

The Way of Truth



Vol. 75

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

No. 2

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Theme of 2016 Cayman Convention:

"In Tough Times, In All Times—God"

For a report, turn to page 19.

SETTING THE RIGHT EXAMPLE

WE READ in I Corinthians 11:1: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." Also, in Philippians 4:9, "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

In the days in which we are living, we find many more bad examples in the world than we do right examples. This is true in many homes, as well as society as a whole. The Scriptures teach clearly that parents are responsible to teach and to train their children in the fear of God. So many parents are failing to do that, and that is why many children and young people are living as they are now.

We find the word *teaching* in both the Old Testament and in the New that parents are to teach their children to "fear God, and keep his commandments." To do this, parents need to live the right kind of life before them, for you teach what you do.

The church has the mission of being right examples: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house" (Matthew 5:14, 15).

We are saved, not only to escape hell and gain heaven, but to fill the place and perform the work that God has assigned us. Paul informs us, "God set the members every one of them in the body, as it has pleased him" (I Corinthians 12:18). We have a mission to fulfill. What then is our mission?

We are to exhibit the character of Christ. We are to exhibit His holiness, purity, and righteousness before the eyes of all with whom we come in contact with. "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:16). "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).

Jesus Christ is not here in person, but His church represents Him in the world, and it is intended to be a medium through which He can disseminate light and truth. "But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem [home], and in all Judaea [surrounding area], and in Samaria [other states], and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Endeavoring to attract souls to Christ.

The Bible says that it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. But how many have been won to the Lord by the godly life of a saint of God? I heard the story told of a man who attended a revival service and went to the altar to be saved. After the service was dismissed and the man was leaving, the evangelist standing in the back said to him, "I am curious; what did I say in the message that made you want to get saved?" The man said, "It was not anything you said that made me want to get saved! I have a neighbor and I have watched how he lived for years, and I wanted what he had."



May God help us as individuals and as the collective body of the Church of God to do our very best to exhibit publicly that pure life of Christ, so that souls may be attracted to Him. "You are the epistle of Christ, known and read of all men" (II Corinthians 3:2).

In the sectarian realm of dead, formal religion, where they are taught that we are all sinners, and we sin more or less every day, men can do many things that are wrong and people think nothing about it. But let one of God's saints who are to live holy, deviate from the plain path, or even make an honest mistake, and it is noticed and talked about.

One of the many ways we are to be an example is in unity. Unity must not only be taught and preached, but it must be lived. God is against division. In the Lord's prayer in John 17, Jesus prayed for His disciples to be one: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20, 21). It is no wonder that Satan fights unity among God's people so hard! He doesn't want people to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I do not speak of unity with false religion. Paul makes it clear that we are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? "Come out from among them." Paul heard that there was division among the saints at Corinth, and he asked them, "Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were you baptized in the name of Paul?" Paul told them that they were all to speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among them.

The importance of right living cannot be overstressed. The duty of every man and woman in the church is to live right. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1, 2). Someone said, "The first place to demonstrate that you are a Christian is in your home." Husbands should be an example to their wives and children, and wives should be an example to their husbands and children. The greatest revival needed today, in many cases, is revival in the home.

Can you say, can I say, as Paul did, "Follow me, as I follow Christ"? If we follow Christ, we will walk that narrow way that leads to eternal life, and we will be an example to others to do the same. The importance of right living will be fully realized when the shadows of death are gathering about us. Right living will bring consolation and sweet assurance in the hour of death. Remember, sin is never the right example. †

ABOUT THE COVER

Every November the Church of God congregations on the island of Grand Cayman host their annual Convention. On our front is a photo of a Cayman sunset. With inspiring services experienced in a tropical environment, visitors receive a unique spiritual blessing. Highlighted by a report, pictures and selected messages through this magazine, some of those blessings splash over onto our readers.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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Devoted to the gospel of our loving Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave freely His life-blood, to save us from our many sins, to sanctify our fallen nature and to bring into one body all true believers, by whose stripes we are healed.

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—Alvin A. Craig, Editor

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In Tough Times, In All Times—God

2016 Cayman Convention Message by Bro. James Arch



IT IS GOOD to see everyone here this morning. I'm thankful to be here. Every day that I live, the more I thank God for another gift. Every day is a gift. Every morning when I get out of bed and can talk, walk, and eat, and look out of the front door at the beautiful world that the Lord has given us, I say, "Thank you, Lord." I suppose I might sound rather monotonous with that, but that's what I believe in.

Don't wait till you get 99 years old to try to find out how to live. Live while you have life now, because it goes by quickly. There are many people who don't like to tell you their age. Sometimes I do get it out of them without them even knowing. I met a person yesterday whom I've known from the time I was a child. I said, "You're about 65 now?" He looked at me and said, "You know, I'm 82." "Thank you, Sir." I wanted to find out how old he was.

Thank God, I'm not discouraged. I have problems, too, but I have never allowed my problems to take me away from the Lord. I told someone here a couple of weeks ago that I wasn't discouraged. Do you remember the saying about the wise old owl? "There was an old owl who lived in an oak; The more he saw, the less he spoke; The less he spoke, the more he heard; Why can't we be like that wise old bird?" May the Lord help us to live close to Him.

Seven members of this congregation passed away since the second day of April this year. Sickness has really taken a toll on this congregation. Included in the number who passed away was Bro. Ransford Reid. In thinking about them, I think it would be good for us to stand for a minute in memory of those who have gone on in quite a short time.

It has been a custom here, as well as in other congregations, that we develop a theme (a central thought) for the convention. It doesn't mean that it is an ironclad rule that it must be preached on, but it's a thought that brings us to some relevance with the times that we are in. This particular theme this week is basically not a doctrinal theme, but it is a most motivational one. I trust it will help all of us, for I need it as much as you do.

For the sake of those who are here, I will read the scriptures which go along with the theme. The first scripture is more of an evangelistic thought, of course, and the second scripture is a thought that comes from the apostle Paul who has proven God. He said, "For I know whom I have believed." The first text is taken from Romans 10:9-13: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt [It doesn't say may.] be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. or the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Isn't that hope? Isn't that something for the unsaved world to look forward to? This is a very evangelistic thought.

Paul said in II Timothy, chapter 1, and part of verse 12, which is the other scripture that goes along with the theme, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

The apostle Paul said to the Ephesians at Ephesus, "I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God; therefore, I am free from the blood of all men." That is what he said to them. So when you do your part and know that the Lord is with you, hold your head up high. Don't let the devil bring you down.

CHRISTIANITY IS UNDER ATTACK

Let me tell you something, as someone said here already this morning, Christianity is under attack. In many cases in the world, Christianity is becoming just a word, but it is a wonderful life. We have a responsibility to God. This doesn't all rest on God. We have a responsibility to acknowledge our dependency on Him. We need the Lord, too. Whether you are a Christian or not, everyone needs the Lord. Don't believe you're on the level that you don't need Him any more. We need the Lord. It is our responsibility to seek Him, to believe on Him, and know what He can do for us. The Bible tells us, "Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." So God rewards the sinner with salvation. He rewards the Christian with many things. I will tell you something before I go any further: If you live right for the Lord, there are people who might not like you, and might not want to have anything to do with you, but you cannot let that stop you. Many did not like Jesus. They eventually crucified Him. So don't worry about people who might not like you. It will always be that way.

It is our responsibility to God to be sure that we are clear and clean before Him. The Bible tells us, "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." That is something we have to do. Yes, we must understand our limitations. We must understand who we are; we must understand we are human beings; and so, we have limitations. Rely on God. Depend on God. Trust in God. Then we must understand what God can do. Once we do our part, God does His. God honors those who honor Him.

God listens to us and hear us. He understands where we are; He understands what we're going through; He understands what we're facing, too. He knows all of that, but He listens and hears us. God blesses. It is His nature to bless us. That is why we're here this week. It is His nature to bless us. He delivers and cures us from a life of sin. Then He keeps us going. It is one thing to start off with the Lord, and it is another thing to finish with Him.

I have a lot of time to preach this morning, so as long as I'm here, try to believe what I'm saying. Let us get something out of this convention, because it is for all of us. I know I'm not going to say anything you probably haven't heard before. You know, I wonder sometimes if I'm preached out. I wonder sometimes if anyone is listening; but I must do my part, regardless of who might cut their eye after me, or who doesn't like Bro. James for what he stands for. There are people in Cayman who pass me by, but it makes no difference to me. Stand for what is right. The theme of the convention is intended to convey several thoughts and reminders that I hope will help the whole church.

Do you know what Jesus said? "The gates of hell shall not prevail against the church that I am building," but He did not say that there wouldn't be a fight. Paul called it a good fight. He told the young man, Timothy, "Fight the good fight of faith." Paul also said, "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal," so he wasn't talking about a machete or a sword. This is not a carnal fight nor a fist fight. We must fight the devil. In fighting the devil, we might not know from whence the source is coming. The devil uses people, too. God did not promise a smooth ride all the time, but He promised grace and power. Who but God can take a human being out of the world of filth, give him the power to stand up for what is right, and to live for the Lord?

IN TOUGH TIMES

Let me tell you something, if I live till next month, it will be 50 years since I've been in this congregation, and I haven't found anything wrong. This is just as good as ever, thank God! You have to keep going. You have to keep yourself oiled up. Let the Holy Spirit use your life.

God did not say that people couldn't be saved in tough times. Nothing is impossible with God to those who believe. So times will always be changing, but that doesn't mean that righteousness would not be relevant. I know we're living in changing times, and serious times, too, that the Bible speaks about, but these are not the only times that have been tough. These are the times we're in. Yes, tough times have always been.

Moses saw tough times, but God fought his battles. Moses had tough times with people. They complained about him. They were murmuring and complaining. "You brought us out of Egypt where the good things were and brought us here to die in the wilderness." Yes, Moses had tough times. He led the children of Israel across the Red Sea as the Egyptians were coming after them. Do you think that was nice? Tough, but God was there. God fought their battles for them. In fact, Moses said to the people at the Red Sea, "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord." Moses wasn't afraid. They were, but he wasn't afraid.

