing” is a challenge for one to convey. First, there are birthdays and Christmas when little Billy receives presents with his name on them. Billy's interpretation: This gift is MINE. At some point, however, Billy will be asked to share his toy with a brother, sister, or playmate. Hmm. Billy's mental gearwheels spin at this point as he tries to figure out this “mine-but-not-always” idea. But he shares because he knows the toy is coming back—it is still HIS. But the parental flaw that breaks Billy's back comes on the day when he is asked to give away a special toy to a needy child in the church's Christmas gift ministry. Give it away? As in gone forever?

At this point, Billy is officially confused. His favorite toy has gone from mine to mine-but-not-always to mine-but-not-really. We would not fault Billy for calling a “time-out” and asking, “What's going on? Would it be better for me not to get attached to anything in the first place?” At some point, Billy's Mom will give him the answer: “Yes.” If Billy grasps this concept at the family level when he is young, he won't have any problem with becoming a Christian in common with others.

The body of Christ is actually like a family. We have a heavenly Father, an older Brother (Rom. 8:29), and lots of other brothers and sisters—our peers in the faith. When the Holy Spirit was first poured out on believers (Acts 2), one of the first marks of the fellowship in the first faith-family was how they shared everything in common. In fact, the Greek word for fellowship—*koino-*

nia—literally means “that which is common.” As a believer, I share all things in common with my brothers and sisters in the church.

It's a paradox actually. My Father gives everything to me, yet everything I have is not only for my welfare but that of the whole body of Christ—all my brothers and sisters. Sharing isn't easy; giving is even harder. But once the idea of commonality is embraced, living as a Christian in common with others becomes a unique experience.

God's Promise to You:

“My riches will never cease to fill the hand that remains extended to others.”

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Montgomery, AL
Permit No. 275

REFLECTIONS MINISTRIES

One Piedmont Center, Suite 130 • Atlanta, Georgia 30305
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



