

The Way of Truth

Vol. 75

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

No. 7

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2017

"For from the least of them even
unto the greatest of them every one
is given to covetousness; and from
the prophet even unto the priest
every one dealeth falsely."

Jeremiah 6:13

**Is This True
for America?**

**See Editorial
Inside the Front Cover**

JULY EDITORIAL

I HAVE spoken of God's promises to Israel, as found in Deuteronomy 28, a number of times. In the first 14 verses, we find the wonderful promises God made to Israel, IF they would obey Him: "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: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, *if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God*" (verses one and two). Continuing through verse 14, we read in detail the blessings the Lord promised.

Then we come to verse 15, and we read: "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee." Deuteronomy 28 has 68 verses in it, and from verse 15 through verse 68, the Lord goes into detail describing the curses He will bring upon them if they do not keep His commandments.

Much of the rest of what we call the Old Testament gives the history of these people that God had chosen to be a separate people for Himself. After entering the promised land, the tribes were ruled by judges for many years. Samuel is considered the last judge and the first prophet. It was during his rule that the people demanded a king so they could be like the other nations around them. Samuel tried to persuade them not to choose a king. He warned them what would happen if they did. We read in I Samuel, "This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands. ... And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. ... And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the Lord will not hear you in that day. Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles" (chapter 8:11-20).

After King Saul committed suicide, David became king over part of the tribes with a capital in Hebron, later becoming king over all Israel with the capital in Jerusalem. During his and his son Solomon's rule, Israel became a very powerful and prosperous kingdom. After Solomon died, the kingdom divided. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, became king over Judah, and Jeroboam, Solomon's enemy, became king over the northern tribes—Israel. Israel had 20 kings—not one who was godly—and were finally carried into captivity by Assyria, never to become a nation again. Judah had 19 kings of which a few were God-fearing.

During the time the few godly kings ruled, God blessed them, but they suffered much when the evil kings ruled. Many of them were carried to Babylon as

captives for 70 years. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

William Bradford aboard the *Mayflower* landed in the "New World" and founded the Plymouth Colony. Some 100 people, many of them seeking religious freedom in the new world, set sail from England in September 1620. After making their voyage of 65 days—traveling over some very stormy seas—they reached the shores of Cape Cod. They came ashore on December 21. More than half of the settlers died during that first winter. The Plymouth Colony, along with Jamestown, Virginia, was one of the earliest successful colonies to be founded in the New World.

At first, they were a part of the British Empire. Later, when there were thirteen colonies, they chose to declare their freedom from England, form 13 states, and become The United States of America. Through the years, there have been some godly people in our country, and God blessed it, and it finally became a nation of 50 states. It became one of the richest and most powerful nations in the history of mankind.

As we consider some of the nations of the past, let us consider why they fell:

Israel, under Solomon: "King Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites: Of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: ... Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, ... Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, ... and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. Likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice" (I Kings 11:1-9).

The result: "Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant" (verse 11).

Our former President seemed to be proud of his stand for same-sex marriages and transgenders, while professing to be a Christian. In Genesis 18, the Lord spoke to Abraham about Sodom and Gomorrah, saying: "Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done

ABOUT THE COVER

The American flag on our cover has a background of rugged mountains in Zion National Park in Utah. Our country is blessed with many beautiful scenes and plentiful natural resources to supply our needs. God has been good to us and America owes Him a great debt of gratitude. But, alas, it seems that our generation has forsaken Him.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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Vol. 75 July 2017 No. 7

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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altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not I will know." God could not find 10 righteous people in those cities, so He destroyed them with fire from heaven! What was their sin? Men with men, and women with women. In Leviticus 18:22, God says that such is an abomination in His sight. God has not changed His position on that.

The morals of this nation have fallen very low during the last half century, and the last eight years has added greatly to that fall.

Will a nation forget its God? It would seem that the United States of America has! We need to be stirred and burdened for our nation. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17). Jeremiah, speaking of the people of his day, "For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely" (Jeremiah 6:13). The people refused to heed the prophet's warning, and that is why thousands were carried away captive to Babylon. What does the future hold for the United States of America? †

VIEW OUR WORSHIP SERVICES LIVE!

As many of our readers know, we can be found on the internet at www.wayoftruth.org where in addition to reading past issues and other information, you can view our general services every Sunday LIVE at 10:40 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. E.D.T. Enjoy Spirit-filled singing and preaching. Also, our mid-week service at 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays is aired live. There is a chatroom where you can interact with us and share your prayer requests. Tune in and worship with us!

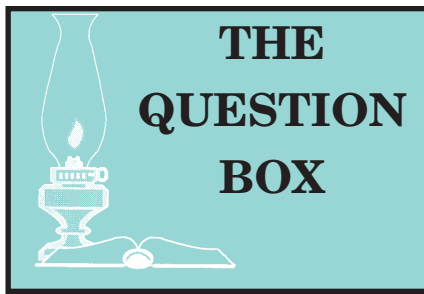
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Note: These questions are in regard to our Eternal Home. The answers were given by the late H. M. Riggle, from the book *Scripture Readings and Sermon Outlines*—Copyright 1922.



QUESTION: Will the righteous have an eternal existence?

ANSWER: “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars *for ever and ever*” (Daniel 12:3). “And they shall reign *for ever and ever*” (Revelation 22:5).

QUESTION: Will this world exist forever?

ANSWER: “What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matthew 24:3). “Lo, I am with you alway; even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20). “The end of all things are at hand” (I Peter 4:7).

QUESTION: Will the earth ever pass away?

ANSWER: “Heaven and earth shall pass away” (Matthew 24:35). “Till heaven and earth pass” (Matthew 5:18).

QUESTION: The earth is one of the things we see. What does Paul say of the things which are seen?

ANSWER: “The things which are seen are *temporal* [lasting for a time only—transitory]; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (II Corinthians 4:18).

QUESTION: Our eternal home is something we cannot see with our natural eyes. Where and what is it?

ANSWER: “A building of God, an house not made with hands, *eternal in the heavens*” (II Corinthians 5:1).

QUESTION: When and how will this earth pass away?

ANSWER: “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, *the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up*” (II Peter 3:10).

QUESTION: Will its present form pass entirely out of existence?

ANSWER: “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the

heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them” (Revelation 20:11).

QUESTION: What “heavens” is it that shall pass away?

ANSWER: The aerial heavens that surround this globe” (Genesis 7:23).

QUESTION: What promise did Jesus make His disciples?

ANSWER: “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5). [It is understood that Jesus meant by that promise that they would receive the good things of this earth.]

QUESTION: Since this planet will pass away and be no more, what blessed promises are given to us of that future, heavenly, and better country?

ANSWER: “Knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance” (Hebrews 10:34). “We have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (II Corinthians 5:1). “An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (I Peter 1:4). “For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven” (Colossians 1:5). “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:2, 3).

QUESTION: Where shall we receive our future reward?

ANSWER: “Your reward is great in heaven” (Luke 6:22, 23). “Great is your reward in heaven” (Matthew 5:11, 12).

QUESTION: Will the righteous not farm, etc., for a living in that heavenly country?

ANSWER: “They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; ... For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes” (Revelation 7:16, 17).

Editor’s Note: *In regard to these two verses from Revelation, they are to be understood symbolically. In heaven, all the saints will have spiritual, glorified bodies. We will not be eating and drinking, for we shall be like Christ.*

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (I John 3:2). “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ... For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (I Corinthians 15:51 and 53). †

If you have any Bible questions for the Editor, please send them to: The Way of Truth, Attention: Question Box, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown MD 21741 U.S.A. You may also submit them by email to: truth@fred.net.

GOD'S DWELLING PLACE ON EARTH

Radio Message
by Bro. Alvin Craig

(aired 7/15/07)



TODAY, I want to speak on the thought, "God's Dwelling Place on Earth." I will be reading from Psalm 46, verses 4, 5, and 11: "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. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."

Solomon asked, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" (I Kings 8:27). A quote from Adam Clarke in regard to this scripture: "*But will God indeed dwell on the earth?*" This expression is full of astonishment, veneration, and delight. He is struck with the immensity, dignity, and grandeur of the Divine Being, but especially at his condescension to dwell with men: and though he sees, by his filling the place, that he has come now to make his abode with them, yet he cannot help asking the question, How can such a God dwell in such a place, and with such creatures?"

God has always desired to dwell with His people. When God created man, He prepared a place in the heart of each individual that He alone can fill. He came to the Garden of Eden to commune with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening until sin broke that divine fellowship. We need to take note of the fact that sin did break that divine fellowship. They no longer appreciated God's presence.

God cannot dwell in sinful hearts. I repeat: *God cannot dwell in sinful hearts.* Nevertheless, when He brought Israel out of Egypt, He determined to dwell among them; therefore, He gave Moses the plan of a tabernacle, along with its furniture and other items that went with the construction and furnishing of it. This was God's first of three dwelling places on Earth that I want to speak of today.

This tabernacle was not to be large nor was it to be built of stone, as it was to be moved from time to time. Even so, there had never been a house built like it before. It was to be the dwelling place of the invisible, infinite God of all the universe, among His people, Israel. God went into great detail in giving instructions to Moses as to how this tabernacle was to be built. Later on, whenever they actually prepared to build it, God appeared to Moses again. He said, "Now, you make sure that you build this tabernacle according to the pattern that I gave to you in the mount."

The tabernacle was called by different names, but the most meaningful seems to have been sanctuary. The word *tabernacle* means, "to settle down, or to dwell, and to express the thought that God had come to dwell

among His people." That is an amazing thing indeed, as Clarke expressed. The word *sanctuary* is understood to mean, "the sacred abode of Jehovah." That word was never used to describe the temple of heathen deities. Never! It was only the dwelling place of Jehovah—the sanctuary of the dwelling place of almighty God.

Now, a general view of the tabernacle: there was to be a court. We might call it today, a fence, but there was to be a court built. God instructed how high the posts should be and how far apart they should be. This court was to be 150 feet by 75 feet, with an opening on the east side of 30 feet. It was on the east side of this court that the Levitical tribe (the religious tribe) was to dwell. There was to be a brazen altar inside the court, but not inside the tabernacle, and this brazen altar was to be 7 feet square and 4 feet high, according to Exodus, chapter 27. There was to be behind this brazen altar, a laver. Again, this was to be outside the actual tabernacle. These two items were outside the tabernacle.