Elijah saw tough times. Do you know that we are human beings? Sometimes there are things that are hard to take. Sometimes there are tough and unexpected things that you go through in life. Elijah's humanity broke. He couldn't take the threat from Jezebel. He went underneath the tree. He had enough, but thank God, the angel was always there. God is never late. God is always on time. Thank God!

Nehemiah saw tough times. He didn't have it so smooth, either. He had a group of people who had a mind to work, but he had those who didn't like what they were doing. Let me tell you, everything that they could do to oppose Nehemiah and to work against what he was doing, they did. Those people even laughed at Nehemiah. They scoffed and mocked him, but Nehemiah kept on building. He kept on going. He kept including God. He never ran from God. He saw God and not Sanballat, nor Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites. He never saw them. He saw God and who He was.

Jehoshaphat saw tough times. He came to the place where he said, "God, I don't know what to do." We don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon God. Take your eyes off what you are looking at in this world today. If you look at what you see, you might get discouraged; if you look at what you hear, you might get discouraged; if you look at people who failed God, you might get discouraged. Keep focused on the Lord. God came through for Jehoshaphat, too.

The early morning church saw tough times. I won't have time to go into all of what they went through, but they saw some very tough times. They went through severe persecution, martyrdom, and other things. Do you know what the New Testament says? If you will read the book of Acts, you will find that the more persecution they went through, the more they flourished. You can read about them in Paul's writing. Friends, you have to keep on pushing.

Paul also saw tough times. What a man! He saw tough times. We won't have time today to talk of all that Paul went through, but you can read it in your own words. He was beaten with rods, stoned, and suffered shipwreck. He was in perils on the high seas. He found himself in perils of robbers, in perils by his own countrymen, in perils in the wilderness and in the city, in weariness and in pain, in hunger and thirst, in cold and nakedness, and even among false brethren. Paul also had the load and the responsibility of all the churches. In all of Paul's tough times, he was able to say, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

I have told the church here that they need to be more than an onion skin Christian. There's not anything much thinner than onion skin. Don't be an onion skin Christian or you won't make it through. You have to be strong. Paul continued to say, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Paul triumphed, and he won the battle. When Paul came to the place of leaving this old world, he said, "I am now ready." He didn't have to run around asking forgiveness from people. Sometimes we don't get the chance to go and ask people for forgiveness. We have to live right, and we wouldn't die wrong. Paul had it right: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." If some people give others a bad shake hand, they backslide over it. They give up on God. You have to have thicker Christianity than that. That is not the kind of Christianity God gives us. You have to have more than that.

OLDEN DAYS SAW TOUGH TIMES

The pioneers of the church had tough times. A few minutes ago, I think Bro. Norman spoke of Bro. D. S. Warner. He was a pioneer of the church. Bro. D. S. Warner promoted oneness and unity in the church. He died at a young age, but he did leave something behind that we can still follow. The early morning pioneers of the church traveled in covered wagons and on horseback. They had little or no conveniences to live on. They used lamplight and firewood.

In Cayman, the pioneers slept on plantain trash mattresses and used fowl-feathered pillows. They had thatch roof houses, but they still had God. They lived for God. In those days, even some of the old sinner people lived good moral lives. They had a good standard of dress. Do you know we have some sinner people who wouldn't wear what some Christians are wearing? Excuse me, I should say, some professors. You have some people in the world who wouldn't wear what some professing people are wearing. Some churches are going that way now, too. They're trying to win the world, but the world is winning them. Don't be ashamed to dress yourself. That is a part of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yes, the pioneers had little or no conveniences. They were poor, but they had a better quality of life than what some people have today. At least, they didn't have any bills. They had time for the Lord.

You can read about the early camp meeting days. That is where camp meetings first began. The pioneers used tents out in the woods. During those camp meetings, they would go in the woods between services to pray. That is how it once was. We wonder where the power is? That is where the power was. They had tough times, but they survived. I often think of what the old people here in Cayman and in other places went through in life and survived.

As I said earlier, the main focus of this theme for the convention is to show our ourselves and others what God can do. Paul proved who this God was. He successfully ran the race. Have you ever thought of Paul's words, "I am now ready" that I mentioned earlier in this message? "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

A lot of people out in the world do not believe what I'm preaching here this morning. Not everyone believes

in the church. There are people in the world today who do not care about righteousness. They don't care about living nice and good. That is what it's all about. That is why Jesus came into the world. If I had to live the same kind of old life that I was living, it wouldn't make sense. Jesus came to give us something no one else could give us. He came to change our lives around and to give us something to stand on. Christ is the Rock.

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

TOUGH TIMES STILL

You can't live a life on rubbish; you can't live a life on resentment, hatred, and malice. Your life has to be clean. God doesn't build a life on rubbish. That is why some people do not like the church. Yes, the God on the mountain is still the God in the valley with us. Thank God, you don't stay in the valley. Tough times come and tough times go. People who mean business with God live through tough times. They conquer tough times. They might have to cut their bread in two, but a half of bread is better than none. A man said to me while looking for a job, "A half of bread is better than none."

Sometimes we need to remind ourselves of the God we serve and believe in and trust and reverence. I wonder if we're giving God enough adoration. I tell the church here all the time that we don't appreciate nature enough. The creative work of God and what He has done is a mystery. So is life! It is a mystery. The new birth is a mystery. Jesus told Nicodemus, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." So is the mystery of salvation. We didn't see the wind here in 2004, but we saw what it did. Do you remember that hurricane? I wouldn't want to see another one like it. We didn't see the wind, but oh! I heard a man say that every sound under the sun he heard through the night. The wind was like dogs barking and cats squealing. Every sound could be heard. What a thing it was! So is the mystery of godliness.

I asked the church here a couple days ago, Do you see what evil people out in the world are doing? The prisons are running over. Do you see what the devil is doing? Why can't we talk sometimes about what God is doing? Look at what He is doing. Look at the lives He has touched and lifted up. God has given people a love for Him. Church, don't let it die out. Your little light can flicker and go dim. You have to keep your lamps trimmed like the old people used to do with the wicks. You have to clean off the shade or the light won't be bright. Clean out whatever is not right. That is how we go.

Before we were, God was. "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." God doesn't change. He doesn't get weary. He doesn't rust out. We come and go. Our little car will

come and go and rust out. Our little refrigerator will come and go, but God is still here! He's not going. "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psalm 90:2).

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD

When we consider the life that I'm talking about right now, and the existence of God, do you know what the Psalmist said? "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works." People have found out a lot about the human body. There are a lot of things you can eat and shouldn't eat. You should eat this and that for certain illnesses. But they cannot make a man or a woman. God made man. The Bible says He made male and female, and He gave the woman to the man. I believe the Bible. That is what I live by. God said, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother [two different people], and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." That is the Bible. We're living in serious times and very tough times. Some things the church is facing today, it hasn't faced before in history. That is so.

If you move to the other side of the world, God is there. Psalm 139:9, 10: "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me." Some people try to run from themselves. They run from home, from one place to another. You can't run from yourself.

Let me tell you, Friends, God is bigger than us. When we look around and view the wonders of nature in the world, we see God. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handy-work" (Psalm 19:1). We had a super moon last week. It will be years before we will see it again. That was the closest to earth than it has ever been in years. "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard" (Psalm 19:2, 3). It makes no difference what kind of language is spoken. You can feel the presence of God. God moves on people's hearts. Whether we understand what they're saying or not because of the different languages they speak, they can still feel the presence of God. That is how it is. Regardless of where we go, God is there.

When we get into problems, God is there. Have you ever seen as many problems as there are in the world today? Problems, problems, and problems! The phone doesn't stop ringing. Sometimes before eight o'clock in the morning, you hear about problems—this problem—that problem. The Bible tells us something about that, too: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early."

Don't let anyone take your crown. Don't let the devil rob you of your life. Hold on to God! Ask Him to give

you more joy. "Oh, Bro. James, if you knew what I was going through." Suppose you knew what I was going through! Everyone has problems. "Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. There is a river [Thank God for the grace of God.], the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her [There are some things that only God can do. He can do what an aspirin can't do.]; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early."

When the devil begins to let you wonder about some things, you have to watch him. He'll get you. He'll make you ask all kinds of questions. I told someone recently, don't ask me where God came from. God was and ever will be! Before anything else, I mentioned awhile ago, there was God. I know there is a God. I know what He did for me that no one else could do. When some people think about natural disasters, poverty, war, etc., they begin to question God. They ask, "Where is God now?" He hasn't moved. Moses said, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Underneath all these questions, there is a God, the Mastermind of this universe. We're not God. We could never be God. So if we knew it all, we would be like God. There was a tsunami warning in another part of the world last night. They said that it was a small one. A tsunami is a fearful thing. That is nature at work. That is how the world is made. Hurricanes come by here. They can't be tied with a rope. It will always be. All we can do is to stay clear of them.

WHEN WE FEEL FORSAKEN

When we feel like our friends have left and failed us, we wonder if we have any left at all. They left Paul, too. A lot of them left Jesus. Some of Jesus' own people left Him. They went away and walked with Him no more. You talk about these days? These are not new days. That will always be. Sometimes people make you wonder about the things they do and the decisions they make in life. We cannot fight against God.

Paul said, "All men forsook me. Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also [There are some people you have to walk a distance from. They don't want anything to do with you. Not everyone will love you.]; for he hath greatly withstood our words. At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion." God!

