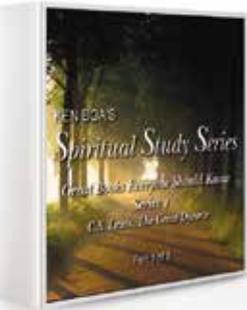


GET SELECT KEN BOA



These selected titles of the Reflections Spiritual Study Series CD SETS are available for 50% off and are a great resource for personal bible study and small group discussions.

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



Great Books Everyone Should Know Series 1

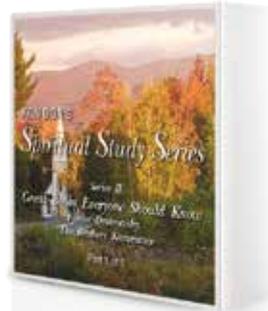
Want to be mentored by some of the greatest Christian minds of the past? Need a little help understanding or previewing some great classics? Dr. Boa provides interesting glimpses into the life of the author, explores the main themes of the book and excerpts important passages. Series includes five CDs covering: 1–*Great Divorce*, C.S. Lewis; 2–*Paradise Lost*, John Milton; 3–*Confessions*, Augustine; 4–*Pensees*, Blaise Pascal; 5–*Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan

(Complete Set of 5 CDs)
Regular Price \$50, **NOW ONLY \$25**

Great Books Everyone Should Know Series 2

Series includes: 1–*The Brothers Karamazov*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky; 2–*Pursuit of God*, A.W. Tozer; 3–*Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis; 4–*Imitation of Christ*, Thomas á Kempis; 5–*Christian Perfection*, Francois Fenelon.

(Complete Set of 5 CDs)
Regular Price was \$50, **NOW ONLY \$25**



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 our **Reflections Ministries** website to see some of the growing number of resources that are available to help you in your thinking and practice.

(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.

REFLECTIONS



MINISTRIES



THE PROMISES OF GOD

THE PAST IS WASHED AWAY – 1 Corinthians 6:11

City-dwellers who attend county fair livestock exhibitions are always most surprised at seeing the pigs. People think pigs belong in a wallow covered with mud—an action reflective of their intelligence, actually. Mud cools them on hot days and protects them from stinging insect bites.

When a pig is identified as having prize-winning potential, it is redeemed from the mud-pit, washed, and ushered into a life of luxury. It is kept in a pristine stall where it is fed, washed, fed, manicured, fed, coddled, and fed. The before-and-after transformation in a set-apart swine is something to behold. Once washed, these hams-on-the-hoof are never allowed back in the mud. A wallow is no place for a clean pig.

Without calling human beings pigs, we can observe several parallels between the life of a prize-winning pig and the redeemed Christian. The apostle Paul uses a variety of terms to describe the wallows that people come out of when finding their way to Christ: Sexual immorality, idolatry, adultery, prostitution, homosexuality, thievery, greed, drunkenness, slander, and cheating. The way pigs use mud, it's the nature of the human species to cover itself with all sorts of defensive lifestyles as protection against the heat and bug bites of life. But because God sees His image in us, He redeems us from the wallows in which we live. He washes us (Heb. 10:22) and declares us holy (Col. 3:22), making us righteous in His sight (Rom. 5:1).

Paul's language is like a farmer explaining to his prized pig why it can't be allowed back in the mud: "... that is what some of you were." The verb "to be" has no action—

it simply describes our former condition. The Greek tense Paul uses means we continually were those things as a way of life. But then he switches to a different verb tense when he says "you were washed . . . sanctified . . . justified"—meaning that they were, at a point in time, taken out of those lifestyles, not to return.

Salvation for the believer means being taken out of one environment—where sin and uncleanness is a natural way of life—and transferred into another. What we "were" is no longer to be what we "are," for we are now God's own possession.

God's Promise to You:

"As the object of my love, I will keep you from returning to your past."