We do not have in the Scriptures a description as to just what size or shape the laver was to be, but we know it had to have a bowl type, or possibly two bowl types of articles with it, because the priests were required to wash their hands and their feet in the laver before they entered the tabernacle. So there was to be the brazen altar 7 feet square and 4 feet high. It was to have a grate inside of it, where they laid the animal after it had been slain and cut, according to God's instructions. It was laid upon that grate and burned and its ashes fell down through the grate. The Israelite was to bring his animal inside the court. There before the brazen altar, he was to lay one hand on the animal and take a sharp instrument with the other and slit the animal's throat. The priest caught the blood of the animal and sprinkled it on the altar. Of course, after performing his duties there at the brazen altar, and before he went in the tabernacle, he was to wash his hands and feet.

The first room of the sanctuary was the largest of the two rooms. The tabernacle had two rooms, and this first room was 45 feet by 15 feet. Inside the first room was a golden candlestick. It had seven branches with oil lamps on each branch. There was to be a table, which is called the table of shewbread. This table was made of shittim wood, which was covered with gold. It was 3 feet long, 18 inches wide, and 27 inches high. The priests were to bring in twelve loaves of bread and place it on the table every Sabbath. The following Sabbath, they were to bring in twelve new loaves, and take the twelve loaves that had been there for the week and eat them. These twelve loaves represented the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.

The golden altar, which was another altar much smaller than the brazen altar, was to be placed up close to the curtain that divided the two rooms. The golden altar was to be 18 inches square and 3 feet high. It was placed, I say, near the second veil that separated the two rooms. Specially prepared holy incense was to be burned there each morning and each evening in worship to Jehovah.

In the second room, the Holy of holies, which was 15 feet by 15 feet, was the ark of the covenant. It was to be 27 inches high and wide, and 45 inches long. On

top of the ark of the covenant was to be what was called the mercy seat. The mercy seat was to fit on the top of the ark of the covenant. These two tables of stone, the pot of manna that budded, and also Aaron's rod were to be placed inside the ark of the covenant. The mercy seat was a slab of pure gold as wide and as long as the ark. The mercy seat was laid on top of the ark, fitting down inside the crown as a sort of a lid. At each end of the mercy seat were two cherubims. They were to be facing one another and their heads turned down towards the mercy seat. Their wings were to be arched in such a way that they would touch, as a canopy over this symbolic seat or throne of the invisible God. We read in Exodus 25:22, where God said, "There I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims." The mercy seat can also be called the throne of mercy, because God said that is where His dwelling place would be. So God's dwelling place, the first one, was there in the tabernacle in the second room over the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat.

Now, all of these things have symbolical and spiritual meaning, which I'll not have time to go into in detail, but *the brazen altar* outside is a type of our justification.

The laver in which the priests were to wash their hands and feet was not a type of water baptism, but it was a type of regeneration. So a person had to be justified and regenerated, or born again, before he could enter the tabernacle, which was a type of God's church. God gave them instructions as to how high or long or wide the boards were to be fastened together. Those boards represented each individual member in the body of Christ.

Of course, *the table of shewbread* represented Jesus Christ, who is the bread of life.

The seven candlesticks with the seven lamps represents Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Also, the gospel, which is of course, a light. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

The golden altar, which is much smaller than the brazen altar, is where they burned the incense morning and evening, and the odor would go into the second room—a type of the prayers of the saints. Yes, our prayers arise to the Lord as sweet incense in His nostrils.

Then, inside the second room, *the ark of the covenant*, was God's actual dwelling place. It is in the sanctified experience where God actually comes and dwells in the individual. I'll have more to say about that in a moment.

The second place I want to refer to is the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem. The temple also had two rooms, just like the tabernacle did. It also had the brazen altar and the laver and the golden altar, just like the tabernacle. It was also God's dwelling place on Earth. God had told the children of Israel that when they came into the land of Canaan that He would choose a place to place His name. And He did! and Jerusalem was the place where He placed His name.

Now, David wanted to build a temple for the Lord, but he had been a man of war and shed much blood,

and God said, "No, you cannot build it, but I will give your son a reign of peace, and he shall build a house for Me." So Solomon did have this house built. It took seven years to build the temple in Jerusalem. Although it was not a large building, it was a beautiful building. I might say, a very expensive building as well, for you'll find much gold in it. They had cut cedar trees down out of Lebanon, floated them down the coasts to Joppa, and brought them up over land to Jerusalem. They had cut stones out of the rock quarry, and every stone had to fit because there was not to be the sound of the hammer or anything in the actual building of the temple. In other words, the temple was to represent God's dwelling place on Earth, and it was not to be considered some man-made thing. It had to be as God ordained it. When the temple was completed, Solomon knelt in prayer. One of the longest prayers that we find in the Bible was Solomon's prayer at the dedication, and God's presence filled it in a most marvelous way.

We come now to the third dwelling place of God on Earth. I know there are a lot of people who want to think, believe, and teach that there is going to be another rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. It is true that the Jews, some of them at least, do want to build another temple there, but God has already built His third dwelling place on Earth, and it is not a literal temple in Jerusalem. It is not a temple of literal stones, but it is a spiritual house.

Notice what the apostle Paul says in I Corinthians 6:19, 20: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." We also read in I Corinthians, chapter 3, verses 16 and 17, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23). So God's dwelling place on Earth today is not a literal tabernacle. It is not a literal temple in Jerusalem, and God will never dwell in such a temple again. But God is dwelling on Earth through His Spirit in His redeemed people. Again, Paul said, "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

I want to repeat something that I said earlier; that is, *God cannot dwell in sinful hearts*. For God to dwell in you, you must be redeemed, and consecrate and dedicate your life to God. †

God cannot dwell in sinful hearts.

HAGERSTOWN SPRING REVIVAL

April 18-24, 2017

We certainly thank the Lord for His presence with us during our Spring Revival. Bro. Harley McClung, pastor of the Church of God in Craigsville, West Virginia, was the evangelist. Accompanying him for the revival was his wife, Sis. Judy. We were glad to have them with us. We appreciated having all in attendance.

The Lord really blessed each message. The messages were not only sent to encourage the church, but were directed in persuading the lost to turn to God. We trust and pray much fruit will be borne through these messages.

May the Lord continue to bless Bro. Harley as he labors in the vineyard of the Lord.

We have available CD's of these services. Price \$3.00 each. Complete set of seven is \$15 postpaid. Please write in the blank before each title how many you would like to purchase. Send check or money order to: The Way of Truth CD Ministry, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088. (No international orders, please).

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LIVING UNDER GRACE

2017 Spring Revival Message
by Bro. Harley McClung

HALLELUJAH! Glory to God in the highest! He is worthy to be praised. We thank Him with all our hearts for this another day that He has given to us. We thank Him for the privilege He has given us to assemble here to worship Him in the beauty of holiness, in Spirit, and in truth.

I was inspired by "The Hallelujah Chorus" that was sung by the choir. I was thinking (as Sis. Jackie mentioned that it took so long to practice that chorus), God's worthy of our time. Sometimes we give God so little, and He gives us so much. Time is so precious to people that it seems they want to give God just a little bit and



take all of the rest for themselves. God deserves our very finest, our very best.

I have to make a confession to you: This week I did not look at my Sunday school quarterly. I've been busy. This might not be an excuse, but I didn't know the subject of our lesson this morning. So I picked a thought on grace. Perhaps God is having His way. It is entitled: "Living Under Grace."

I have chosen Paul's writing in Romans, chapter 6, verses 14 and 15: "For sin shall not have dominion over you [Thank God!]: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid."

WHAT IS GRACE?

Christians are Christians because of grace. God has given us grace, so therefore He is worthy and deserving of praise and worship. Glory to God! Christians are Christians because of grace. This is because God has given us the means by which we can live under grace.

Bro. Alvin asked in the Sunday school class this morning, "What is grace?" *Grace* means, "favored with the divine gift of being pardoned by the gift of liberty, the gift of peace, the gift of joy, the gift of power, the gift of hope; graciousness in mannerism and act; having divine influence upon one's heart, and having Christ's divine reflection in one's life."

Christians are Christians because they are following Jesus Christ. They are doers of the Word and not just hearers of the Word. Christians are not being deceived because they hear the Word and not do the Word. Christians are Christians because they are under the grace that empowers them to live by whatever the Bible teaches them. To be under grace is to be under the requirement to obey the Word entirely.

The law offered no power because it was covered by the blood of animals. You and I were and are covered under the blood of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10:1, "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect." The blood of bulls and goats could not change the heart of man. Verse 4, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." We are not under the law. We are under grace, and the grace is brought to us by the blood of Jesus Christ. We find so many people in our religious world, and in the religious climate of today, who believe that they have to sin a little more or a little less every day in word, deed, and thought. Therefore, they are actually putting the blood of Jesus Christ right down on the level of the blood of bulls and goats. What a mistake!

There is power in the blood of Christ! There is power in the blood of Jesus Christ to change the vilest of sinners. Listen to me, Jesus Christ can save to the uttermost. No matter what a person has done, Jesus Christ can cleanse that heart, change that heart, and bring that heart to a place where he can operate under grace on a daily basis.

Paul said in II Corinthians 5:17, 18, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things

are passed away; behold, all things are become new [not just some things, because he is a new creation]. And all things are of God [Notice that.], who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry [the government] of reconciliation." Thank God! To be reconciled to God is to be reconciled to His likeness.

We read in Titus, chapter 2, verses 11 and 12, "For the grace of God [It is not my grace nor your grace.] that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men [This grace teaches us some things that are vital to us.], Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." To live godly in this present world means that we're living under grace.

Christians are Christians because they've been born anew to Christ's likeness. That is why His disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. They weren't called Christians as a compliment, but they lived like Jesus lived. They were doing what Jesus was doing. They were like Jesus. Some mocked saying, "Well, you're just Christians." If they put that title on us, glory to God! Thank God for it. I am glad that I am a Christian, how about you?