When you become overburdened with a life of sin, Sinner Friend, underneath your sins there is the grace of God. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

When we're getting old and feeble, God is still with us. When people get old these days, there are some who want to put them aside. It happens all the time. Friends, it is when people get older, especially when they love the Lord, that you need to take good care of them. I don't know why they use the words, *the golden years*,

because they're not too golden; but anyhow, if your life is spared, you will get old. God can still be with us. He is still with the old people, too. When you're nearing the end of life, remember what David said: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST PROVIDES HELP

The gospel of Christ is to help people to find a better way of life. It is not to bring condemnation on yourself or no one else. The gospel is a wonderful thing. It is for our good. If you don't know where you stand with the Lord, you can find out where you are, and you can get located. God made man upright, but the fall changed many things. Adam and Eve caused the fall, and what you see going on in this world today is still the result. But, thank God, they didn't have the last say. God sent Jesus into the world. God had a plan that Jesus would give His life as a ransom for us in order to make us what we could never be otherwise.

The coming of Christ and the establishment of His church provided a solution for spiritual needs. A lot of people are losing their vision of the church. Some people never had it, and those who are trying to hold up the church, they're ridiculing and tearing them to pieces like rags. The church is still sailing though. She's still sailing! When you talk about the church that you're a part of, you're talking about yourself. What people say about me doesn't bother me. I'm going on! Too many miles behind me; too many valleys I've gone through; too many mountains I've climbed over. There is too much to gain to lose. We're not going to carry a thing from this world that we have. We're going to carry who we are. Yes, the church cannot conform to the things the world is doing and expect to be the solution. It cannot be! The greater the stand you hold, the more God will back you up. He will promote right. Let me tell you, God has called a separate people to set the example to the world and to live a holy life. It is easier to do right than to do wrong. Thank God for it!

CONCLUSION

We have a life as Christians. Let your light shine. "In Tough Times, In All Times—God." God never fails. A lot of times people make mistakes, and they give up. It is not the mistake all together, it is staying in it. A mistake is not the end of the world. If you love the Lord, come back. Get back to the Lord. He wants every one of us. He needs us. So don't give up God in the tough times. Hold on in the storm. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5b).

We're going to sing a closing hymn. If anyone needs some help, we'll be glad to help you. †

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Dear Young People,

I am simply sharing with you this month the following description of divine love followed by another chapter from Bro. Naylor's, "Heart Talks." I trust you will find these as inspirational as I do.

LOVE DIVINE

"Love Divine, Unconquerable, Eternal. Love that stoops, but is never small. Love that soars but is never out of reach. There is a great warfare of the Spirit, a thousand difficulties holding back the soul. Love is the one great weapon to meet and overcome them all. We do not know the power of Love. We only know that it is invincible and undying—the very Essence of God. We may not all of us be able to believe; but we can all have love. Nothing counts in the same way. However blind we may be, we can keep that one lamp burning in the darkness, burning in the desert, giving light to the outcast, and guiding the feet of the wanderers. Love is the symbol of undying worship. Everyone may keep such a light burning always. The spark is ours for the kindling. It is not faith or hope that the soul needs above all things. It is Love, the power to love, and the power to create love. The will to offer love perpetually before the Altar of God. It is only love that survives. It is no easy thing to keep the flame of love always burning in the time of failures. It is bound to flicker sometimes and seem to die out, but God gives us power to worship Him with love. We all want love, hunger for it, starve for it. Our lives are mere ash heaps without it. But do we all realize that love is only to be gained by love, that we must pour out all we have to win it, that we must purge our hearts of all selfish desire, sanctify ourselves by self sacrifice, by the complete renunciation of self, before the perfect gift can be ours? Love is a joyful sacrifice. People whom everyone love are the people who realize what love means, who give and give, without measure, not counting the cost, rejoicing only in the power to give, till it all comes back a thousand-fold."

Yours in His service,

Bro. Greg Tyler

HOMEMADE CLOUDS

From, "Heart Talks," by the late C. W. Naylor

LOUISE stood looking out of the window with unseeing eyes. There was a troubled expression upon her face. There were tears in her eyes, and a lump in her throat. What was the trouble? An hour before she had been singing as blithely as a songbird. Her morning devotions had been sweet. The presence of God had been with her. The day had started out full of sunshine, but alas! now her sky was clouded.

It had all happened in a moment. Her younger brother had been playing with his dog and had carelessly run against the stand upon which her flowerpots

were sitting and had upset one of the choice plants, breaking the pot and ruining the flower. Louise saw the happening. How careless it was of the boy! Quickly a feeling of impatience arose, and before she realized what she was doing, she had spoken sharply to her brother and had said hasty words that she immediately regretted. Her conscience quickly reproved her. She felt bad over the loss of the flower, but she felt much worse over her hasty words. A dark, heavy cloud settled down upon her. The sunshine was all gone; there was no longer any song in her heart, but heaviness instead.

Standing there by the window, she now meditated over it. Oh, if she had been more tender! If she had only exercised more self-control! If she had kept back those hasty words! It was quite true that Tom had been very careless. Still, she knew that he too loved the flowers. He did not mean to destroy one. Louise loved Tom, and because of this she felt all the more deeply what she had done. He was gone now, she knew not where. She would be glad to apologize to him and beg his pardon if he were there. She decided that she would tell him as soon as he returned, and that gave her some satisfaction, but it did not take away the cloud. She thought of how bright the morning and how light and care-free her heart had been! But now her day was clouded, and worst of all, she had made the cloud herself, by her own haste.

That is often the way it is with us. We make so many of our own clouds in life. Clouds often come over our lives from the actions of others; sometimes they come through circumstances that can not be helped; sometimes they come from Satan himself. Such clouds as these do not have the effect upon us that our home-made clouds do. The things that are hardest to bear are the things that we feel we have brought upon ourselves. These get closer to us than anything else. They have a sting to them that nothing else has. Many times people do things that try us; but if we also do or say something hastily at that time, it will increase our trial and make it the more difficult to bear. It will make the clouds that come all the darker. If we have not been as kind as we ought to have been, if there has been a sharpness in our words, or if we have manifested our displeasure at something in a way that showed our feelings too much, it is sure to bring a cloud over our day.

The more tender our consciences, the more we shall feel these things and the more the tendency will be to cloud our days. It is true that we shall feel displeased over things, and it is very natural to manifest our displeasure in some way. Some people are very impulsive and speak before they stop to think what they are saying or what the result will be, and thus they are continually making clouds for themselves. There are times when we must resolutely take hold of ourselves when the feeling of displeasure comes, as it is sure to do. The will must grapple with these emotions quickly and not let them get into action. Our wills were given us to rule ourselves with. When tempted to be unkind or to be hasty in our words and actions, we should say within ourselves: "I will not speak hasty words. I will control myself and keep sweet. I will be patient; I will be kind. I will do as the Lord would have me to do." Then we should put these resolutions quickly into action. Instead

of the trial bringing a cloud over us, the fact that we have conquered ourselves and kept ourselves in the attitude that we should hold toward God and toward others will make the sunshine all the brighter.

Conquer yourself; set a watch before your lips. If you are of an impulsive disposition, you may fail again and again, but do not be discouraged, keep up the fight. You will win in the end. You will reach at last the place where self-control acts automatically, where you will think in time. If you fail and the clouds come, endure them patiently, resolving to do better the next time. Do not let yourself be crushed under the circumstance. Do not let yourself be so discouraged that you think that there is no use in trying, that you never will overcome. Keep up the fight; you will yet come out conqueror.

Sometimes people feel that God is leading them to do a certain thing; they feel strongly impressed to do it. They see an opportunity; then, perhaps through timidity or indecision, they let the opportunity pass by, and when it is gone they feel bad because they failed to improve it. How they regret not having done it! If they had another opportunity, they would not let it slip. But it has gone. In vain do they wish for it again. They have failed, and that failure brings a dark cloud over them. It is another homemade cloud. They cannot blame anyone else for it—not even Satan. But they do blame themselves, and sometimes to such an extent that it takes the joy and sweetness out of the day, and possibly out of several days. If we have done such things, it does no good to heap reproaches upon ourselves. That only makes our clouds darker. The way out is to open our hearts to God and tell him all about it, asking him to help us to be more courageous, more diligent to take advantage of our opportunities, and more faithful to follow his leadings. Let us resolve in our hearts that we will do this, then go cheerfully about it.

Frivolous or foolish conversation or actions sometimes bring clouds over our sky. The Spirit reproves us and we see our fault. To chide and condemn ourselves does no good. The only profitable thing for us to do at such times is to be open-hearted and frank toward the Lord and tell Him about it, to ask His help that we may do better the next time, and to determine in our hearts that we will do better. I do not mean that we should get into bondage. God wants us to be free, to live naturally, and not to live under a strain, but to exercise a proper degree of caution.

I suppose we all have regrets and come more or less short of our ideals at times. But if we are as careful and as true as we ought to be, we shall not have so many of these homemade clouds; but if we do have them, let us bear up patiently. It will do no good to chastise ourselves. The only thing we can do that will be profitable is to trust in the Lord, and go ahead until the darkness passes away and the sun shines again. Let us be true to God and hold fast our confidence and our decision to serve Him and be ready to confess our faults before Him. He will treat our faults as faults, not as sins. He will not cut us off for such things. He will have mercy upon us and will show His loving-kindness toward us. Let us therefore trust in Him and make as few of these homemade clouds as possible. †

A CHRISTIAN'S BEST DEFENSE

Radio Message by Bro. Alvin Craig



UR thoughts for today's broadcast, "A Christian's Best Defense." I will be reading for a scripture text, I Peter, chapter 3, verses 13-16: "And who is he that will harm you, if you be followers of that which is good? But and if you suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are you: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."

Faithful Christians will be abused for righteousness sake. "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake" (Philippians 1:29).

We are protected in this country, at least, from physical abuse by the law, for which we can be thankful. We are more likely to be misrepresented and ridiculed and unfairly treated by the public, rather than from physical harm. We are granted freedom of speech, which allows the enemies of Christianity to be verbal abusers.

Faithful Christians have a defense available to them, as outlined by Peter, so let us look at some of the points that Peter makes in the text we have read today:

A good life—"Who is he that will harm you, if you be followers of that which is good?" (verse 13).