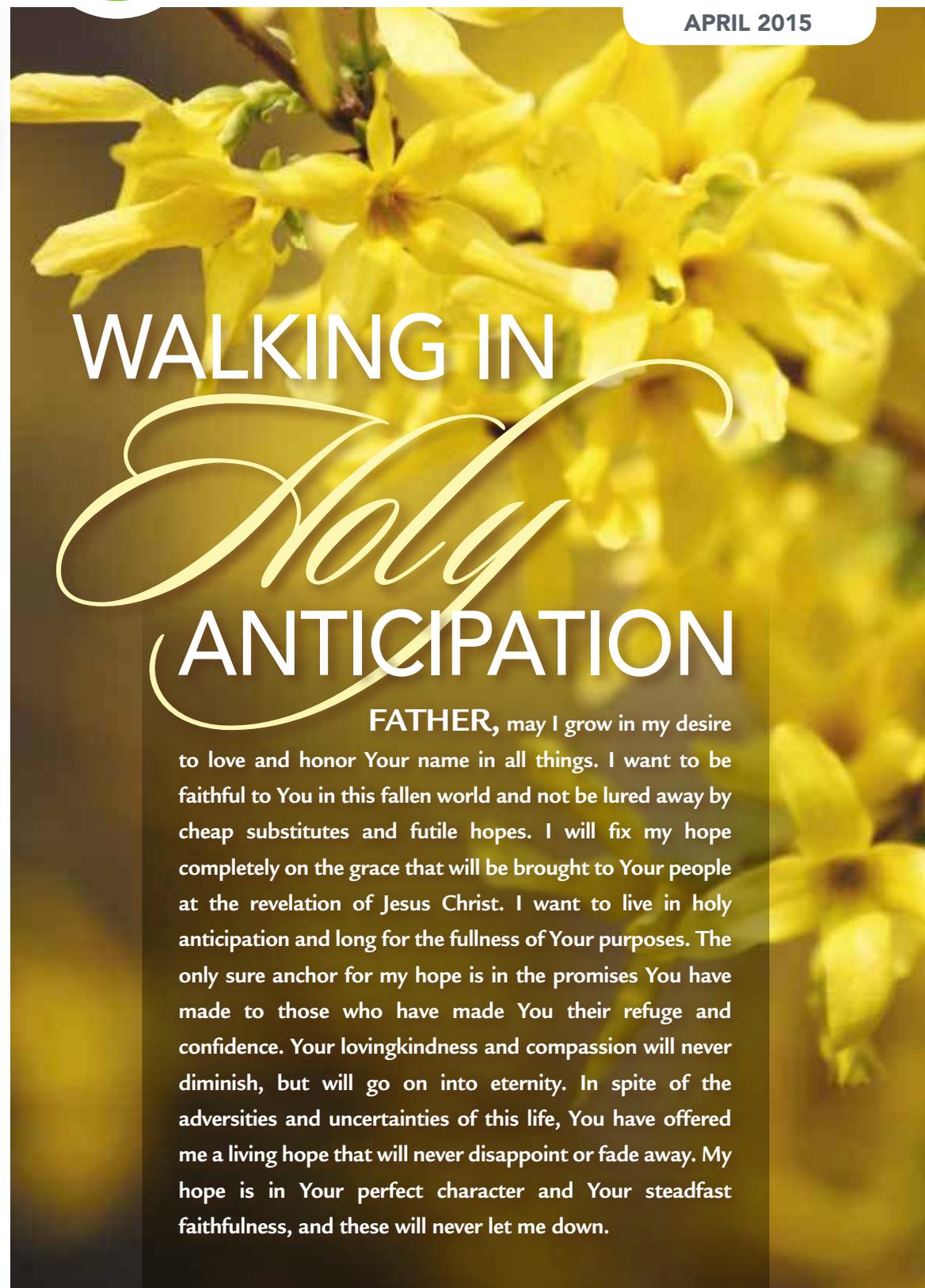
www.kenboa.org



REFLECTIONS

Reflections on God's revealed truth

APRIL 2015



WALKING IN *Holy* ANTICIPATION

FATHER, may I grow in my desire

to love and honor Your name in all things. I want to be faithful to You in this fallen world and not be lured away by cheap substitutes and futile hopes. I will fix my hope completely on the grace that will be brought to Your people at the revelation of Jesus Christ. I want to live in holy anticipation and long for the fullness of Your purposes. The only sure anchor for my hope is in the promises You have made to those who have made You their refuge and confidence. Your lovingkindness and compassion will never diminish, but will go on into eternity. In spite of the adversities and uncertainties of this life, You have offered me a living hope that will never disappoint or fade away. My hope is in Your perfect character and Your steadfast faithfulness, and these will never let me down.

www.kenboa.org

 Biblical teaching for
the heart and mind



THE TEMPORAL AND THE ETERNAL (PART 31)

False Goal #4: Wealth

We have looked at the false goals of pleasure, approval, and fame, and now we explore wealth and power.

Like Dickens' English miser Scrooge, we Americans love money. We always want more of it than we have, and we are willing to do some pretty drastic things to get it. According to authors James Peterson and Peter Kim, 25 percent of Americans would be willing to abandon all of their friends and their church for \$10 million. For the same amount, 23 percent would be willing to become prostitutes for a week, 16 percent would leave their spouses and seven percent would kill a stranger.

Maybe we're not that bad, but it is tempting to displace our faith with Scrooge's golden idol. The world raises wealth as a standard of success, security, and identity, and we buy into it with everything we've got. We believe it when we're told that money is sexy and powerful; it can also make us happy and keep us safe. As this material value system continues to permeate our culture, this standard becomes a central, driving force in the lives of most people, even those who embrace Christian ideologies. We've gotten so far down this road that we can barely see, anymore, that there's any problem in heading this direction.

Our society may be the worst in its focus on riches, but it certainly is not unique among nations, neither in this age nor in the past. The hunger for wealth is a powerful tool of the enemy; it always has been. The apostle Paul said:

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

— 1 TIMOTHY 6:9-10

The greatest danger related to the love of money is that it pulls us away from faith. C.S. Lewis said,

“Prosperity knits a man to the World. He feels that he is finding his place in it, while really it is finding its place in him. His increasing reputation, his widening circle of acquaintances, his sense of importance, the growing pressure of absorbing and agreeable work, build up in him a sense of being really at home on earth.”

If we attain prosperity, the things we are able to purchase may put us at risk of forgetting God. But even if we fail to attain it, we can face the same kinds of problems when we assume that it is a large bank account that will care for us instead of the One who has promised that he loves us and is always willing to provide for our needs, if we would only seek him first.

This doesn't mean that we stop working. Labor is the biblical method for producing prosperity. But again, our focus is what is important. Who or what are we pursuing first? Are we after wealth, or are we after seeing to it that a godly character is built in us? It's not a choice between wealth and integrity. There are wealthy men with great integrity. However, there are also many

people who sacrifice their integrity to gain wealth, and we must refuse to become like them.

