These were the final four words of the opening invocation of a recent NASCAR race in Nashville, Tennessee. Joe Nelms of the Family Baptist Church in Lebanon, Tennessee offered what is called NASCAR's "best prayer ever." In the one minute prayer, Mr. Nelms addressed God as his "Heavenly Father." One could say Mr. Joe was thankful. He thanked God for "Dodies," "Toyotas" and "Fords," for "Sunoco racing fuel and Goodyear tires," and for "GM performance technology and RO7 engines." If these specific references known by the racing world were not enough to cause reverently bowed heads to begin looking up over their sunglasses, Mr. Nelms brought laughter to the faces of many when he thanked God for his "smokin, hot wife... Lisa," and their two children Eli and Emmi, "who we call the little E's." Then, he closed it all by saying, "in Jesus (sic) name, boogity, boogity, boogity, Amen."

If "paster Joe" wanted to identify with the racing crowd, he certainly accomplished his goal. If he wanted to show that professing Christians have a sense of humor, he certainly brought smiles, even laughter to many listeners. But if prayer is to be offered desiring that God's name be hallowed or set apart in the minds of petitioners, Mr. Nelms failed miserably.

Jesus taught us to not only recognize God as our "Heavenly Father" in prayer, but also desire God's name be "hallowed" or set apart from that which is common. "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name" (Matthew 6:9). Joe Nelms
looked beyond the Holy God in order to identify with the racing crowd, instead of leading the praying public into the presence of a Holy God.

If Mr. Nelms were trying to identify with his audience, why bring in his own wife and children into the prayer? Why speak of his wife as "smoking hot?" What godly images in the minds of praying men did this promote? And what is this "boogity" business at the end of his prayer. The racing crowd understood the connection. In Will Ferrell's 2006 movie, Talladega Nights, his character prays at the dinner table thanking God for his "red hot smokin wife, Carley." And Derrell Waltrip, the former race driver, now turned announcer is known for his statement to get the races going: "Boogity, boogity, boogity. Boys, lets go racin." Mr. Nelms went beyond leading others in prayer, to personally thanking God for his own personal blessings. The prayer was not about talking to a Holy God in reverence, but identifying with the secular racing culture with humor.

Paul became all things to all men in order to save some (1 Corinthians 9:22). But not one time did he sacrifice promoting the Holy God for humor. The Joy of the Christian is always manifested in the context of living holy in the presence of the Holy God (1 Peter 1:8, 14-15).

"Boogity" is the sound of galloping horses racing across the turf. In the laughter, was Jesus' holy name reverenced, or did it give way to: "boogity, boogity, boogity?"

Jerry Fite
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"I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness"

Psalms 84:10
Introduction:

God does not wish that any man or woman would perish in their sins but that all would come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Repentance is the idea of turning away from a former life of sin to a life of righteousness and justice. You will only be moved to repentance through Godly sorrow over your sinful lifestyle of the past (see 2 Corinthians 7:9-10). The Bible tells us that all sin and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We can all be forgiven of our sin yet it takes an initial understanding that I need forgiveness to seek it out. This lesson is designed to help you understand that God has delivered a law that identifies sin and its consequences. The lesson will help you see your need for forgiveness and to help you develop a faithful disposition that will cause you to remain faithful all the days of your life.

I. Understanding the Bible:
   A. The Bible is not a book that is overly difficult to understand (Deuteronomy 30:12; Romans 10:8).
   B. A look at hermeneutics throughout history.

II. Proberly Identifying Truth:
   A. The perspective of man.
   B. Truth is the gospel (Ephesians 1:13).
   C. Truth is "The Faith" (Jude 3).
   D. To say that we cannot know truth is to say that we cannot know Jesus (John 14:6).
   E. The truth, gospel, Faith, is a law (see Romans 3:27; 8:2; Galatians 6:2; 1 Corinthians 9:22; James 1:25; 2:12).

III. How to Study Truth / Gospel / The Faith / Law:
   A. Consider context and all that the Bible has to say on a given subject.
   B. Know that God communicates His divine will through commands, inference, and example.
   C. Learn to respect God's silence (Hebrews 7:11-14).

Conclusion:

Those who ultimately receive the greatest treasure the world has ever known, i.e., the forgiveness of their sins by the grace of God, do so because they are of the mind that God’s word alone instructs man to salvation. If you are reading this lesson yet do not believe that God’s word will be the final judge of your life then it probably has not helped you much. If; however, you have read this study and realize that it is only by opening your Bible and giving an honest effort to read, understand, and obey its laws that you will be saved then you have benefited. Too many today make the grave mistake of saying, “We cannot understand the Bible,” or “God’s grace will cover all my sins therefore I do not have to know all that the Bible teaches.” Others refuse to silence their personal opinions, convictions, and consciences (see Habakkuk 2:18-20; Zephaniah 1:7; Zechariah 2:13; Acts 3:22-23). Don’t make these grave and eternal errors. Hear, believe, confess that Jesus is the Christ, repent of your sins, be buried with Christ in baptism and walk in newness of life. Will you obey the words of Jesus this day?