GRACE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

First John 3:2 says, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God [Thank God, we are the sons of God!], and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." It is Christ's blood that cleanses and clears the heart and conscience. God does do that, you know. God brings us to a place that when we ask Him to forgive us, He cleans our hearts. He takes all of that load and burden of sin and throws it into the sea of forgetfulness. We know through faith that He remembers those sins against us forever no more. It seems to me that in bygone years when people would come to the altar and get saved, they would rejoice and rejoice and rejoice. We've seen people actually shouting because of what God had just done for them. We don't see that so much any more. It doesn't seem like people are elated, or have as much joy as those who were saved in the past, but God is still God, and He still saves to the uttermost. He still clears the mind and conscience of a person who is truly and genuinely redeemed. It is Christ's blood that cleans and clears the heart and conscience.

Hebrews 9:13, 14, says: "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" So, Dear Ones, the blood of bulls and goats made for a man an atonement, but they had to come year after year; but thank God, we can be saved, and we can know we are saved day by day, week by week, month by month, and year by year. We know that we are Christians because God has given grace unto us. He has changed our hearts so that out of this conscience, free of anything that would trouble us, now comes the issues of life, where we can live every day in God's favor and know it.

They (Israel) were under somewhat of a curse for breaching the law; but we are not under the law, thank God. We are under grace. Romans 6:14, 15, says: "For sin shall not have dominion over you [We are free. We have liberty. We have been liberated from the bondage of sin.]: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid." If we have received Jesus Christ, we are given power to live every day as God would have us to live. John 1:12 says, "But as many as received him [That's the key. There are very few people who are actually willing to receive with meekness the engrafted Word to the saving of their souls.], to them gave he power to become the sons of God." What does that mean? By grace we have power to love our very enemies.

What the world needs now is love! What the world needs now is God's grace that will empower them through His love! Look around. What do you see? You see and hear of war and rumors of war. We see fighting and people bickering with one another. As I've mentioned one night this week, you don't see people having friends any more, because they are not a people who have grace operating in their hearts and lives. It takes actual grace to have friends. Did you know that?

POWER UNDER GRACE

Under God's grace, we'll receive power. Under the law, one could seek carnal justice and be justified in doing it. Under the law, it was an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, but God has given us a higher standard. Jesus Christ came to give us a better way. He has given us a means today by which we can live at peace, even with our neighbors. One could seek carnal justice and be justified in doing so. There are a lot of people today who believe that they can do that and feel justified in doing it. "Well, he did that to me. I can just do that back to him." This is what the carnal mind and natural man actually think. "Well, they did it to me. I have a right to do it back to them." No, Dear Ones, we don't do that if we ever want to go to heaven. We are not under the law. We are under grace.

All power to obey can reach the sinner only through grace of which the law knows nothing. It follows that to be under the law is to be under the inability to keep it, and consequently, the common Israelite had to bring an animal sacrifice every year to atone for sin. On the other hand, to be under grace is to be under the glorious canopy and saving effects of that grace which reigns through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. This glorious assurance comes only to those who have grace ruling in their lives as a result of following Christ. Under the law, sin abounded. The law could not stop it. Romans, chapter 5, verses 20 and 21, "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." So Jesus is indeed worthy to be worshiped, praised, served, honored, and obeyed.

Under grace, we are empowered to live free. Thank God for the glorious liberty that we have under Jesus Christ. This liberty gives us the ability to serve God because our hearts have been changed, and we want

to serve Him. Let me tell you, I came to this building, not because someone compelled me, or made me come here. I am here because I want to be. I am here this morning because God has given me the liberty to be here.

Being under grace means that grace governs one's heart and life. John 1:14 says, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." It is Jesus, the Word, which offers grace and empowers. John 1:16, 17, says: "And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

FORGIVENESS UNDER GRACE

Under grace, the rule is: except you forgive, you cannot be forgiven. Under grace, the rule, the law, the command is: except you forgive, you cannot be forgiven. It is vital for us to have a clear understanding of that. You know, there are some people who have gone so deep, deep into sin that they have a very difficult time of forgiving themselves. We have to come to the place where we're willing to forgive ourselves. There are some people who have done such horrible things to their friends or neighbors that they have a difficult time forgiving them, but God's grace is sufficient. It is there to help us to forgive, no matter what has happened to us.

There are some who say, "Well, I'll forgive, but I'll never forget." Let me tell you something, you might have something in your mind. Usually whenever people say, "Well, I'll never forget," it means that they are wanting to think about it constantly, and it is there aggravating and nagging them. God's grace is willing to take those thoughts away from us, even though we might remember what was done to us. Get rid of those thoughts! God wants us to be free. He wants to give us liberty. God's grace is here to help us, no matter what people have done to us.

Lightfoot's Commentary on John 1:16: [*And grace for grace.*] "Jesus came full of grace and truth; and we saw his glory, and 'of his fulness did receive' grace and truth. And further, we received grace towards spreading of grace, i.e. the grace of apostleship, that we might dispense and propagate the grace of the gospel towards others." Others need to know and learn to comprehend this truth of God's grace. His grace is so vital. It is what changed John Newton from his horrible life of sin. That is why he came to the place where he experienced it, and He was living under it. He saw its value, and he called it "Amazing Grace"! It is indeed amazing.

When you live under grace, you see the value and the power of it, and what it enables you to do on a daily basis with your fellowman. You see the value of it, even in your home. People have been married a number of years, and sometimes they need a little extra grace, even in their homes. We need it everywhere.

Grace puts God's law in the heart, because grace loves the giver. Hebrews 10:16, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." Why? That we might not sin against Christ. Christ's law is the law of grace. God's

ways are higher than our ways. Isaiah called God's way "the highway of holy living." It is up here. It is not down here where the beggarly elements are, no! God lifts us up. He didn't leave David down in that horrible pit. David said, "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings." Then God did something really special to David: "He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God." God, through His grace and mercy, elevates mankind. He brings them up. He doesn't leave them down here where the commoners are.

Paul said in Romans 12:17-19, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Now I know some people will not live peaceably with you, but as much as we have of the peace of God operating within us, we must live peaceably with others. "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Amazing grace—amazing, because it is God's love that pardons—sets one free from sin, and most importantly, self. I am telling you, there is an ample measure of grace that we can apply in getting victory over self. It is vitally needed. Grace is God's gift of salvation from sin and eternal damnation to eternal life; it is God's mercy offered to the undeserving; it is God's teaching represented by His Son, His Word, and His Holy Spirit; it is God's saving power given to the discouraged; it is God's soothing comfort that comes as a result of the great hope He offers; it is the light of God that opens blinded eyes; it is God's transforming power that strengthens, that changes the weak and wicked men to godly men; it is God's help given that is all-sufficient, no matter what we face. Come what may, with God's grace operating in our hearts and lives, we can face it with victory in our souls. Grace is God's power given to the receiver, enabling him or her to live holy in this sin-sick, sin-cursed world that we live in.

GRACE THROUGH TRIBULATION

Because of grace, Paul made the following plain: II Corinthians 12:6-10, "For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

It was Paul who said, "I rejoice in tribulation." Can we say we rejoice when we're really tried and tested? Paul did it because he was under the umbrella of grace. God is no respecter of persons. What God gave to Paul,

He will give to you and me. Paul exhibited God's amazing grace, enabling him to do what he said.

Cheap grace is a counterfeit to God's amazing grace. Cheap grace claims to accept the benefits of God's grace without accepting the change in the way we behave. Cheap grace requires no repentance, and there is no need to live like God has asked us to do. Cheap counterfeit grace is of no value. I don't want something that is of no value. I want the genuine—the real McCoy—that which will enable me to hear Jesus Christ say one day, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Is that not what we all want to hear?

Grace is spiritual substance that enabled Stephen to say, as he was receiving those stones that were about to take his life, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." That was grace! It was grace that Jesus used and issued from His heart when He said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

I know that under the Old Testament a great deal of grace was not shown by many, but when I look at Joseph's life, I see where he was harshly treated by his brothers. He was sold into slavery by his own brothers. Whenever they were in need and came to Joseph, Joseph was in a position where he could have retaliated. He could have done them in. He could have locked them up in jail, but God even gave Joseph grace. Joseph said, "It was God who sent me down here ahead of you so that I could be here to take care of you." Dear Ones, that was grace in operation.

By grace, Paul said: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight [by God's grace], I have finished my course [by God's grace], I have kept the faith [by God's grace]: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness [by God's grace], which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them [those who have the grace of God in full operation in their lives] also that love his appearing." All of us, like Paul, are going to come to the end of our course, and we're going to only be able to give a victorious testimony as Paul did, if we live on a daily basis, under God's grace.

Now, this morning, show me men who hate their enemies, and I'll show you men void of grace. Show me men who love their enemies, and I'll show you men full of grace. Show me men who cower and cave in adversity, and I'll show you men who need grace. Show me men who stand in adversity, and hold to truth and integrity, and I'll show you men who are operating under grace. I am not speaking of something that you and I can do in, and of ourselves, no, no, no! I am talking about what God, through grace, can enable men to do.

CONCLUSION

We have put forth our efforts in a revival effort. In a revival effort, there are invitational songs offered. One says—

*Grace is offered you, dear sinner,
In this gospel day of time,
Grace to save and keep from evil,
And to make your life sublime.*

God can give you a glorious life; a life where you can live above the sin-sick, sin-cursed atmosphere that

operates everywhere. God can enable you to be a Christian; a Christian indeed operating with grace that brings your life to a beautiful life full of peace and joy and contentment, and that hope which will anchor your soul that you can hear Jesus say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." But when the grace is offered, as with all of God's gifts, it behooves us to accept it. God is not going to force His salvation or His grace upon anyone. He said, "I have set before you life and death, good and evil," but it is up to you to choose and accept this grace that is offered.

As the invitational song is offered, come and receive with meekness what God has for you and be blessed.

God bless you. †

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

GEMS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING

Scriptures: Romans 15:13; John 3:16; Acts 10:43; I John 5:1, 5; I Peter 1:8; John 6:35; 7:38; 12:46; Romans 10:10, 11; Mark 9:23.

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

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.

Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

I John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

I Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

John 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

Memory Verse: Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

—Romans 15:13.

Aim: To show that believing on Christ has its rewards.

INTRODUCTION

We Have a Hope

*Blessed hope we have within us is an anchor to the soul,
It is both steadfast and sure;
It is founded on the promises of Father's written word,
And 'twill evermore endure.*

*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.*

—William G. Schell

What would it be like to try to live in this present world and not have any hope? A life of misery! Part of the meaning of *hope* is, “a person or thing on which one may base some hope.” The prophet Joel said, “The Lord will be the hope of his people” (Joel 3:16).

MEDITATIONS

FAITH AND HOPE—Romans 15:13—The God of hope—The writer of Hebrews said, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (11:1). Anyone who really knows God knows He is the God of hope. In believing in the God of hope, it will bring joy and peace to your soul. Through the power of the Holy Spirit in your life you may abound in hope.

BELIEVING ON CHRIST—John 3:16—God so loved—One of the most familiar verses in the Bible, and one of the most meaningful verses. Every Christian is a child of God, but this verse speaks of the One who was begotten by the power of God in the womb of a virgin named Mary. The only One so begotten, and the only One who was able to be the Savior of mankind, through which it is possible to have eternal life. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” (I John 3:1).

MANY WITNESSES—Acts 10:43—All the prophets—All the prophets directly, or indirectly, gave witness of the coming Messiah. Many of the verses in the Old Testament that you find the word *Lord* is speaking of the One we know as Jesus Christ. That is the only name given among men whereby we can receive remission of sins.

ONLY ONE MEDIATOR—I John 5:1—Whosoever—“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (verse 12). It takes more than a head belief to be born of God. One must believe in his heart. If you really believe, you will love Him and show it by your actions. **Verse 5**—Another proof that you believe Jesus to be the Son of God is that you will have power to overcome the world. A child of God does not love the world.

GOD IS A SPIRIT—I Peter 1:8—Yet believing—According to the Scriptures, no human being has actually seen God, but that does not keep one from believing. With that believing, you are able to rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. There are rewards in believing!

SALVATION IS REAL—John 6:35—Never hunger—Jesus said that He was the bread of life, and I believe Him. Many did not, and they went away saying, “This is a hard saying.” But those who have eaten of Him are satisfied. Israel ate manna and hungered again. We can eat of the bread of life and never hunger for anything else.

THE INFLUENCE OF BELIEVING—John 7:38—Out of his belly—Once an individual believes on Christ, he becomes a vessel for God to fill and pour out upon others. The living waters that flow out of the believer originate with the Lord. Jesus gave the woman at the well that living water, which is salvation with all its treasures. She immediately went into the city to share her newfound joy and peace. Many believed on Jesus as a result; others believed because they heard Him themselves. But, in each case, the believer received his own portion of living water and consequently allowed that water, which was full of peace and joy to flow out from his life and influence others for righteousness. Something good always happens to the man or woman who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ!

MUCH DARKNESS—John 12:46—I am come—There is much darkness in the world, not only as far as sin and evil, but in the religious world as well. Two of the largest religious groups in the world number between two and three billion people. One of those two does not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the world. In fact, they don't believe there is a Savior. Among those who call themselves Christians, some do not believe you can be saved from all your sins and live a holy life. Nevertheless, Jesus came into the world a light. Light is understood here as truth. Darkness is sin, evil, and false doctrines.

If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and one another.

A CHANGE OF HEART—Romans 10:10—With the heart—The prophet said that the Lord takes out the stony heart and gives a heart of flesh. Salvation is not in religious rituals or ceremonies, but in a changed heart, which means a change in the way we live. **Verse 11**—One who has a new heart certainly has nothing to be ashamed of. Jesus said that if we are ashamed of Him, He would be ashamed of us.

A FATHER IN NEED—Mark 9:23—If you can believe—A son was vexed with demons. The nine disciples could not cast them out. Jesus appeared and the son's father said to Him, “If you can do anything, have compassion on us.” Jesus said to the father, “It is not whether I can do anything, but can you believe?” The answer, “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.” The son was delivered and healed.

CONCLUSION

The father in Mark 9 was rewarded for the faith he did have! We have spoken of only a few rewards in this lesson. There are many, but the greatest of all is being delivered out of the prison house of sin—out of darkness—into the marvelous liberty and light of being a child of God. This liberty and freedom is offered to all, for Jesus tasted death for everyone, and whosoever will may come and drink of the water of life freely.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What does it really mean to believe on Christ?
 2. Why is it that millions say that they believe on Christ but you see no change in their lives?
 3. How many ways are there to have eternal life?
 4. What did the prophet say about the heart?
 5. What does it take to be able to overcome the world?
 6. What did Jesus mean when He said that He was the bread of life?
 7. Have you experienced the joy and peace of believing on Christ? †
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THE POETRY PAGE

BE OPTIMISTIC

Mary Larkin Cook

We're often perplexed and worried a lot
When all is not going so well
And think many times, hope is gone, when 'tis not
Then grieve much as others we tell.

But so often, I'm sure, if we'd look for the light
We'd find glories there to adorn,
The sun has a sinking spell every night,
But he rises again in the morn!

COMMUNION

Henry Dodson

Lord, in Thy presence wait I here
With yearning heart to pray
Thy welcome Spirit to draw near,
Communing sweet this day.

May attitudes which would obscure
Thy face or sins which hide
Be washed aside, and faith be sure
That selfish self has died.

O Lord, my Lord, O make this hour
Serene and deep to be;
Make heart and soul to throb with power
In blissful heights with Thee.

STOP AND PRAY

Laura E. Smith

Christian, do not be discouraged
Though the skies are dark and gray,
For the clouds will soon be rifted
If you stop awhile and pray.

You may feel yourself forsaken;
Jesus may seem far away;
You will feel His presence near you,
If you stop awhile and pray.

When affliction comes upon you,
Pain will surely flee away,
Or you'll be given grace to bear it
If you stop awhile and pray.

You may be bowed down with burdens
Till your soul seems in dismay,
But the load will grow much lighter
If you stop awhile and pray.

IT'S A SECRET

Raymond F. Gatten

"It's no secret," says the song,
"No secret what our God can do."
That He can do what'er He will
Is truth denied by very few.
By His will He heals the ailing,
By His will the blind can see,
Deaf ones hear, the lame start walking,
Men bound down by sin are free.

But His children know a secret
Ne'er disclosed to public ken,
Not made known to doubting hearts and
Guarded safe from scoffing men.
How He blesses those who love Him,
How He speaks in accents low
Words of love and cheer and comfort
Men of sin can never know.

That His power has no limit,
Everyone can be aware,
To do what men can't do, He's able;
He can answer any prayer.
But the comforts He has promised,
Only Jesus can bestow,
Yes, the pleasure is a secret
Only loyal hearts can know.

MY HEART IN TUNE

James H. Treadway

Dawn breaks anew. And I awake
To face the day ahead.
No fears may cause my heart to quake,
To fill my mind with dread.

There in the midst of morn's new birth
I seek my Father's will.
A dewlike hush falls o'er the earth:
God speaks. My heart is still.

With Him in quiet I commune
While love Christ does unfold.
And then I rise, my heart in tune,
With grace and strength untold. †

Prayer keeps your heart in tune!

MEANING OF SANCTIFICATION IN ITS VARIOUS USES

PROBABLY one of the most fruitful sources of controversy concerning the Scriptural doctrine of entire sanctification is the great amount of confusion and variety of opinion as to the meaning of the term “sanctification” as used in the Bible. We are prone to suppose that, because in one text or use it has to do with a particular phase of Christian life or experience, therefore it has that same meaning in every other use of it in the Bible. The mistake is often made of giving a technical meaning to this term and of trying to limit its usage to this one meaning. To illustrate: One man finds the term used of the cleansing from committed sins, therefore he decides that must be the Scriptural meaning of the word exclusive of all other meanings. Another finds it used of the cleansing of believers after conversion, and he tries to teach a second cleansing from every text in which the term is used. Still another person finds the term used in the sense of consecration, or a setting apart, so he contends it means that and nothing more.

The many one-sided views of sanctification as often held forcibly remind us of the story of the six blind men who went to see the elephant. The one who took hold of his leg thought the elephant was like a tree. Another who grasped his tail thought him like a rope. A third seized his ear, and decided he was like a fan; while the one who placed a hand upon his broadside said he was like a wall. And, as the story goes, when each had examined the beast and found him different from what the others had, they all disputed loud and long as to which held the right theory of the elephant. This is a homely illustration, but it is exactly parallel to the cause for much of the dispute concerning the nature of sanctification. Men see one phase of its meaning and suppose that is all there is to it. They are all partly in the right, yet they are all in the wrong as much as were the six blind men, and their conception of the meaning of the term “sanctification” is as inadequate as were the view of the blind men concerning the elephant.

The Meaning of the Term

To understand clearly the Scriptural meaning of the term “sanctify,” it is necessary to go back of the English word to the Greek term. The best Greek authorities hold that the Greek *hagios* and its derivatives are properly translated by the following English words in their various forms—sanctify, holy, pure, chaste, and clear. In the Bible they are translated by these various words. They also include the idea of consecrating to a holy purpose or of ascribing holiness to a person or thing. However, the more common use of the Greek *hagios* is to cleanse. Likewise the primary meaning of sanctify is to cleanse. Therefore it is evident that wherever there is a cleansing, there must in that sense be a sanctification, whether that cleansing be of the heart or of the life, spiritual or physical, of committed sins or of inherited depravity, actual or ceremonial. If it were

always borne in mind that sanctification may have this variety of meaning as does cleansing or almost any other term, much misunderstanding could be avoided. The sense of the term or the sanctification referred to in a particular text of the Bible must be determined by the context, etc., as we determine the particular usage of any other term. We question whether the term sanctification has any technical use in the Bible as it seems to have in the minds of many people.

Eight Different Possible Uses of Sanctification

The term “sanctification” is capable of being used in at least eight different senses in respect to experience or practise and is used in most of these senses in the Scriptures. In some of these uses an equivalent term is employed. The following is a list of these uses, the first four of which it will be seen refer to a cleansing of the heart and are always used when the work is said to be done by God. The second four are other uses of sanctification and are applied to work performed by man.