Will suffer, but no permanent harm—"Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" (I Peter 3:10, 12). So living a good life, a holy life will have God's blessing and approval.

A God-honoring heart—"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts" (verse 14 of our text), rather than being alarmed and being troubled in your heart. In other words, put God first in our hearts and in our lives, rather than being alarmed and being troubled. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37). There are a lot of people who have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. There are a lot of professed Christians who really do not love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

Our worship and service to God must come from the heart. It must not be just a mere form of religion, no! We must have the real thing in our hearts. The

Scriptures tell us that whenever we get saved, God takes out that stony heart and gives us a heart of flesh. So we are to love God with all of our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our mind, and with all of our strength. I say, we must serve Him from the heart. "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men" (Ephesians 6:6, 7).

Be ready to give an answer—"Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear," according to verse 15 of our text, I Peter 3.

We have a hope—In our hymn book, we have a song entitled, "We Have a Hope," and I'd like to share a few words of this hymn with you today:

*Have we any hope within us of a life beyond the grave,
In the fair and vernal lands?*

*Do we know that when our earthly house by death shall
be dissolved*

We've a house not made with hands?

*We have a hope within our souls,
Brighter than the perfect day:*

*God has given us his Spirit, And we want the world to
hear it,*

All our doubts are passed away.

*Life will end in joyful singing, "I have fought a faithful
fight,"*

Then we'll lay our armor down;

*And our spirits freed from earthly ties shall take their
happy flight,*

To possess a starry crown.

Knowing the answer will sustain us in time of trouble, knowing how to give people a ready answer of the hope within us, and knowing the Scriptures and using them gives us strength. That is what Jesus used whenever Satan came against Him with those three notable temptations, as recorded in Matthew, chapter 4. Jesus used the Scriptures, and He defeated Satan by doing so. Therefore, we need to have a ready answer, and tell those of the hope that we have within us. Our hope is to be based upon the sure promises of almighty God. Knowing the answer will influence others as well.

A reasonable hope—"Blessed hope we have within us is an anchor to the soul." Yes, it is an anchor to the soul. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Timothy 4:7, 8).

A meek and a reverent attitude needs to be shown, not only to God, but respect needs to be shown to every man—"The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way" (Psalm 25:9). "Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him"—Psalm 33:8—a life of fear; that is, reverence. I'm not talking about being afraid that God is going to club us over the head with something or other. The word *fear* here must be understood as "respect and reverence." So a life of fear often will melt hearts when

words fail. “While they behold your chaste [holy living] conversation coupled with fear” (I Peter 3:2).

A good conscience—Thank God, we can have a good conscience that is void of offense toward God and toward man. “Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation [manner of living] in Christ” (I Peter 3:16), which is the last verse of our text today. One cannot be right without a good conscience. “Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day” (Acts 23:1). That was when Paul was being interrogated, and he was able to tell people that he had lived before God with a clear conscience. He had this clear conscience, not only toward God, but toward every man. He knew that he had been true to God and true to His message and true to those he had ministered to. Therefore, Paul was able to testify that he had a clear conscience. Everyone needs to so live that we have a clear conscience, and the Lord has made it possible. I say, one cannot be right unless he does have a clear conscience.

We are to put on the whole armor. Yes, we have a warfare, a battle to fight. There’s an enemy. He is a wicked, lying, deceiving devil. He is doing all he can. The Scriptures tell us, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” So we are to put on the whole armor of God that we will be able to fight the good fight of faith. “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Ephesians 6:10-18).

I want you to notice some of the parts of the armor we are to put on. Above all, we are to take “*the shield of faith*, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” The Bible tells us, “Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

We are to have on *the breastplate of righteousness*. That simply means that we are to live a righteous, godly life. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11, 12).

We are to have our *feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace*. I’ve said many times, one reason

why some people get their feelings hurt is because they don’t have their shoes on; and I’m not talking about literal shoes. I’m talking about these shoes that the apostle Paul is speaking about here: having our “feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”

We are to have a victorious prayer life. “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” The Bible tells us “we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” I’ve said many times, to live a victorious Christian life, you must have a victorious prayer life. “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

Armed with all these traits, one can survive abuse and put his abusers to shame, according to verse 16 of our text in I Peter 3. These traits can make us, with God’s help, stronger than our enemies. †

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

GEMS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD

Scriptures: Romans 11:22; Ephesians 5:5-7; Romans 2:3-11.

Romans 11:22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

Ephesians 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

Romans 2:3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God:

6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

Memory Verse: Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.—Romans 11:22.

Aim: To remind the student of God’s wrath as well as His goodness.

INTRODUCTION

GOD HAS given mankind laws to guide him through this life. If those laws are obeyed, they will bring good rewards. If they are disobeyed, they will bring the opposite. God would not be God if He allowed His creation to disregard His laws and there be no punishment for their evil acts. For example: the flood, the destruction of Sodom, and the punishment of the literal nation of Israel. Because of David's sin, his house was to have trouble the rest of his days. Various other things show God rewards the good and punishes the evil.

If you will take time to read Deuteronomy 28, you will see the first 14 verses record the blessings God promised the Hebrews. The first verse reads like this: "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth." Starting with verse 15 on through verse 68, you will read what God said He would do to them, and what they would suffer if they did not obey Him.

MEDITATIONS

GOD'S FAIRNESS—Romans 11:22—Behold therefore—Paul speaks of the Jews who were cut off because of their rejecting the true Messiah, and the Gentiles who had been grafted in. He informs them that they must continue in the truth of the gospel, or they, too, would be cut off. God did not show respect of persons.

SIN CAN NEVER ENTER THERE—Ephesians 5:5—For this ye know—This is something that a lot of people do not know today! People think they can commit adultery, lie, cheat, and do a lot of other things, including committing suicide, and still when they die, they will go to heaven. But Jesus said that if you die in your sins, where He is you cannot come. He also said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13, 14). **Verse 6—**There are many deceivers in the world today, and in the religious world many of them are teaching that you must commit sin more or less every day, but still when you die, you are going to be with the Lord. **Verse 7—**Do not believe them! Believe what the Bible teaches: "Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord."

CONSIDER—Romans 2:3—O man—If you will read from verse 18 through verse 32 of chapter one, you will see what Paul is talking about. Those in verse three are judging and condemning others while doing some of the same things themselves; and yet, they thought they would escape the judgment of God. Why?

GOD IS MERCIFUL—Romans 2:4—Riches of His goodness—On this verse, Clarke comments: "Wilt thou render of none effect that marked benevolence of God towards thee which has given so many superior advantages, and that forbearance which has tolerated thy many miscarriages, and that longsuffering which,

after repeated provocations, still continues to bear with thee?" None can come to God and say, "I deserve to be forgiven because I did not do some of the things that others did." All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. It was His goodness that led us to repentance!

SIN HARDENS HEARTS—Romans 2:5—After thy hardness—It seems that some have hardened their hearts so hard that nothing moves them! They can be told of God's love, of Christ's suffering and dying on the cross for their sins, and it means nothing to them. They are indeed treasuring up unto themselves the wrath of God. **Verse 6—**They will be judged along with everyone. Even the infidel, who says that there is no God, will be at the judgment and will answer for his deeds.

BOTH WILL BE THERE—Romans 2:7—To them—Yes, there are some in this sinful world who have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior and are seeking to so live that they will have eternal life. **Verse 8—**But there are billions that "do not the truth" and are living unrighteous lives who will suffer the wrath of God. **Verse 9—**The Hebrews who were God's covenant people under the Old Testament will face the same Judge the Gentiles will face.

A GLORIOUS REWARD—Romans 2:10, 11—Glory, honour, and peace—The mind cannot grasp the reward that awaits those who live a righteous life and die in the faith, for Jesus tasted death for everyone. Whosoever will may come and drink of the water of life freely, for there is no respect of persons with God.

CONCLUSION

"Though Christians appreciate the value of rational evidences of immortality, yet they are not dependent upon them for ground for their faith in this truth, but find the surest and fullest proof of the doctrine in the Scriptures. Immortality, like many other truths, is more clearly revealed in the New Testament, but it is by no means absent from the Old, as has been sometimes erroneously affirmed. ... When the Sadducees, who denied the resurrection, came to Jesus with a question relating thereto, Jesus answered them with an argument based on the words of God to Moses at the burning bush, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living' (Matthew 22:32). ... The Scriptures represent the future punishment of the wicked as being in a place which is called hell in the common English Bible."—R. R. Byrum, *Christian Theology*. It is just as eternal as heaven is.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. God has given us a law to live by. What is the reward for obeying?
2. What is the reward for disobeying?
3. Are there rewards in this life for obeying or disobeying?
4. Is God just in regard to the reward for disobeying?
5. Which reward are you living for? †

THE POETRY PAGE

KEY OF LOVE

Adelaide Blanton

Love is the key,
That opens the door
To the heart of one
That is weary and poor.

Love, just pure love,
Of the tenderest kind,
Gives assurance and hope
To a troubled mind.

Love costs so little
In silver and gold;
Yet it is priceless
And gives riches untold.

SECRET PRAYER

W. O. Moon

Flowing waves of grace divine
Fills the soul with peace sublime;
God, His voice so soft and clear,
Whispers love, gives hope and cheer,
Clothes with vesture rich to wear
In the place of secret prayer.

Lord, Thy life so rich, replete,
Fills the soul low at Thy feet,
Who communes each day with Thee,
Drinking deep Thy love so free
From Thy presence daily there
In the place of secret prayer.

Blessed dwelling for God's own
Who abide close to His throne,
Costly jewels for the soul
Wealth of spirit yet untold,
God's own fulness there to share
In the place of secret prayer.

THE LIFE

Byrl Van Every

It is not the eloquent preacher,
Nor the wonderful sermon preached;
But the simple gospel of Jesus
Is the way the heart is reached.

It is not in the temporal things of life,
Neither is it the alms we give;
But the testimony of saving grace
And the holy life we live.