The outcome of our pursuits belongs to God, regardless of what we choose to pursue. If we work with excellence and diligence and let him determine the outcome—that is faith. He may bring a great deal of abundance to one person's life and give to another very little. But again, the issue is not the fortune you amass, but the character you build.

It may be difficult for some of us who are very good at business to accept that God may at times ask us to risk the loss of the cutting edge in business when faced with a choice to sacrifice our integrity. We may be offered shortcuts which could produce more profit in less time but that aren't altogether ethical. But doing all of our work as if it were for Christ will cause us to work with greater excellence in the long-run. We'll avoid the short-cuts. We'll seek out contrast in the gray areas that are causing temptation. We'll boldly refuse to sacrifice our integrity and character to gain wealth and status, because wealth and status are not the ends we're pursuing. Wealth and status as ends in themselves will, without a doubt, never be enough to satisfy.

The Psalmist said, “Though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them” (Psalm 61:10). We should be happy to set our hearts on relationships that do not cease, over the golden idol that has a temporal life. May we, like Mr. Scrooge, not find that we've wasted years on the love of money, but throw it generously in the right places instead. God is all about generosity, and we, created in his image should reflect that.

False Goal #5: Power

“Are you seeking great things for yourself? Do not seek them.” — JEREMIAH 45:5 NASB

That's a verse we don't often hear quoted. Why? Probably because it is a little too clear. God is the giver of all good things, and if we are going to attain great things, he is the one who is going to make it happen. Period. Sometimes he will grant that great things happen; other times, he may show his “severe mercy” in taking our “great things” away. But our dependence is to be on him,

not our own power. If our goal is to increase our own personal power, then our goal is in conflict with God's.

The Bible is full of specific instruction to walk humbly, humble yourself, practice your humility, pour yourself out, serve others, put others before yourself. The world is going to tell you that's a waste of time, and it will be yours to decide which you will choose.

The thing is, God has actually created in us a desire to prosper; but an eternal perspective leads us to give to God the power to exalt us (in his time) and to give our hearts and our energy to things God values. In so doing, we avoid worthless things which will let us down in the end.

So then, what causes us to set our sights on power and status? Look at 1 Peter 5:6-8:

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

We devour, hence we become devoured. Interestingly, when Jesus asks us to abandon our own climb to the top and let God be the one to exalt us, he reminds us that, when we do, we can cast our anxiety on him. It may be that we're grasping for power and status because we're afraid. But Jesus says he can handle that. We can let go of this worry, actually cast it off, and throw it away. He can take our unease, our fear—and, better than that, he wants to do it. Jesus isn't afraid to handle everything you fear, even if there's a prowling lion after you. Far be it from me to say, “No thanks, Jesus. I've never tamed lions before or anything, but (arrogant cough) I'll take care of 'im,” as we strut to our certain destruction.

The quest for power over people and circumstances is something that people are often driven to pursue. People have killed over the centuries to gain power. They've done horrible things in order to gain something that feels a lot bigger than it actually is. But Jesus, the most powerful person the world had ever known, was the most humble person who walked this planet. He knew that humility is its own kind of power, a mighty form the world cannot understand.



The Music Will Never End

REFLECTION

<i>I used to think— Loving life so greatly— That to die would be Like leaving a party Before the end. Now I know that the party Is really happening Somewhere else; That the light and the music— Escaping in snatches</i>	<i>To make the pulse beat And the tempo quicken— Come from a long way Away. And I know too That when I get there The music will never End. —Evangeline Paterson</i>
--	---

The saying that “all good things must come to an end” may be true on this earth, but it will not be true of heaven. The sadness of sickness, aging, and death will be swallowed up by our boundless resurrected life in the presence of our Lord and of his people. “Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:57-58).

CREDIT CARD DONATIONS TO REFLECTIONS MINISTRIES
For your convenience, you can now make contributions to the work of Reflections Ministries by credit card. You can call the Reflections Ministries office (404-842-0707) or visit our website (www.kenboa.org) for more information.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF KEN BOA'S MEDIA RESOURCES

You can keep in touch with Ken via Twitter at Kenneth Boa or on Facebook at Kenneth Boa.



Biblical teaching for the heart and mind
A Reflections Ministry

One Piedmont Center, Suite 130, Atlanta, Georgia 30305
404-842-0707 • www.kenboa.org