I. Sanctification wrought by God.

1. Sanctification of the heart generally without distinguishing as to the particular works of justification, etc., Acts 20:32; 26:18; I Corinthians 1:2; 6:11; Hebrews 2:11; 13:12; Jude 1; Romans 15:16.

2. Justification as a sanctification or cleansing from committed sins, Revelation 1:5; I John 1:7, 9; Hebrews 9:14; 1:3.

3. Regeneration, or the removal of or cleansing from the stony heart and the giving of a new heart, Ezekiel 36:25-27.

4. Entire sanctification, John 17:17; I Thessalonians 5:23; Ephesians 5:26.

II. Sanctification not wrought by God.

1. Sanctification of the outward life, I Peter 1:14-16; II Timothy 2:19-21; I Thessalonians 4:7.

2. Reverence, sanctification by ascribing holiness to, I Peter 3:15; Numbers 20:12.

3. Consecration, or sanctification by setting apart, John 17:19; 10:36; Deuteronomy 5:12.

4. Ceremonial and physical sanctification, I Corinthians 7:14; I Timothy 4:5; Exodus 19:23.

The foregoing, if not the only uses, are at least the principal proper uses of sanctification. Careful study of the texts here given will be profitable.

Entire Sanctification Defined

While we allow these various senses of the term “sanctification,” it is not our purpose in this book to discuss all of them, but only that often described as “entire sanctification.” We define it briefly at this point as a definite cleansing, subsequent to conversion, from the depravity of the nature, which condition remains in the regenerated until the time of this entire sanctification, a work contemporary with the Holy Ghost baptism. As a matter of convenience we shall here commonly designate this second cleansing “sanctification”; but it should be remembered that “sanctification” ordinarily has no technical meaning. †

—Fifth chapter of *Holy Ghost Baptism and The Second Cleansing* by H. M. Riggle, copyright, 1912.

EIGHT POWERFUL TRUTHS OF JOHN 3:16

By Bro. G. E. Tyler

“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.”

SOME people believe that John 3:16 is the greatest verse in the Bible. Undoubtedly, it is the most familiar verse in the Word of God. Even people who have never opened a Bible know this verse is in there and many could quote it word for word. But few fully comprehend the power that explodes from those 25 words. God is able to say so much in a few words. It would be impossible for me—or anyone for that matter—to exhaust the value of this one verse. But I would like to point out eight powerful truths that are revealed to humanity through this amazing verse of scripture.

THE GREATEST VERSE ...

For God	the greatest Giver
so loved	the greatest motive
the world	the greatest need
that He gave	the greatest act
His only Son	the greatest gift
that whosoever	the greatest invitation
believes in Him	the greatest opportunity
should not perish	the greatest deliverance
but have eternal life	the greatest joy

Truth #3—HE IS A GOD WHO GIVES—“For God so loved the world, that he gave ...”

Love is giving. So God, being a God of love, it naturally follows that He is a Giver. The apostle Paul was passing through Athens and went up Mars Hill, and this is what he said, “For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; ...” God gives to all people life and breath and all things.

Everything we have we have received from Him. He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust (Matthew 5:45). God gives us richly all things to enjoy (I Timothy 6:17). He gives and gives and gives. Man takes and takes. It is about time that people give back to God!

Truth #1—EXISTENCE OF GOD—“For God ...”

There is a God in heaven! It was Jesus Christ who spoke these words to Nicodemus—and all mankind. He didn’t make a long discourse trying to prove there is a God. He assumes all know it for a fact: God exists! He is our Creator. Genesis 1:1 says, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” It is so! Let scoffers scoff, let scorners sneer. “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God” (Psalm 14:1).

Millions of educated people prefer to believe we descended from apes and that there is no God. I prefer to believe John 1:1-3, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

I am not going to try to convince my reader that God exists. John 3:16 says He does. The universe is so ordered it could not have come into existence by chance. God made it and keeps it in place by His Word.

Truth #2—HE IS A GOD OF LOVE—“For God so loved the world ...”

We learn about the nature of this almighty God through His Word and the Bible tells us He is a God of love. I didn’t make Him that way. This is simply who God is. I John 4:8 says, “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” He is the embodiment of love. He is the definition of love. I am so glad that He is!

This verse tells us that God so loved the world or the population of the world. That means everyone! The following verse to our text says, “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” He so loved—He loved so much!

Truth #4—HE GAVE HIS OWN SON—“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son ...”

God gave His dearest possession—His Son. Only that great sacrifice could atone for the sins of the world. So God sent Him, allowed Him to suffer agony at the hands of sinful men that you and I could be saved. Scripture after scripture echoes this truth.

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh” (Romans 8:3).

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life” (Romans 5:8-10).

“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28).

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (I Timothy 2:5, 6).

Truth #5—GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS—“... that whosoever ...”

This gospel is not only for a select few. It is for everyone! It is for whosoever will. “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17).

When God showed Peter His will toward the Gentile world, this is what Peter said, “Of a truth I perceive

that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:34, 35).

There are religions that believe and teach that the destination for the soul of man is predetermined to be lost or saved and that there is nothing the individual can do about it. But John 3:16 emphatically states that whosoever is included in God's plan. Peter proclaims that God is "longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). And Paul says that God "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:4).

Truth #6—MAN MUST BELIEVE—"... *that whosoever believeth in him* ..."

There are some requirements to receiving salvation and the forgiveness of sins. One of those is that we must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died for our sins and that because of His sacrifice on Calvary's brow, the Father is willing to forgive us of our sins and deliver us from sin's bondage. After Jesus spoke our text He affirms, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).

Believing or not believing determines one's destiny! "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). Oh, I encourage you, Dear Reader, believe and be translated from spiritual death to spiritual life! "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

Truth #7—MAN DOES NOT HAVE TO PERISH—"... *should not perish*..."

Your soul is perishable! It can be lost forever in a never-ending hell. And it will be unless you repent. "For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish" (Psalms 1:6). But you don't have to be lost. Your soul should not perish. That is the good news proclaimed by John 3:16. Every provision has been made for you to be spared of doom. God sent His Son Jesus to die for you that you should not perish, but rather escape the damnation that awaits the lost. He has spared your life to read this article and is waiting for your response. Don't perish with the multitude. Your life will perish—it will be cut off or ebb to an end. Your body will perish—it will decay and return to the earth. But your soul DOES NOT have to perish! In fact, John 3:16 says it should not.

Truth #8—EVERLASTING LIFE CAN BE YOURS!—"... *but have everlasting life*."

Think of it: a life of bliss awaits you that will never end. Heaven is as real as hell. In drawing a picture of the last day, Jesus concludes by saying, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matthew 25:46). John 3:16 promises everlasting life! It can only be found in Christ. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John

17:3). There is such a contrast presented—"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). And the choice is all yours!

John 3:16 is a microcosm of the entire Bible. A way of escape has been provided but each individual must choose for himself. Galatians 6:7, 8 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

The eight powerful truths of John 3:16:

THERE IS A GOD

HE IS A GOD OF LOVE

HE IS A GOD WHO GIVES

HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

HE IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

MAN MUST BELIEVE

MAN DOES NOT HAVE TO PERISH

EVERLASTING LIFE CAN BE YOURS!

George Matheson once penned:

"O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be."

So read or recite John 3:16. Do it slowly. Let each one of the 25 words reverberate in your soul. Read or recite it again. If you are saved, it ought to cause worship to swell in your heart for God because you are experiencing the reality of this verse. If you are not saved, humble yourself, claim all that God has for you. Believe that this verse was composed by Jesus Christ just for your benefit that today the treasure of John 3:16 can be yours for the asking. †

OUT OF BOX 88

Dear Friends,

Hi there! I pray that all is well. Thank you each one for all you do to get the gospel to the unsaved. I pray the Lord will bless each one.

—C. J., West Virginia

Dear Bro. Alvin,

I cannot put into words what I feel in the services. I am so blessed to have the internet to view, as I feel like I'm actually there. I know the services are straight from heaven because of the Holy Spirit. The last young people's meeting was so filled with the Holy Spirit that I felt like shouting. ... Thanks to all of you for all the blessings you send to me.

—E. B., Texas

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Thank you for spreading the Word of God, the truth throughout the world. In these trying times, it is a relief to hear God's truth being told. Thank you!

—W. S., Ohio

Greetings to All,

Enclosed is a check for the work of the gospel. May God bless each and everyone who has a part in putting out The Way of Truth magazine. It is a blessing to all of us.

—J. & H. G., Missouri

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



THE REAL DANGER A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"Could you please slide over and sit by the other window?" I asked my sister, Twila, as we climbed into the family car after church one Sunday night. "I want to sit by this one." I waited for her to move from her seat by the right-hand window.

"Why do you want me to sit by the other window?" Twila asked. "What's wrong with it?"

"Nothing's wrong with it," I answered. "I just don't want to sit by it."

My younger sister looked at me suspiciously. "Then there must be something wrong with the seat beside that window," she said. "Why don't you want to sit there all of a sudden?"

"What are you girls arguing about?" my mother asked. "Get in the car right now, both of you!"

Afraid there was something wrong with the left-hand backseat of the car, Twila refused to move, and so I grudgingly walked around the car and got into the very seat where I did not want to sit. Wilma, who was younger than both of us, climbed over me and sat down in the middle.

I sighed as I slumped down in the seat beside the left-hand window. I was not looking forward to the long drive in the dark. Most of all, I dreaded the climb up the last hill before we reached home. There was something awful at the top of that hill—something I had recently discovered—and I did not want to be anywhere near it.

My father started the car and steered it down the street that led out of town and into the dark countryside. He and my mother talked in low tones, discussing the serious problems of life. They had no idea that I was facing my own serious problem. Mile after mile melted away, and soon we were at the bottom of the dreaded hill. As the car started up the hill, I checked to make sure my door was locked. Then I crouched down until I could no longer see out of the window. *If I can't see out, then no one can look in through the window and see me, either!* I thought to myself.