OUR DAILY NEEDS

Mary Larkin Cook

A little less of talking,
A little more of work;
A little less of knocking
From loafer and from shirk;
A little less of frowning
With clouds so dull and gray;
A smile, a cherry "Hello!"
To drive the clouds away.

A little less of SAYING,
A little more of DO
To count with deeds accomplished
When e'er our day is through;
A little less of dodging
The truths of living right;
A little more of courage
To take us through the night.

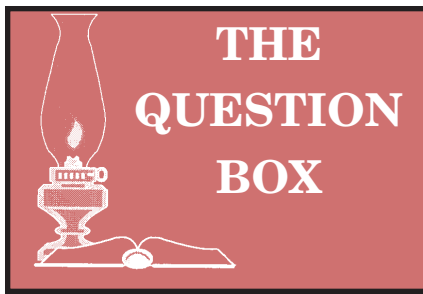
A little more of thinking
To do some kindly deed;
A little more of kindness
To help a friend in need;
A little more of smiling
To cheer some traveler's way;
A little more of wisdom
To guide us day by day!

I WISH I'D LET HIM IN BEFORE

David Allen

I let the Savior into my heart,
But I hesitated long
To let God's Holy Spirit in
To there set up His throne.
I feared to consecrate my all,
To let Him have His way,
For fear He'd ask hard things of me,
Take gladness from my day.

But now that I have let Him in—
Lord God, the Holy Ghost—
There is new glory in my life
Because of this blest Host.
He helps me understand His Word,
Gives comfort, hope, and more;
He helps me pray believing prayer—
I wish I'd let Him in before! †



Answered by the Editor



QUESTION: I have been wondering something and I was hoping you may be able to point me in the right direction. I know the Bible, God's Word, states that Israel is God's chosen people. It has been impressed upon me and I have been a supporter of the stance that the United States needs to stand with Israel. Recently, I was trying to understand why that is. My confusion comes in with the Jewish people and their beliefs. The Jewish faith rejects Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

I was looking around and trying to find something that would help me understand this much better, but I am worried that I am not reading truth. I am wondering if Bro. Alvin could offer any suggestions to me that would guide me to a better understanding of our stand with Israel and our thoughts and concern and prayer for the Jewish faith, and what God would have us to do with it all.—S., Maryland

ANSWER: The Bible is the place to look for truth! And as to present day "Israel," they are not God's chosen people. In fact, they are not God's "Israel" today. God's Israel today is His redeemed people—the Church of God. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:28, 29). "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Romans 2:28, 29). According to those verses, the Christian is a spiritual Jew.

Speaking of the "Jews" of today, I will give you a quote from *Collier's Encyclopedia*: "A common error and persistent modern myth is the designation of the Jews as a 'race.' This is scientifically fallacious, from the standpoint of both physical and historical tradition. Investigations by anthropologists have shown that Jews are by no means uniform in physical character and that they nearly always reflect the physical and mental characteristics of the people among whom they live." From *The Encyclopedia Judaica Jerusalem*, I quote: "Thus, the diversity of the racial and genetic attributes of various Jewish colonies of today renders any unified racial classification of them a contradiction in terms."

From the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, I quote: "The Jews as a Race. The findings of physical anthropology show that, contrary to the popular view, there is no Jewish race." Many "Jews" in Israel today can trace

their lineage back to an ancient nation by the name of Khazaria, which was a heathen nation. Around 740 A.D., the king chose the Jewish religion for his nation. Thus the people became "Jews." From a physical standpoint, they had no connection to the Hebrews at all.

You speak of the Jewish religion. Their religion is based on part of the Old Covenant, and some of them are still looking for their Messiah to come. Others believe the "Messiah" is not a person but rather an age of great blessings. The apostle John said, "Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world" (I John 4:3). Also in II John 7, we read: "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

"In late 2012, Dr. Eran Elhaik, of the McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Science, Johns Hopkins Medical University, published his research in *The Journal of Biology and Evolution*, [saying], 'There are no blood or family connection among the Jews ... The various groups of Jews in the world today do not share a common genetic origin. Their genome is largely Khazar.'"—From the Internet.

"The facts are Israel and America are populated by people saying they are Jews who are not Jews! They are Khazarian."—From the Internet.

As to the United States and its stand in regard to Israel, since Israel is not "God's chosen people" and many of them are not Hebrews, we have no greater responsibility to them than other nations. We have entered into agreements with them to defend them against attacks from other countries, but the Bible does not require such an agreement. We have the same agreement with a number of countries.

QUESTION: I'm curious to know how you interpret I Corinthians 14:13-19 where Paul presents not "speaking" in tongues, but "praying" in tongues?—B. F.

ANSWER: Nowhere does the Bible teach us to pray in another tongue. Paul said, "If I pray in [another] tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also" (I Corinthians 14:14, 15).

I will quote from an article I have before me:

"Keep in mind that in I Corinthians 14, Paul is dealing with public worship in a congregation and not private devotions. Further, he would not tell someone to keep still, unless there was an interpreter, if he was speaking at the direction of the Holy Spirit using the gift of languages.

"Verse two is simply teaching that he who speaks in a language unknown to the local congregation is not speaking to men but only to God as no man [present] understands the language he is speaking. ... [Even if he is speaking in his own language.]

"Paul is not implying that this anonymous individual in verse two is endowed with some ecstatic utterance nor that he is exercising any gift of the Spirit.

He is simply teaching that if someone were to speak in a language unfamiliar to the group addressed, they obviously could not understand him, only God would. ... Paul's implication is that if the church cannot understand they will not be edified.

"There is not one verse of scripture in the Bible to support the teaching that the 'initial physical sign of speaking in tongues,' is different from the *gift* of tongues. A man by the name of Charles F. Parham came forth with this doctrine in 1900. F. F. Bosworth said that he was the first man in the history of the world to teach publicly this doctrine.

"Some tongues people teach that there is a 'prayer tongue' in which you can pray and the devil will not understand what you are praying. Nowhere does the Bible teach us to pray in another tongue." (Note: I do not have the name of the author of this article.)

I would add to the above, nowhere does Paul say he had the gift of languages. He was highly educated and spoke a number of languages. Also, the translators of the *King James Bible* added the word "unknown"; it was not in the original scriptures.

Paul is not teaching in I Corinthians 14 that people *should* speak in other languages. He was writing to the church at Corinth to *correct* some things that were going on that was improper. †

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



SNOW SURPRISE

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"Mom, I'm really getting thirsty," I said. I sighed and looked around the dark kitchen, lit only by the flickering light of an old kerosene lamp my mother kept on hand for emergencies.

"Well," she said, "there's a little water left in the jug on the counter, but if you drink it all now, there won't be any more until your dad gets home from work. I'm sure he'll bring some with him."

"I'm thirsty, too," said my little sister, Esther.

Now it was my mother's turn to sigh. "Look what you've started!" she said to me. She turned to my younger sisters. "You'll be all right as long as you don't think about it," she said. "Try to get your mind off your thirstiness."

That was hard to do. The house was dark and cheerless. A blizzard had hit the day before, knocking out power for our whole neighborhood. Fortunately, our wood furnace kept us warm, but we'd had no running water for more than 24 hours. We weren't afraid of starving. We had eaten cold leftovers along with a couple of jars of my mother's canned applesauce from the basement. There were plenty of other jars of canned food down there that we could eat cold.

Dad had finally gotten the truck out from underneath the heavy blanket of snow that covered it, and had driven to work on the newly-plowed road. We knew he would bring water home with him, but it was hard to wait until then.

I stood looking out the window at the snow that glittered coldly under the last rays of the setting sun. Usually we children enjoyed the snow, but now it was our enemy.

Suddenly, an idea struck me. "Mom!" I said. "Why can't we melt the snow to get drinking water?"

"We could," she said, "but it would be a big job."

How big a job could it be? I wondered to myself. All I needed to do was to get a bowl, fill it with snow, set it on the counter, and wait for a nice big puddle of water to drink!

I put on my coat, grabbed a large bowl from the cupboard, and started for the door.

"Shut the door behind you," I heard my mother say. "We're not trying to heat the whole outdoors!"

Once outside, I stepped away from the shoveled walkway and plunged my bowl into the deep, fluffy snow. In triumph I carried the bowl with its towering pile of snow into the house.

"Better set it in the sink," my mother said, "or it will make a mess on the counter."

I set the bowl in the sink and watched it for awhile. Nothing happened. I waited and waited.

"It's not melting," I said to my mother.

"It's melting," she assured me. "You just can't tell yet."

What a long time it took for that snow to melt! What I didn't understand was that unpacked snow is more than 90% air. The air between the crystals barely moves, and so heat doesn't travel very fast through it. The snow, piled high in my bowl, was self-insulating, and so I waited in vain for a big puddle to form. When Dad arrived home with jugs of water for us, he glanced at the slowly shrinking snow in the sink.

"Looks like somebody was trying to melt snow," he said with a grin.

"I thought it would be easy to make drinking water out of it," I admitted to him. "But it just made a little trickle, and it took a long, long time."

"It would have melted faster on the stove," he said. "But we don't have electricity to heat up the stove. If we did, we wouldn't need to melt snow to drink, anyway, because we would have running water, too."

I've often looked back on my little experiment with melting snow and smiled at my uninformed idea that it would be easy to make drinking water from it. At that time, my understanding of snow was limited to what I imagined to be true.

I gained more from that experience than just a little scientific knowledge. I also learned that we cannot always trust our own understanding. Even adults, whose life experiences have taught them many things, can be fooled by what they think they understand. This lack of real understanding can lead to unwise decisions. That is why it is so important to put our trust in the Lord.

Proverbs 3:5, 6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

How do we acknowledge the Lord? We acknowledge Him by looking to His Word for wisdom. We acknowledge Him by listening carefully to messages He sends us through His ministers. We acknowledge Him by kneeling in prayer and asking Him to guide us in our decision-making.