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



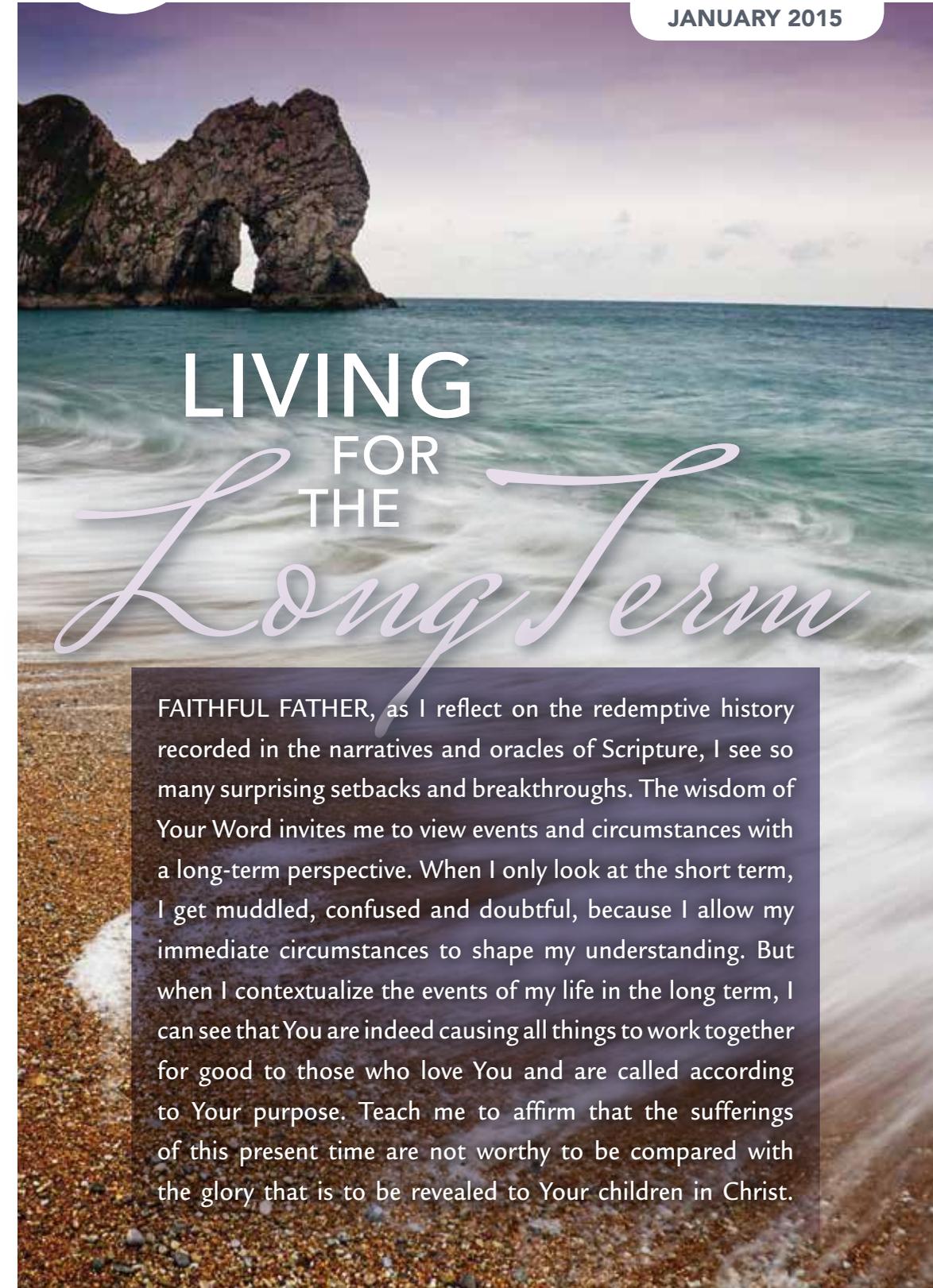
www.kenboa.org



REFLECTIONS

Reflections on God's revealed truth

JANUARY 2015



LIVING FOR THE

Long Term

FAITHFUL FATHER, as I reflect on the redemptive history recorded in the narratives and oracles of Scripture, I see so many surprising setbacks and breakthroughs. The wisdom of Your Word invites me to view events and circumstances with a long-term perspective. When I only look at the short term, I get muddled, confused and doubtful, because I allow my immediate circumstances to shape my understanding. But when I contextualize the events of my life in the long term, I can see that You are indeed causing all things to work together for good to those who love You and are called according to Your purpose. Teach me to affirm that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to Your children in Christ.

www.kenboa.org

 Biblical teaching for the heart and mind



HOPING IN THE WRONG THINGS

THE TEMPORAL AND THE ETERNAL (PART 28)

Ask yourself this question, and give yourself an honest answer: If left to yourself, do you meditate on what's true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, reputable, excellent, and praiseworthy? Does your mind gravitate toward those kinds of things? No, no one's mind naturally goes in that direction without practice. If we're not careful, we're going to end up with our focus on the opposite end of all these godly values. Watch the news or read a newspaper. Those things don't sell by focusing on the true, the good, and the beautiful of God's wondrous creation. To the contrary, they sell by titillating and feeding the carnal temptations of our flesh.

Sadly, we are often far too sloppy regarding the things that matter. We tolerate more than we should and seldom practice any serious self-

If we are not careful, our focus will be on the opposite end of godly values. Watch the news or read a newspaper. Those things don't sell by focusing on the true, the good, and the beautiful of God's creation.



control. We allow the input of a form of wisdom which is not from God and fail to train our minds in God's wisdom. (And this bottom-up system is a form of wisdom. There's no need to deny it. Just as the serpent in the Garden of Eden was described as more cunning than all the beasts of the field, so is this wisdom shrewd.)

And it *has* snuck in. It's been so quiet that we didn't even notice that it was becoming the dominant worldview in our country, even among Christians. But it is. In another 2003 survey conducted by George Barna, it was revealed that only 4 percent of American adults employed a biblical worldview as the basis for their decision-making. Among Christian groups, the figures were only slightly higher, none of them exceeding 13 percent with a biblical worldview.