I took hold of the armrest on the door and gripped it with all of my might. With eyes squeezed tightly shut, I waited for the car to reach the crest of the hill and make the right-hand turn toward our house. The climb seemed to take forever. Cautiously, I raised my head just high enough to peek through the bottom of the car window. There it was—the sight I had dreaded to see! At the top of the hill, just beyond the curve in the road was a large, heavy gate made of steel. Beyond it, in the darkness, was the glow of a great, smoldering fire. The air was filled with the stench of something burning.

"Phew!" said my mother. "That fire smells terrible!"

"It's all that garbage they're burning," replied my father. "No wonder we can smell it all the way to the house!"

I barely noticed what my parents were saying. I was frightened—terrified that I might see a shadowy form standing behind the gate—or worse yet, coming through the gate toward our car! My mother looked over her shoulder and saw me peeking through the window.

"What on earth are you doing down on the floor?" she asked me. "Get back up on the seat where you belong!" In silence, I obeyed her. *How can my parents drive so calmly past this terrible place? I wondered. Why aren't they afraid?*

It wasn't until I was a little older that I realized what was behind the heavy steel gate. It was the County Landfill—the place where garbage trucks unloaded the trash they had picked up all over the community. Although there are now laws preventing it, in those days, garbage was often burned on weekend evenings.

When I was a young child, however, I didn't know much about the landfill. When I saw the great steel gates with the glow of fire behind them, I imagined I was looking straight into what my father called "The Bad Place"—the place of eternal torment reserved for wicked and disobedient souls. I feared those gates, and I feared the fire. I was afraid that an evil being could come from behind those gates, snatch me from my parents, and cast me into the fire.

But as I grew older, I learned that evil doesn't lurk behind the gates of a landfill or in a pile of burning trash. In fact, evil often hides behind something that looks attractive and desirable. If evil could always be seen for what it is, fewer people would be ensnared by it.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 12:5, which reads, "The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit." The key to this verse is the word "deceit." This verse tells us that the counsels (advice) of the wicked are deceit (trickery). The advice of wicked people might sound attractive, but if you follow it, you will be tricked into doing evil.

If someone tries to get you to try something your parents have forbidden, don't be tricked into following that advice, no matter how attractive it may seem. Evil is lurking there. Many young people are tricked into trying illegal drugs because they are presented as exciting or pleasurable. By the time those poor young people realize their mistake, the damage has already been done. It is very difficult to extricate oneself from that type of addiction.

Remember, evil doesn't usually present itself in its true ugliness. It often appears harmless and beautiful. If you want to live a safe and happy life, follow your parents' godly advice and stay close to God—our Shield and Defender from all evil.

Activity

God is often referred to in the Bible, especially in the book of Psalms, as our "Shield." How many times can you find the word "shield" used this way in the book of Psalms?

Answer to Last Month's Activity

Did you think of some words that are related to prayer? Here are some ideas:

P - patience, promises, praise

R - receive, respond

A - answers, availeth

Y - yearning

E - earnest, entreaty

R - righteous, request †

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL SIGHT

By Sis. Gail Cook,
North Carolina



Physical Blindness

JOHN 9:1-7 says, "And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with clay. And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing."

Here we see a man who was born physically blind. All he had ever seen was darkness. He had never seen the beautiful blue sky, the many different colorful flowers, or any of the things of the world. There was no way he could have a clear or real understanding of the world around him. How could his friends and family who had sight possibly explain to him what color was or what the bright, sunny, blue sky was like? It was just not possible. Because of his physical state, he wasn't able to properly function in life. He had to rely on the help of others just to survive. He had to be led by others wherever he went because he wasn't able to see which way to go. I'm sure it would have caused him much confusion if he were to try to go to any destination on his own. I'm sure all can understand how needful and important physical vision is. To have physical sight is indeed a blessing.

Spiritual Blindness

Jesus came not only to bring sight to the physically blind, but also to bring sight to those who are spiritually blind. Those who are physically blind abide in darkness just as those who are spiritually blind abide in darkness, as was the case of Saul of Tarsus.

We read about Saul in Acts 9:1, 2, "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus that if he found any

of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem." Saul was a Pharisee, and here we see where Saul wanted to be granted permission to go to Damascus to bind any disciple of Christ that he could find and bring them back to Jerusalem. Saul was granted this permission because he started out on his journey to Damascus.

The Scriptures tell us some things about Saul. Saul made havoc of the Church, entering into every house, and hailing men and women, committed them to prison. The word *havoc* means, "great destruction or devastation; ruinous damage." He was working to destroy the Church of God. He persecuted the Church greatly and wanted to stop the preaching of Christ. It seems here, by his actions, that he had a determination to work against the people of God in any way he could. No doubt Saul brought much suffering and fear upon the people.

Now Saul had heard about Jesus and the miracles that were done by His power. He had heard about the gospel of Christ. He knew what the disciples of Christ taught and what they stood for, but because of his spiritual state he was unable to really see and understand the things of Christ. When someone abides in spiritual darkness, he cannot have a clear or a real understanding of spiritual things; and therefore, he cannot have a real understanding of the things of God because God is spiritual. John 4:24 says, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Because of Saul's spiritually blind state, not only was he not able to see the spiritual things of God, but also was unable to see his own true spiritual state of sin and the seriousness of it.

What caused Saul to be spiritually blind? Sin causes blindness. When someone lives in sin, he is living in error, and his error represents darkness because the one who is in error is blinded to the truth. James 5:20 says, "Let him know, that he which coverteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." A sinner lives in error, but when he is converted to the truth, then his soul is saved from death. Saul was living in sin because he was disobedient and rebellious against the gospel of Christ. I John 3:4 says, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." To sin is to knowingly transgress the law of God. Because of Saul's spiritual state, he was unable to see what was right and what was wrong, what was truth and what was error. He thought he was doing right. He thought he was doing what he should do. Ephesians 4:18 describes Saul's spiritual state: "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart."

Spiritual Sight

Acts 9:3-6 says, "And as he [Saul] journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou

have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”

The light that shone around Saul from heaven was the presence of Jesus. That light was not the sun in the sky. That light was Jesus because He is light. That light represented truth; for anyone who comes into the presence of Jesus is going to see truth. I John 1:5 says, “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” God is truth, and in Him is no error at all. Since God is pure truth, it can only be that His Word is pure truth.

Jesus spoke to Saul’s heart, and Saul knew that this wasn’t just any voice; but there was a witness to his heart that this was the voice of One with great power and authority. No doubt, since Saul was in the presence of Jesus he could see His great glory. At first Saul didn’t know Jesus or know who He truly was, and that is why he responded, “Who art thou, Lord?” I believe because of this marvelous experience that Saul had a desire to know who Jesus was. I believe he had an honest heart, and he wanted to do what was right, and he wanted the truth.

When Christ speaks to hearts that are in darkness and reveals truth, they must make a decision whether to accept or reject it. We can see by Saul’s response that he completely accepted Christ and the truth that was revealed to him; for Saul’s response was, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” Now, if Saul had rejected Christ, he would have stayed in sin and in darkness; but because he accepted Christ, it enabled him to be freed from the darkness and to dwell in the light. Jesus said in John 8:12, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” Only the power of Christ can open the eyes of the blind that they not walk in darkness, for the purpose of Christ’s coming into the world was, “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith in me” (Acts 26:18).

When Saul got to Damascus, Ananias came to him and said, “Brother Saul, receive thy sight.” (He had been blind for three days.) And the same hour he received his sight. He was told to be baptized, a symbol of his death to sin and his resurrection to life in Christ. In Acts 9:17 we read what Ananias said to Saul. Jesus had sent him to Saul, not only to receive his physical sight, but that he be filled with the Holy Ghost. Saul made a full surrender to Christ’s will and way. He rejected the doctrine of the Pharisees which he had been taught from his youth. His only desire was to know the gospel of Christ.

Only a true experience of salvation enables one to receive spiritual sight. Jesus told Nicodemus that except a man be born again, he could not see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant. Jesus told him that which was born of the flesh was flesh, and that which was born of the Spirit was spirit. Jesus was telling Nicodemus that in order to enter into the kingdom of God, and in order to see the kingdom of God, he must be born again spiritually. The kingdom

of God is spiritual, and the Scriptures tell us the kingdom of God is reigning now.

When someone receives salvation, it puts him in a place where he is able to receive the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of truth. The Holy Spirit cannot abide in a heart where sin is. How does one receive the Holy Spirit? He must make a complete consecration to the Lord, as Paul said, “Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1). The saved must ask God to give them the Holy Spirit and believe that He will do it.

It is the Spirit of truth that gives us power to live free from sin and live a victorious Christian life. It is also the Holy Spirit that helps us to understand what is truth and what is error. John 16:13 says, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.” The Scriptures teach that when someone receives salvation, the Spirit of God is with him, and when someone is sanctified, then the Spirit dwells in him. I Corinthians 6:19 says, “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” It takes the Spirit of God to open our eyes to the truth, and it takes the Spirit dwelling in us daily to keep us in the truth.

When Saul’s spiritual eyes were opened, what was he able to see? He saw the error of his way. He saw his need of salvation, his need of Christ. He was able to see Christ and see Him for who He truly was. He could see Christ’s true character and how truly great and mighty He was. He was able to see that there was only one true and living God, and that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. Acts 9:20 says, “Straightway he [Saul] preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.”

When Saul’s spiritual eyes were opened, there was something else he could see. He was able to see what was going to happen if a sinner was to die in his sins. Saul was able to see the sinner’s fate and how serious and detrimental it would be. The only opportunity in life for a sinner to have his spiritual eyes opened is through the experience of salvation. In Acts 20:31, it says, “That he [Saul, who was also called Paul] by the space of three years, ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.” What was he warning them about? Their lost state and their need of salvation. Also, we read in Acts 20:28-30, of how he warned the elders: “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”

As needful and as important as physical vision is to a person, spiritual vision is far more needful and important. Spiritual vision will help us to avoid living in error and will help us to clearly see the truth. Truth will banish all confusion and it will help us to see which is the right way to go. It will help us to clearly see how to make it to heaven. †



Dear Young People,

I pen these few words with joy on my heart, knowing there are still a few serving the Lord in their youth. The world is bidding high for our children and young people, filling their minds with all kinds of garbage and ungodly thoughts. We are living in a world of mass

communication such as has never before been seen by the human race. It is scary to think of what might come down the pike in the next generation.