When we follow the Lord instead of leaning to our own understanding, we can have successful, happy lives, free from the heartache that comes to those who are determined to go their own way.

Activity

Here are the names of some Bible heroes who trusted in the Lord. See if you can match each character with an event where he or she demonstrated that trust.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Noah | a. chose a fiery furnace rather than false worship |
| 2. Abraham | b. was willing to disobey a king to save her people |
| 3. Jacob | c. faced persecution for building an ark as God said |
| 4. Moses | d. sang after being jailed for preaching about Jesus |
| 5. Ruth | e. was led to freedom from prison by an angel |
| 6. Daniel | f. obeyed God and traveled to an unknown land |
| 7. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego | g. wrestled with an angel to obtain God's blessing |
| 8. Esther | h. faced a den of lions in order to be true to God |
| 9. Peter | i. was kind and loyal to her mother-in-law |
| 10. Paul and Silas | j. rejected Egyptian riches to lead God's people |

Answer to Last Month's Activity

Isaiah 30:21, “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” †

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www.wayoftruth.org.

Our general services are broadcast live on this site.

Sundays 10:40 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

Wednesdays 7:00 P.M.

FREEDOM FROM

WORLDLINESS

By the late
F. G. Smith

THIS IS simply another division of the subject of sin, for worldliness is sin. However, there are some special thoughts that I wish to present under this heading.

Since sin in its various forms has become universal, surrounding us on all sides, as real as nature itself, the Bible writers often refer to it as “the world.” This includes not only the grosser forms of sin, but all manner of disobedience to God of whatsoever nature or extent. God's people must be free from all these things. Paul says to the brethren who had been quickened in Christ, “In time past ye walked according to the course of this world” (Ephesians 2:2). But Christ “gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world” (Galatians 1:4).

That our separation from the world in this sense is to be real, is shown by the words of Christ, “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you” (John 15:19). Reader, bear in mind that if you take your stand for God and for the whole truth of his Word, determined to be free from worldliness, there will be a real separation in spirit and in life between you and the worldly-minded. You will even have opposition. “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (II Timothy 3:12).

This experience was truly realized by the first disciples, for we have the testimony of Jesus Himself that they were free from the world. He said of them in prayer to the Father: “I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. *They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world*” (John 17:14-16).

To us this means everything which partakes of the spirit and nature of the world must be forsaken—worldly sentiments, worldly associations, worldly ambitions, worldly amusements, and worldly dress—everything that is not in strict harmony with the plain teaching of God's Word. “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, *is not of the Father, but is of the world*. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (I John 2:15-17).

WORLDLY AMUSEMENTS

According to the principles of truth already laid down, it is evident that the holy people of God cannot go to and participate in those amusements whose direct object is to cater to the spirit of foolishness, vanity, and sin. At the present day Satan is seeking by this means to draw the hearts of the people everywhere into the deeper ways of sin, thus causing them to forget God. Especially is this true respecting the young. How many are the forms of worldly amusement that have been devised and that serve this purpose!—shows, festivals, races of various kinds, card-parties, prize fights, theaters, etc. These things “are not of the Father, but are of the world”; and no true child of God can indulge in such things without loss to his spirituality and, if the indulgence is continued, the final loss of his soul. “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (II Timothy 2:22).

The Christian must live a life of prayer and devotion to God. By this means his spirit is refreshed from day to day, and he thus obtains conquering grace for trials and temptations. But this life of devotion cannot exist where the spirit of worldliness is allowed sway. Those who attend worldly amusements do not feel a burden for secret prayer and devotion, and they have little or no active interest in the salvation of souls; while, on the other hand, those who are spiritual and live in prayer before God, *have no desire for such amusements*. They are dead to the world and its pleasures. Of them, Jesus can say, “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

WORLDLY DRESS

But the Word of God comes even closer and lays down certain rules concerning the Christian’s dress. The command of the Word is, “Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Corinthians 6:20). We must “be holy both in body and in spirit” (I Corinthians 7:34). If we have holy, humble hearts, hearts free from vanity and pride, then our outward lives must in every way be consistent with the inward condition. Now, when people’s hearts are full of the “pride of life,” how do they manifest it? By proud actions and by worldly dress. They seek to adorn themselves with gold, pearls, diamonds, rubies, and costly array; until the beholder views a dazzling display of earrings, finger-rings, bracelets, lockets, and other ornaments; not to mention an immense amount of other costly, useless, and foolish array. What does the Word of God say on this subject?

“Whose adorning *let it not be* that outward adorning of plaiting the hair [weaving gold strands or other things to adorn the hair], and of *wearing of gold*, or of putting on of apparel [immodest]: But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price” (I Peter 3:3, 4). Yet how many professing Christians totally disregard the plain teaching of the Word on this point, and dress in all the pride and fashion of this world!

In the scriptures just given, the apostle Peter forbids the wearing of that outward adornment which is sug-

gested by pride; but the apostle Paul goes a step further and shows how Christian women must be dressed. He says, “Inlike manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works” (I Timothy 2:9, 10). They must be arrayed in “*modest apparel* ... not with gold, or pearls, or costly array.” These articles of adornment, then, are not modest apparel. The wearing of them is prompted, not by feelings of humility and modesty, but by pride in the heart. It is plain from this scripture that such things do not “*become women professing godliness*.” Reader, are you a woman “*professing godliness*”? Are you adorned with these things? If so, then they do not “*become your profession*,” and you are not arrayed in “*modest apparel*.”

These principles apply with equal force to the male sex. The foolish, vain, and immodest styles and fashions to which the worldly-minded cater are an abomination in the sight of God and in the sight of His redeemed saints. Do not deceive yourself, reader, in the belief that you can continue to wear things which the Word of God forbids, and still be a spiritual person, filled with the grace of God. It is impossible. God’s children are to be “*obedient children*,” not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance” (I Peter 1:14).

THE POSITIVE SIDE

Nor is holy life to be judged solely by a negative standard—by what we put off of sin and worldliness. There is a positive side. Then we can say with the apostle Paul, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Our whole desire is to manifest Christ to the world. Being “*risen with Christ*,” we “*seek those things which are above*” (Colossians 3:1). We “*put on* therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering” (verse 12). The graces of the Spirit implanted within find outward expression in “*the fruit of the Spirit*” which is, “*love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance*” (Galatians 5:22, 23). Our aim in life is to have always a conscience void of offense toward God and toward man. But even in this we do not allow the voice of conscience alone to dictate in matters of religious faith, but we render loving and willing obedience to all the commandments of our Lord and require our conscience to come into line with what the Word plainly says. Thus our lives are free and happy, and are made a blessing to all around us.

Oh, how much it means to serve God “without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life” (Luke 1:74, 75)! †

—From *What the Bible Teaches*

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2).

SIN

IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL



Radio Message by Bro. Hezekiah Lamey
(aired in Jamaica)

LET ME greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank the Lord for being able to bring to you this radio message. It is my privilege to preach the Word of God to a dying world. My topic is: "Sin Is the Root of All Evil."

Romans 6:1 says, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" Verse 2: "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

Do you see what sin is doing in our world today? As we look at our world today, we see how evil and wicked men are because of sin. The reason why men are doing all of the things they are doing is because they have chosen the way of sin. But we do not have to continue in sin. Sin is so wicked. Sin does many things in the earth today. It causes murder, hatred, variance, strife, and malice, but I believe we can get rid of sin. There is a remedy for sin, and the remedy is the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came to put away sin from your heart.

We read in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." You can have life. Everyone of us can have peace with God today. Jesus died for the whole world. He didn't die for one person. He died for kings, queens, rulers, and others in authority. I believe you can accept Jesus Christ if you will turn away from your evil ways. We see what sin is doing today, even across our own island of Jamaica. I believe it is because of sin why we see so much hatred and murders in our land, but you can accept Jesus Christ in your heart today. Just believe His Word. Just trust His grace. God is able to deliver you. He can set you free. He set others free, and He can set you free. That is why Jesus Christ came. He didn't come for you to continue in sin. He didn't come for you to love sin but to hate it. Sin is the root of all evil. Sin has consequences. We have seen many who have suffered because of sin.

We read in Genesis where sin brought spiritual death. Sin brought separation from God. Sin separated Adam and Eve from God. They had good fellowship with God, but because of sin, they didn't have fellowship any longer. We don't have to be like Adam and Eve. Jesus Christ came to die on the cross for us. He gave His life for us. Believe His Word. Trust His grace. Look to Him who is the Author and Finisher of our faith. God is able to deliver your soul if you will cry out for help. He is there to help you in your weakness and in your

suffering. We see what sin has brought to man. It has brought suffering, pain, and heartaches. Consider our young people who are plunging in sin and darkness. God can help them. If they will cry out for help, He will deliver them and set them free.

The writer says, "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Oh, we can see sin has weight! It has a penalty. After leaving this world, we can see where sin will lead. It leads to eternal damnation. It is a separation from God eternally. I believe you do not want to be separated from God, so while there is life, there is hope for you through our Lord Jesus Christ. Come to Him. Accept Him. Jesus said that if you die in your sins, where He is, you cannot come. "Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come" (John 8:21). Do you want to go to heaven? Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. You have to prepare yourself. You have to accept Jesus Christ into your heart for you to inherit eternal life.

We know that Judas betrayed the Master. Judas suffered because of sin. He hung himself because he turned away from the Lord. So many people have turned away from the Lord. Sin has brought corruption. It has brought false religion and haters of God. It is because of sin why people are doing all these things. If men will turn to righteousness, we would have a better world today. Just look where you are going and heading to. The end is near.

We see around us all types of abominations. Homosexuality and other things are in our world today because of sin. We see people having pleasure in these things. They feel that these things are right in the sight of God; but My Friends, these things are wrong in the sight of God. He hates sin. He is against sin. God doesn't hate you, but He hates sin. God loves you. He wants you to turn away from your wicked ways and accept Him before it is too late.