By contrast, God's wisdom is first holy and pure. It doesn't have any hidden agendas, and it doesn't play by two sets of rules. Kierkegaard said that purity of heart is to will one thing. By practicing this focus of will, speaking to ourselves and training our faith, we gain a heavenly wisdom. That wisdom is peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, and without hypocrisy. What you see is what you get. It doesn't waiver. It commits to a truth and then clings to it. This wisdom causes its adherents to keep their promises, even when it hurts.

So as you go on to move toward God and turn away from these attitudes of jealousy and selfish ambition, you become a renewed person who demonstrates mercy, good fruits and an unwavering desire to avoid hypocrisy. These are the fruits of a thought life that is disciplined and focused on eternity. We make the choice to conquer, in ourselves, the disorder and jealousy and every evil thing and choose that which produces harmony and peace.

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive

every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

— 2 CORINTHIANS 10:5

The battle must first be fought in our minds. Of course, other battles will ensue. There will be battles for our affections when what we want strives to overtake what we believe. And there will be battles in practice, when we find that acting on our beliefs is a little more difficult than we had anticipated. But training ourselves in faith, knowing what we believe, and reminding ourselves of the reasons we came to a decision of faith in the first place, can hold us steady and spur us on. And, as C. S. Lewis points out, it can keep us from being "just a creature dithering to and fro, with its beliefs really dependent on the weather and the state of its digestion.... [O]ne must train the habit of faith."

The Ripple Effect

A friend of mine who owns a construction company was involved in the bidding to construct an aquarium, an enormous project that would likely have resulted in big profits for him. But after he had committed to take the job, it was realized that one of his most trusted employees had made a terrible mistake and submitted a bid that turned out to be outrageously unrealistic. The company had committed, sure; but who keeps a promise they didn't mean to make? Earthly wisdom would have told my friend, "keep an eye on your bank account and make a decision that's going to build it up." There comes a point for all of us, however, at which we are forced to make a choice between what ultimately serves only us and what serves the One we claim to be serving. My friend was at that point, and he made his choice.

[L]et your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. — MATT. 5:37

He led the charge in going ahead with the project as promised. He did the work for the price on the accepted bid, even though it would end up costing him huge financial loss. He had the option of backing out. There were loopholes. He could have reneged on the arrangement legally if he had wanted to. Yet the words of God that had been

planted in his mind and heart now seemed to be speaking back to him; something within him was saying that he had made a commitment, and that mattered more than the money. It wasn't about his own interests. It was about something more.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. — PSALM 19:14

My friend is not a perfect person. None of us are. But something happens when the meditation of your heart and mind has an eternal focus. In his case, he caught that integrity was critical, and an eternal kind of ethics flowed from his eternal focus. He had given his "yes," and it would not be a "no." He kept his promise, even when it hurt (Psalm 15:4), because something told him that, all things considered, keeping his word was of a higher importance.

The irony is that sometimes what we lose here on earth provides for gain in eternity. I don't know if he eventually gained back all the money he lost on that deal, but I wouldn't be surprised if he had. And I wouldn't be surprised to find there were believers on the other side of the negotiating table when the deal was finished because of the courage and faith my friend demonstrated.

When he chose to turn his business decision into a step of faith, something happened. Suddenly, the decision wasn't just about him and another company he was doing business with. Suddenly, the decision was about the Kingdom of God. When he abandoned the desire to do what was right just for him, a ripple effect was created.

If we train our hearts and minds in the principles of God's eternal wisdom, we will be changed. We will face decisions differently. We may be able to make bold choices like my friend did when opportunities to do so arise, and our actions, too, may ripple into eternity. If we fail to train in faith, that other wisdom will sneak in. It's inevitable. Maybe it already has in your life. But it's not too late. You can face your reflection down and yell at the selfishness, bitterness and envy you see and demand that it "go away and never return." There is no fear in doing so, because the Master looks after us now.

I like to tell the tale of the airplane that had four people and only three parachutes. There was the pilot, a genius, a minister, and a Boy Scout. When the engine caught fire and the plane began to go down, the pilot ran out, grabbed one of the parachutes, and bailed out. The genius stood up and said, "I am the world's smartest man! The world needs what I have to offer." He grabbed one and jumped out, leaving the minister and the scout. The minister told the boy, "Your whole life is before you—take the last parachute." The scout answered, "Don't sweat it, mister—the world's smartest man just bailed out with my backpack!" In a very real sense, the world is going down in flames, and people are putting their hope in the backpacks of works, merit, possessions, position, and power. But the gospel tells us that the only true parachute is Jesus Christ.

We need to remember what is at stake. "He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life" (1 John 5:12). The stakes associated with the message we share are high, for they involve nothing less than people's eternal destiny.

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 [KennethBoa](https://twitter.com/KennethBoa) or on Facebook at [Kenneth Boa](https://www.facebook.com/KennethBoa).

A teaching letter of