But, in spite of all that Satan can muster against the gospel of Christ, the truth is marching on. Lives are still being transformed by the saving grace of God, and some young people have answered the challenge. When one generation leaves the scene of action, there must be another generation ready to carry the blood-stained banner of the cross. The true gospel must be preached until the end of time.

Therefore, I, for one, appreciate every young person who is daring to stand for God in these wicked times. As one songwriter put it:

*"In times like these, you need a Savior,
In times like these, you need an anchor;
Be very sure, be very sure,
Your anchor holds and grips the solid Rock."*

We have some fine young people in our congregation, one of which is Lauren Swain, who is a talented 15-year-old who excels on the piano, the harp, and has a beautiful voice. She recently presented an admonition in our mid-week service which I would like to share with my readers. I know it will be a blessing to you.

Yours in Him,

Bro. Greg Tyler

What God Expects From a Young Lady

By Lauren Swain

BECAUSE we have the amazing privilege of being children of God, God expects us to try to please Him with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We should endeavor to be young ladies who are well-rounded in character—full of humility, obedience, discipline, and diligence.



Humility is one of the greatest virtues in the Bible. It is realizing how small we really are when compared to God's greatness. Acknowledging others and giving them preference is very difficult. However, God requires it from His children, so we must strive to develop it. The first key to developing humility is to ask God's help. James 4:6 reads, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble." Be assured, He will help you if you sincerely desire to become humble. The second key is to look for ways to be humble and to serve others. Finding

small things to do for others is simple, yet it helps to build a close relationship with others and helps us to become humble.

Obedience is also very important. Obedience is required to serve God. To obey Him satisfactorily, we must first learn to obey our parents completely, without argument, and cheerfully. Having a humble heart will make this much easier. God will give us His grace to obey with a humble heart if we sincerely ask for help. On the other hand, disobedience is severely condemned. I Samuel 15:23 says, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." In this verse, God was talking to King Saul. King Saul had not completely obeyed God's command to destroy the Amalekites. As a result, God told Saul that He would take the kingdom away from him. This punishment for Saul's disobedience was very severe, but it shows that God hates disobedience and will punish it in one way or another. Another example of disobedience and its punishment is the story of Achan. When Joshua took the city of Jericho, God told the Israelites that they were allowed to take nothing from the city. Only the priests were allowed to take the precious metals for the temple. However, Achan impudently disobeyed God's command by taking a robe, a wedge of gold, and some silver. When the lots revealed Achan as the thief, Joshua and all the children of Israel took his family, his animals and his possessions to the valley of Achor and stoned them to death. This sounds very harsh, but it truly shows that God does not tolerate disobedience.

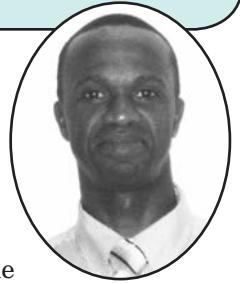
Discipline and self-control are the fibers that make a strong Christian life. Without discipline you will not have the strength to serve God. Proverbs 25:28 says, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." Without walls a city will never be able to stand against an attack. It will be conquered and demolished. Just as a city must have strong walls to remain steadfast and profitable, we as Christians should work diligently to develop discipline so that we will be able to stand firm during all temptations, no matter how difficult they are.

A godly young lady is diligent. Proverbs 31:27 says, "She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." I know that none of us young ladies have households of our own yet, but I am sure that each of us have certain tasks we must perform to help keep our family's household operating smoothly. As we perform those tasks, we should work quickly and cheerfully, always remembering the verses in Colossians 3:23 that say, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." Diligence should be manifested in all aspects of our lives. In school we should be industrious, while cleaning we should be meticulous, when working in the garden we should be persevering, and while studying for a test we should be studious.

I hope that this has been helpful and inspiring to all of the young ladies that are here. May you always strive to achieve that perfection and beauty found in the young lady who is working solely to please her Lord and Savior. †

DIVINE HEALING MESSAGE

Delivered at 2016 Cayman Convention by Bro. David Shaw



IT IS A privilege to be alive today, and to have the knowledge of God's love and protection toward us. It is wonderful that we can exercise our faith by trusting and believing "that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Oftentimes, I think human beings forget on whom they should depend, and in whom they should trust. We allow our struggles and our hardships to have us tossed to and fro, as the storms and winds would, but I thank God that we are in a place where we can be reminded that God is, and there is none like unto Him. The psalmist David said in Psalm 100:3, "Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves."

I came in contact a few weeks ago with the thought of my being. I was journeying and was passing through an area where a few people were gathered. I watched them as I drove along. I noticed how they were acting, how they were moving, etc., and after passing through, I began to look at myself. I began to imagine my conception, my birth, my upbringing, and how miraculously I've grown to the size I am, and how I exist from day to day. I cannot comprehend how I do it, but I do. I stopped to ask myself, "How well do we give God the glory for this blessing? How much do we notice ourselves as human beings, and recognize the fact that we are not just here because we are here?" We are here because God allowed us to be, and He keeps us while we are here.

We are obligated to almighty God. I trust as we have come to ask His blessings that we will recognize our obligation. Yes, indeed we have come to ask of Him, but what is our duty? Our duty is to give God the praise, the thanks, and the honor due unto Him. The whole duty of man is to keep God's commandments. In most areas, we always want, but don't want to give. We don't want to have that kind of heart this morning. We want to know that we have come desiring to give God what is rightly His. In turn, I am certain He will give us what is ours to receive.

When we look into the book of Genesis, chapter 1, verse 26, we see how God miraculously formed man: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Can you see how special you are? You were formed in God's likeness and image. If you're not likened by those you come in contact with, don't worry about that, because you are made in God's likeness. As long as God appreciates you in the manner you are, then you are richly blessed. God's image in this context is not the human disposition. It is the nature of God, the spiritual nature that man possesses.

I had a footnote in my Bible that I want to read to you. It is not my custom to do so, but I'll do it for your information. The footnote covers verses 26-28 of Genesis, chapter 1: "In contrast to animals in verses 20-24,

where God said, 'Let the waters bring forth, and let the earth bring forth,' God made man, though He spoke all else into being. He now said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.' All others reproduce after their kind, but man is the only one made in the image of God and reproduces in that image. The term *image* and *likeness* are used synonymously and refer primarily to man's spiritual resemblance, rationally and morally to His Maker. [Spiritual resemblance means that when the world looks upon us, let nothing but Christ be seen. So we need to have a resemblance of God in our spiritual conduct.] God placed a great distinction between man and the beast, for only man has the capacity of eternal life, fellowship, moral discernment, self-consciousness, speech, and worship." So man was given special attention as God intended when He created the world.

When God made man, He made him to be prosperous, healthy, and that all around him would be well as his days on Earth progressed. As a matter of fact, man was not born to die. Man was given eternal life when God breathed in that lump of clay and it became a living soul. Conditions changed when man disobeyed God's Word. You see, God gives man a choice. He allows him to do whatever his heart desires. But there is an enemy which tempts man to go the opposite of God's plan, and this has brought death, sickness, and diseases of all nature into the world. So the whole thing was changed from what God intended, and we're experiencing it today. I want us to be honest in saying that the seed which was sown by us in disobedience is the result of this day and time.

The Lord in mercy has made provision for man. He gave us the Redeemer, His only Son. I want you to look at Him this morning as the great Repairer. Christ came to repair. Today, when you think about making something, you think of an architect, one who draws a plan for a house, etc., and when he does that plan it is given and used precisely for the purpose intended. God made man upright. God gave him wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. He gave him common sense in which he can actually maneuver himself on a daily basis and make his choices as desired.

The time came when sin interfered with man's life. When man recognized that he sinned, he hid from God. Up until this day, man still hides from God. But I am happy that the writer reminds us, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." There is no need for one to hide, for there is no place in which to hide from God.

Christ was provided as a "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" to bring man back into rela-

tionship with God, and the benefits like the one we are seeking today can be ours to enjoy. It is after man sinned that sickness began to interfere with man's body. So man needs a remedy.

Down through the years, the physical body has been studied, but today doctors still cannot explain 100% how the body is formed and kept. Something is still hidden from them. That is why when you go to a doctor, he orders a test to be done, and says, "Come back in two weeks for the results." Then another test is given, and he decides more has to be done. You have test after test after test, until you become frustrated, and you actually get to a point where you prefer to see another doctor rather than this one. So test after test after test is done again. The same condition continues to be experienced. Sometimes from the symptoms you have, the doctor performs an operation, but after the operation something else happens. It happens and happens in many cases today.

We are told in the Scriptures of a woman who had an issue of blood. She spent all she had on physicians, but nothing was done for her. This has been happening all down through the years to others. Why? Because man cannot fully comprehend the human body. The doctors do not know what to do in some circumstances.

David said in Psalm 100:3, "Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us." It is He who made us. I love to talk to a God who made us. He knows every joint in our bodies. As a matter of fact, He knows the number of hairs on our head. So God knows all about your body. Your entire being is known unto Him. There is nothing that He cannot do.

God wants to replenish you today. He wants you to be healthy. He wants to give you strength and give you exactly the thing that will make your life enjoyable. You will find reason to live. Christ came, and He came as a Repairer.

We are told in Isaiah 53 that He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. He was stricken, smitten, afflicted, wounded, bruised, and chastised. He bore those stripes. Why? Just to get man to be redeemed, and that physical and spiritual health would be his. Christ gave His life's blood. The writer said, "And with his stripes we are healed." Praise God for such a provision that through His dear beloved Son, healing is provided for all nations who will trust in Him with their whole hearts.

Hebrews 11:6 says, "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." If you doubt, Beloved Ones, you will not receive. You will be like a wave of the sea, tossing to and fro. You need to believe that God is, and that whatever you ask of Him, He will give it to you, if you ask in faith believing. Therefore, you have a part to play. When you come to God, you must believe that He is. If you do not believe, it will hinder. Even if the ministers pray for you and you don't believe, it will make no sense to approach the altar for prayer. Come believing with all your heart that God is able.