There are many who are preaching that no one can live free from sin, but you can live free from sin. We know that man can live free from sin. That is what Jesus came for. He came so that you can live free from sin. Turn away from your evil ways and turn to the Lord. Preachers are preaching false doctrines and making people feel comfortable in whatever they are doing. Oh, the homosexuality, the fornication, the adultery! All these things people are accepting in their lives. These things are not right, My Friends. God is against such, and so are we since our eyes have been opened.

We all were born with a sinful nature, but thanks be to the Lord, He has redeemed us from a life of destruction. Why? Because we have accepted Him. We believed His Word and trusted His grace. We are happy for the day we went to the altar and bowed our knees and asked God to forgive us. We serve God by faith. We trust Him by faith, and we believe He will take us home by faith, because we believe His Word is true.

There are many people who do not believe God's Word. Some have even said that there is no God, but the Bible says, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Their hearts have been corrupted. If your heart is corrupt, the Lord can make you free. He can

give you a right heart. He can create in you a new heart and a right spirit. Just accept the Lord. Believe that He is true. He is the God of Abraham.

Abraham trusted in God. All the others in the Bible trusted in God. They were all born in sin, but they knew that sin would take them further than they would want to go. Thanks to the Lord for those who have set an example for us to follow. Jesus Himself came and set an example. The apostles have set an example. They were all born in sin, but the Lord redeemed them and set them free. We must build on their foundation. We have accepted the Lord and you can, too. You can believe and trust in Him also. You can serve the Lord. You don't have to serve sin. Sin is the root of all evil. Don't continue in sin. I repeat, "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Paul said in the book of Galatians, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." We can all see what is happening in our world. We see the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. I John 2:16, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." These are the things some people love. They hug these things. I believe one day they will pay the penalty. One day they will see for themselves that what we were telling them was the truth. We're not here to preach a false message. We are here to preach a true message from God. Why? Because we have a soul. We have a conscience within us. If we tell you something that is wrong, then we will pay the penalty. We are going to reap whatever we sow. My Friends, wherever you are, God is calling you. He is looking for you.

We can see the destruction of sin in our world. Because of sin, God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. God destroyed the Antediluvian world because of unbelief and sin. Their wickedness came up before God, and He was against it. For that cause, God sent a flood and destroyed the world. If you don't believe it, I'll still believe it is the truth. You can believe it because it is the truth. Some people may think that this is just a story, but it is a true story. We heard for many years what God did to them in those days. Do you remember? We think of Achan. He suffered because of sin. He disobeyed God. God told him to do something and he did what was wrong in the sight of God. His whole family suffered because of sin. If Achan had obeyed God, he wouldn't have had to suffer and die the way he did. I believe it was because of his transgression.

So many of you are listening to Satan. You are believing what he is telling you. Believe in God and trust His Word. Even Satan believed that there was a God and trembled. You can believe in God. Satan is telling you that there is no heaven, no God, and no hell, but I believe there is a hell. God is coming back. Soon and very soon we shall see our Savior.

Our Savior is coming as a judge. Some people say that He is coming as King to set up a kingdom. We don't preach that He is going to set up His kingdom. He has already set up His kingdom. We are in the kingdom of God. We thank God that we are in the kingdom, and we are here to embrace it. We are here to preach the

kingdom of God to you. Jesus Christ is our Redeemer and Friend. We love Him with all our heart and soul. I believe you can love Him the same as we love Him. So many people say that they love Jesus, but He said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." How many people are keeping God's commandments? How many people are disobeying God?

Jesus said, "Whosoever will may come." Jesus wills that you come and accept Him before it is too late. Time is short, My Friends. Time is running out. As we see all the destruction that sin is causing, we can see that the end of time is very near. Turn to the Lord now. Accept Him. Get rid of your sins now, because if you die in your sins, you cannot go to heaven. This is for sure. You might not believe it now, but hereafter you will believe what the Word of God says. God is real. The devil is real. You are real people. You are a loving people, but you do not have to die and go to hell. Jesus has prepared a way for you. You can run for your life. It is time to do so before it is too late. Come to Jesus now.

This is a message of joy and happiness and deliverance. Your soul can be delivered and set free. Don't be a mocker. The Bible says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." If you sow good seed, you will reap good seed; if you sow bad seed, you will reap bad seed. This is truth. This is not something false.

Come to Jesus. Who will accept Him? Will you ask the Lord to touch you? Ask the Lord to save you. Wherever you are, reach out and accept Him as He passes by. He is near you. He isn't far from you. You can touch Him as He passes by. Accept Him now with a willing heart. "A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalm 51:17). God will not reject you nor turn you away. Come to Him now.

These are my few thoughts to you, but I believe a word can reach your heart. Wherever you are—in Jamaica, in America—or in other parts of the world, God needs you. He wants to deliver and help you. This is my message to you in Jesus' name. †

OUT OF BOX 88

Dear Way of Truth,

I love to read the magazine. It opened my eyes to a lot of things I did not know. God bless all of you. Love you all.

—R. K., Mississippi

Dear Saints of God,

I want to try to tell you how much *The Way of Truth* has helped me. ... The message delivered by Bro. Greg Tyler on "What God Is Searching For" has helped me so much. There is no way I can tell it all. I just love the truth of God's Word.

Keep up the good work you are doing. I am sending an offering for your work. Thank you all so much.

—J. H., Kentucky †

MAN'S MORAL MALADY—DEPRAVITY

By the late Russell R. Byrum

THE GROUND of the need for the new birth and also for entire sanctification is the depravity of men's natures, that spiritual disease which leads to spiritual death through sin. Though justification saves from committed sins, yet the reason why "ye must be born again" is because of this depraved nature, and we need entire sanctification for the same reason. If we reject depravity, consistency requires that we also reject, not only sanctification as a second cleansing, but also regeneration. Because depravity is fundamental to the work of salvation, it is important that we understand the fact and nature of the disease that we may the better comprehend the nature of its cure.

Native depravity is commonly known as original sin, inherited sin, inbred or indwelling sin, the Adamic nature, the carnal nature, or the flesh. The two latter designations and some others are sometimes criticized as not properly applying. But it seems, as is held by some very respectable theologians, that "carnal" and "flesh" have also technical usage in the New Testament different from their more general meaning and refer to the depraved nature. However, the fact and nature of depravity is not dependent upon any particular designation.

Nature of Depravity

The nature of this depravity has been much misunderstood. Many have wrongly supposed that it consists of guilt for Adam's sin and that it is punishable. We reject this view as we do also the theory resulting from it, that infants are punished in hell for the sin of Adam. While some reject these theories as being unscriptural and unjust, yet they have no clear idea as to what depravity is; and without a clear view of the nature of depravity it is not possible to understand what is comprehended in the work of regeneration and entire sanctification. Native depravity is not a physical entity or material substance. ... Its immaterial nature may be better illustrated as being likened to that which causes the ferocious lion to differ from the harmless lamb. No surgeon could find in the lion a physical thing that makes him ferocious. So, likewise, depravity is the very nature that makes unregenerate man what he is.

A Derangement of the Moral Nature

From a careful study of the subject it is evident that depravity is a derangement or enfeeblement of man's moral nature. It is a perversion or weakness of his moral faculties. It is in this sense that the image of God is lost, and not in the sense of an entire loss of the moral nature.

In the depraved, conscience is perverted or weakened. ... Its power to impel to the right is weakened, so it fails to function as God intended. Its power to reprove is weakened insomuch that one may sin and feel very little if any compunction of conscience for it. ... Because the power of conscience is weaker in some than in others, we understand that there are degrees of depravity and that the hardened criminal is more depraved than the little child.

Also the affections are alienated or perverted. Man was intended to love God supremely and to love his neighbor as himself, which is keeping all God's law. But by the perversion of this moral faculty, the affections, commonly referred to as an evil heart, he loves the creature more than the Creator, and he loves himself more than his neighbor.

The will is also enslaved in moral volitions. One in sin may desire to do good, but is unable. ... Probably in the will more than in any other of his faculties is depravity in man manifested. The depravity of the will is so evident that some have wrongly supposed that man's free will is entirely lost.

Because of a lack of clear understanding of the nature of depravity, hence of what is eliminated in sanctification, many have been confused because they expect sanctification to take away a quality of the human nature, when it in reality merely restores the deranged human nature, or destroys the depravity in it. Clear ideas concerning depravity will aid much in understanding the whole process of sin and salvation from sin.

Positive Scripture Proof of Depravity

In the earliest history of the human race, men are described as of evil character continually. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). "The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth" (Genesis 8:21).

The psalmist David was a believer in native depravity from one's earliest existence. In his penitent prayer in Psalm 51 he said, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." [David was not saying his mother sinned; he was speaking of his state.] (Psalm 51:5). "They go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies" (Psalm 58:3). Paul also clearly taught that he had sin dwelling in him even before he came to know right from wrong. "I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died" (Romans 7:9). "We ... were by nature the children of wrath" (Ephesians 2:3).

It Is Assumed in the Scriptures

The Bible teaches that sinful acts in man are the result of a sinful nature in him. It is taken for granted that character determines conduct. "Out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts" (Mark 7:21). In other words, the stream will be like the fountain from which it flows. If the nature of man is sinful, the life will be sinful. And if the life is sinful, it is proof that the heart is depraved by sin. Jesus taught that a tree is known by its fruits. ... Native depravity is the cause of sinful deeds in men's lives.

It is on the assumption that man is depraved that the Scriptures teach, "Ye must be born again." If man is not depraved, then he requires no regeneration. But the entire New Testament points to man's need of becoming "regenerated," "born again," "a new creature," having "a new heart," being "quickened," putting on the "new man."

These and many other expressions in the Bible are senseless if man is not depraved. The fact that he is, is assumed in all of them. †

—Chapter III of *Holy Spirit Baptism and The Second Cleansing* has been condensed for this issue.

CAYMAN CONVENTION REPORT

November 22-27, 2016

Theme: “In Tough Times, In All Times—God”

Scriptures based on the theme:

Romans 10:9-13; II Timothy 1:12b.

(From notes compiled by Sis. Ganita Myles)

We thank the Lord for permitting us to have another convention. We were happy to have our visiting brethren from overseas as well as local visitors during the services. There was an exhortation on prayer each morning before we knelt to ask God for His help for each day.

Below is a synopsis of the services:

Tuesday, 6:00 A.M.—Bro. James Arch, Host Pastor, exhorted a few minutes before we knelt in prayer. He told us that we are to seek God and believe in Him and He will reward us. Jabez called on God for four things and received them all. We need to defeat the devil for the Lord to give us a victorious convention.

10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. James Arch. This full-length message which is based on the theme begins on page 2.

2:30 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. David Shaw. He spoke on the theme and scripture texts. Excerpts: “God always stands by His children. We have proven God. We serve a real God, not one made of stone, wood, silver, or gold. We are living in perilous times, physically and spiritually. Men are looking for success in all things of this world except in God. All other ways will fail. We have a God who can do all things. Where are we going? There are only two ways. Life is brief. Now is the acceptable time of salvation. Hearts are in fear, but they are seeking help in the wrong places. When we are Christians, life will not always be easy, but we have God we can go to. As human beings, we have cares and concerns, but God steps in and brings calm to all situations. Elijah trusted God. He saw him through. If you have a problem that God doesn’t take care of, it is your cross to bear until you get home. God promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us.”

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Alvin Craig. Title: “Who Is God?” Lord willing, this message will be printed in an upcoming issue.

Wednesday, 6:00 A.M.—Bro. Leston Mann spoke before prayer. He reminded us that many have confidence in other things, but Christians are to look to God. Our God hears and answers prayer. We are to trust in Him.

10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. Rupert Shippy. Title: “Serving God in Sincerity.” He spoke from Joshua, chapter 24. Excerpts: “Why should it seem evil to serve the Lord after all He has done for mankind? God always cared for His children. He cared so much that He sent His only Son to die for us. The Israelites went through

many plagues, but God delivered from them all. We are believing in this same God today. What He did for Moses, He will do for us. He is the same God who parted the Red Sea. He will part the red seas in our lives today as well. We are not to fret. We are to remember where we were, where God has brought us from. We need to be more grateful. We need to give God thanks. We are to bless the Lord at all times.”

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Harley McClung. Title: “Dealing with Change.” This message will be printed in a future issue, Lord willing.

Thursday, 6:00 A.M.—Bro. Tim Crooks, in his remarks, said that our expectations should be from God. He referred to the woman at the well. He also said that we need to have the same expectation from God and to trust Him more.

10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. Donovan Darby. Title: “The Church in these Tough Times.” Lord willing, this message will be printed in an upcoming issue.

2:30 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Hezekiah Lamey. Title: “In the Midst of Tough Times, God Remains the Same.” Excerpts: “If we stay with God during tough times, He will stay with us. Don’t fear when you see the things that are happening. The Bible is being fulfilled. Here are some Bible characters who went through some tough times: Isaac was hated by the Philistines after Abraham died, but God was with him. ‘Fear not, for I am with thee.’ The more wells he dug, the more they filled up, for they didn’t want to see a man of God prosper. Sin makes people envious. Jacob faced tough times. He stayed with God, and God stayed with him. Daniel suffered through tough times, but he never gave up. The more he was threatened, the more he prayed and never gave in. God was always with him. Lean on God, not on others. Love the church. David, Elijah, Jeremiah, and Paul all faced tough times, but they all were not afraid to preach the Word of God. We are not to compromise the truth. If members are wrong, tell them for their own sake. We are to keep our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Finisher of our faith, so we can hear Him say ‘Well done.’”

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Paul Wilson. Title: “Press Through the Crowd.” Text: Mark 5:25-34. Excerpts: “God is passing this way tonight. Reach out and touch Him. God warned Israel to be careful they forget not what He had done for them. Sometimes we forget where we were and where we are tonight. We forget all the materials blessings God has given us. There was a woman in the Bible who was sick with an issue of blood. She spent all she had, but grew worse. She heard that Jesus was coming into town. She wanted to touch Jesus. She believed if she touched Him she would be healed. To get something from God, we need to make an effort. Reach out and touch Jesus. Don’t worry about what others will say. The blind man heard that Jesus was to pass by. He cried out, but others tried to get him to be quiet. Jesus had compassion on him. He touched him and made him whole. You have to press through. Are you willing to press through, to give up all and serve God? You have a responsibility for your own soul. If you are here in sin, press through tonight. Christianity is a forward life. Keep pressing forward. It’s a wonderful calling. A prize is ahead. Push through.”

Friday, 6:00 A.M.—Sis. Melisa Allen. Several scriptures were used. She brought our attention to the fact that there are many who need to be saved. Also, she said that we need to ask God for His continued blessings on us.

10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. Leston Mann. Title: “God Is the Answer—Trust Him.” Lord willing, this message will be printed in a future issue.

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Duane Jeffries. Title: “The Unlimited Power of God.” This message, Lord willing, will be printed in an upcoming issue.

Saturday, 6:00 A.M.—Sis. Linette Jutan led this prayer meeting. She brought our attention to the fact that whatever we desire from the Lord, He will give it unto us. He is the same today.

10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. David Shaw brought a Divine Healing Message, which will be printed in a future issue, Lord willing.

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Alvin Craig. Title: “God Is Our Refuge.” Text: Psalm 46. Several other scriptures were used throughout the message. Excerpts: “In tough times, in all times, we need God as our refuge. The only way to get out of God’s hand is to walk out. We need to keep His commandments. The city of God is the living church. God’s presence gives us stability, assurance, courage, and His presence is with us wherever we go. God will not change. We need to align with Him to accomplish His purpose in us.”

Sunday, 6:00 A.M.—Bro. Horace Walters was in charge. He reminded us that God speaks in every service, and if you don’t hear Him, you’re not listening. God has never started a work He didn’t finish. Those who come seeking a blessing will receive one.

9:45 A.M.—Sunday school period.

10:30 A.M.—Before the message, a special presentation was made from the church in Grand Cayman to Bro. Alvin Craig for his 65 years of service to the Cayman Islands. His first international trip for the gospel was in 1951 to Grand Cayman. Sis. Lois Arch presented the Certificate of Appreciation.

The speaker was Bro. James Arch. Texts: II Peter 2:6; I Peter 1:8. Excerpts: “We are to love the church and promote her. Don’t look at the church through one person. Living for God is a choice. God made man upright, but man blundered. Unless God gets a hold of us, we will be lost. Don’t forget where God brought us from. The devil comes with discouragement, but he is a liar. Saul said, ‘Lord, what wilt thou have me to do.’ God had a plan for Saul. The Philippian jailer saw the Lord move in a mighty way. The prodigal son came back. His father welcomed him with open arms.”

2:30 P.M.—A Young People’s Service was held under the direction of Sis. Marvia Rankine. Title: “Passport to Heaven.” The pilot text was Philippians 3:20. In this service, the illustration of planning a trip, following instructions and guidelines were given. So it is with our spiritual journey. We have to plan to get to heaven, for it is a prepared place for a prepared people. Jesus is our spiritual Passport, but in order for Him to be, we must make a choice. All must be born again. The power our Lord gives is what enables us to be called the children of God. We have to have the assurance and confirmation of salvation in our souls. We must walk cir-

cumspectly. No matter the bumps along the way, let us keep going. This is a heavenly journey. We have to remain faithful to the end. This was a very inspiring service.

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Harley McClung. Title: “Weightier Matters.” Text: Matthew 23:23-25. Excerpts: “Everywhere Jesus went, He was true to the people. He was trying to help them. When the Titanic began to take in water, it became a weightier matter. One thief on the cross asked Jesus to forgive Him. Tonight is the night of salvation. It is appointed unto man once to die and then the judgment. Judgment is a weightier matter. Judgment is extending justice to all men. What is your decision tonight? Christ is your friend. He has extended His love to you. You don’t want to be an enemy of God. Hell is enlarging itself every day. You need to get off the broad way. Get on the narrow way. Be numbered with the few. Give your heart to the Lord.”

We sincerely thank the Lord for meeting with us in another convention. Thanks to Him for the souls who were saved and helped otherwise. Also, thanks to all who did what they could in every way to make this convention a success.

May the Lord bless us as we continue to serve Him each day. †

2016 CAYMAN CONVENTION CD’S

We are making available CD’s of these services. These may be purchased for \$2.50 each. The complete set: \$30.00. (Good for U.S. and C.I. only.)

Please fill in the blanks for those you wish to order. Send check or money order to: The Way of Truth CD Ministry, P.O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088.

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- ___ CD #724 Who Is God? *A. A. Craig*
- ___ CD #725 Serving God in Sincerity *Rupert Shippy*
- ___ CD #726 Dealing with Change *Harley McClung*
- ___ CD #727 The Church in these Tough Times *D. Darby*
- ___ CD #728 God Remains the Same *Hezekiah Lamey*
- ___ CD #729 Press Through the Crowd *Paul Wilson*
- ___ CD #730 God Is the Answer - Trust Him! *Leston Mann*
- ___ CD #731 The Unlimited Power of God *Duane Jeffries*
- ___ CD #732 Divine Healing Service *David Shaw*
- ___ CD #733 In Tough Times, In All Times—God *J. Arch*
- ___ CD #734 Passport to Heaven *Young People’s Service*
- ___ CD #735 Weightier Matters *Harley McClung*

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James Arch, Pastor

Radio Cayman

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Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

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COMING MEETINGS

2017 JAMAICA CONVENTION

Cornwall Mountain, Westmoreland

February 28-March 5, 2017, Lord willing

Sis. Ruth Cummings, Host Pastor



2017 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

12819 Point Salem Rd.

Hagerstown, Maryland U.S.A.

July 4-9, 2017, Lord willing

Bro. Alvin A. Craig, Host Pastor