I have encountered cases that seemed impossible in many instances, but God came on the scene and July 2017

performed wonders. I think I've said it before, but let me remind you again this morning: There was once an old man in our community who was sick for 16 years. He never walked and had to be attended to by someone. He could not assist himself in any way. He was fed, bathed, and stayed on his bed all the time. Bro. Shippy and I had a cottage meeting at his home on a Monday evening. We prayed for that old man. On Tuesday morning when his wife was in the kitchen, she saw someone outside. When she looked through the window, it was her husband walking in the yard. After 16 years, God repaired him. In an overnight period, God repaired him, and he was privileged to walk like you and me. He walked until his dying day.

There was a sister at church who was sick. When I learned of her illness, I went to see her. I was preparing to go to the States for a convention. I got ready, but then I rushed to see her before going to the airport. When I arrived at her house, she said, "Bro. Shaw, I can't see you. All is cloudy." So I laid my hand on her and prayed. After prayer she said, "Bro. Shaw, you have on a yellow shirt." Instantly, the Lord repaired that vision. She was able to tell me the color of clothes that I had on. From that day until she died, her vision was clear as crystal.

There was another sister who had to wear two pairs of glasses. One was used just for reading. We prayed for her, and since that day she has never worn any. The Lord repaired her sight. Whatever your status may be, the Lord is a mighty Repairer.

There is one that I don't want to talk about, but I have to tell you. Every time I remember it, my eyes fill with tears. My wife was in labor. At the end of her delivery, she fainted and made three gasps. That was it. Her eyes were all white, no black. Her mouth was open, not breathing. I went over to her and began to pray. While praying, I was crying and my tears fell into her mouth, and she jumped. You could see the reflection of her face beginning to change. It changed and changed and changed and became so beautiful. The devil said to me, "I wonder if she returned to die." I said, "Devil, you are a liar. God is here." Just as I said it, her face began to transform to another feature. I began to pray again. She said to me, "I'm going to faint." I said, "I know," so I started praying. She came right back. During that period, there were others in the room. The nurse, with another helper, had gone earlier to call a taxi to take my wife to the hospital. When she and the helper returned, my wife was eating.

When the nurse tested her blood pressure, the instrument went back to zero. She took it again, and it went back to zero. Once again she took it, and it went back to zero. She said, "Mr. Shaw, this is very serious. Her blood pressure is all together low. Absolutely nothing." I said, "OK, Nurse, give me five minutes." I prayed for the Lord to return my wife's blood pressure. After I finished praying, I said, "Nurse, her blood pressure is normal. Please take it now, Ma'am." She took her blood pressure, and I saw a little smile on her face. She decided to take her blood pressure again, and I saw the nurse with a brighter smile. She took it again, and said, "Mr. Shaw, her blood pressure is normal." We serve a mighty God. Jesus paid the price.

Innocently, He was ill-treated, but with all of that was the price for our healing, for our redemption.

As Jesus came on the sands of time, He had a mission to accomplish. Jesus began to walk among mankind. There was a situation among some people. It was really a concern. Jesus was a famous Teacher. None taught like He taught; none spoke like He spoke. Jesus began to go through Syria and other places on the earth, and there His fame began to spread. In Matthew 4, we read of an incident: "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with *divers* [different kinds of] diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them."

There isn't any disease that Christ cannot cure. You just name it. He can handle every disease. With our physicians today, there are diseases that they tell you that are incurable. They cannot find the remedy. They research and research, and try to get some answers, but they don't work. They come up with some ideas, but they don't work. All that the researchers do, failure is still the result. I thank God that there's a God who has never encountered a failure. He wasn't skeptic of who came to Him. In whatever was their condition, He was willing to remedy the condition. What was His medicine? He spoke and it was done! He commanded. His medicine was His Word. Isaiah has straightly reminded us that He sent forth His Word to heal. Certainly, even today His Word brings healing.

Bro. James has reminded us that we are to anoint with oil and pray. The Bible says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Let me remind you, the healing is not in the oil. The oil is just an act of obedience. As a matter of fact, oil was special in Bible days. Even the prophets anointed themselves with oil on their certain missions. So, Beloved Ones, the effectiveness of the prayer of faith is what brings the results in your ailment. Whatever you are passing through, just believe that He is, and He can speak your condition to wellness. That is the God we serve. All of those who came to Him with divers diseases, and those who were tormented with devils, Jesus healed them.

Do you know that there are researches being done in trying to help people with mental problems? Let me tell you, the best research is in God today. If you are in a mental state, God is able to transform that mental condition into a normal state. God doesn't have to do a research. Through the years, researches have failed. When an injection or a tablet wears off, you are right back to the state you were before, but just one touch from God can remedy your condition. So, if you have family members with a mental problem, the best resource is found in God. The healing virtue is found in God. The Repairer is almighty God. The mind has been destroyed by some event, and God is the only One who can restore the mind to a normal state.

We have seen abnormal people brought back to a normal state after they gave their hearts to the Lord.

The Lord brought forth the victorious deliverance. He is still the God of all. Whatever it takes, He can remedy the condition. I believe that He is, and that our hearts should trust Him fully. He helped those possessed with devils. He healed a lunatic. Who is a lunatic? An insane person who is unable to guide himself in life. God healed the lunatic. What a mighty God we serve! He is still the same today? Yes, He is the same today.

Why are we not seeing the results of healing like it was back then? It is because our hearts are filled with doubt. James warns us, "Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." In many cases, we are easily shaken by our condition and eagerly want results. We can't be patient. We wander here and there. I often-times wonder, have you ever stopped to think how far you are wandering and leaving God right here? If you'll cease your wandering and going astray, you can be delivered. If you're not sick, you can't be healed. I'm not talking about not feeling well. I'm talking about being sick, sick, sick! Do you want God to work? You have to trust Him when you are sick.

I remember one time I came in contact with a bad cold. When I was getting ready for bed, I was coughing. When I coughed, there was blood. It has been said that when blood is seen, it is obvious it could be pneumonia. I sat on my bed and clasped my hands across my legs, and said, "Lord, if this is pneumonia, I thank You, because I am not dead." I got up and went to bed. I never coughed after that. The cough went away. All I did was to give God thanks for what happened, and I thanked Him that I was not dead. He knew my heart, and He remedied my condition. He paid the price on Calvary. All we have to do is to trust in Him. "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" (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

The last visit I made to a doctor was when I was 18 years old. I am now 64 years old, and no matter what symptoms I have encountered, I have never taken another tablet prescribed by a doctor. One time my wife said, "Aren't you going for a checkup?" I said, "The Lord has checked me up already."

Once I had my foot sprained and it was swollen. I couldn't walk on it. I could hardly touch it. My wife said, "Go and have it X-rayed. I wonder if it's broken." I said, "The Lord will take care of it." A few days after, it was normal. All I did was to anoint myself and pray and the Lord delivered. He is just the same today. Jesus heals, and when He heals, He heals. It is not in the negative. You are positively healed. So the lunatic was delivered. Those with palsy were also healed.

Matthew 4:25, "And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan." Probably the woman with the issue of blood was in the crowd. Twelve years she was in her sick condition. She visited the physicians but no relief. Beloved Ones, she decided that she was not going to any more doctors because her money was finished. "I heard of a man called Jesus. I understand He's passing this way. I must see Him today. If I can but only touch Him, I know I will be healed." She left home with no

other intention than just to touch Jesus. She wasn't going to ask permission from anyone. She was going to touch Jesus with Him not knowing, but let me tell you, there isn't any condition that you have that Jesus doesn't know.

*Jesus knows all about our struggles,
He will guide till the day is done.
There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus,
No, not one! no, not one.*

Jesus knew the woman who was sick for 12 years was coming that day. He saw her when she was getting ready to leave home, and He saw her walking behind Him. He saw her stretching forth her hand and felt her touching Him. Jesus knew. He asked, "Who touched me?" The disciples marveled and asked, "Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?" He said, "Somebody has touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me."

This day as you are here, Beloved Ones, Jesus' virtue will remedy your condition. He has a concern for us. He cares. That is why He died—He cared. He doesn't want us to encounter any problem beyond that which we are unable to bear. Jesus is always there to bless His people. He is always ready to deliver His people. Whatever it takes, He will always deliver.

As Jesus was passing through a certain area, He came to a leper. A *leper* was "one who was counted unclean." He had a disease that was incurable by physicians. Leprosy was a dreadful disease. As Jesus came down from a mountain, a crowd began to follow Him. One thing I've noted, everywhere Jesus went the people knew. They always found Him. When He would leave one place to go to another, a crowd was there to meet Him. He was ever found by them. "And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed" (Matthew 8:2, 3). This leper came believing, and he went home rejoicing. He received that which he came for. Christ was willing to cleanse him. Jesus wasn't afraid to touch him.

There was a young man in our community who was suffering with AIDS. He was very low. For over two weeks, he didn't eat any food. He was about to die. I went to the house and I was told other people came earlier, but they stayed on the veranda and prayed there for the young man who was in his room. I walked into his room and laid my hands on him. I said, "How are you today?" He could barely talk to me. I talked to him and then prayed for him. The following morning, he was outside. He said to his mother, "I want something to eat." The young man recovered and went all over the country. He had lost a lot of weight, but now he started to gain weight. His recovery was talked about all over the entire community.

One day I was going to church and I met him on the way. I said, "Young man, have you ever thought about giving your heart to the Lord as you promised? Have you ever thought to come to church one Sunday to give God thanks for healing you?" He came the following Sunday. He came to the altar and I asked him, "Are you willing to give your heart to the Lord?" He

came the following Sunday. He came to the altar and I asked him, "Are you willing to give your heart to the Lord?" He said, "No, Sir, I just want to be prayed for." I said, "My Son, the Spirit said to me, 'The Lord will not take His glory and give to another.' Therefore, if you want to live long, you better give God your heart. If your sickness returns, you will never recover." In less than a year, he took sick again and died. He never gave his heart to the Lord. Do you know what he wanted? He told his brother that he wanted a sports car.

Do you know what Jesus told the impotent man in John 5? "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." I tell you, if people would be grateful to God for blessings received, they would always be blessed. Many times we grumble and complain. When we are made well, we go along happy, but when we are sick, "Lord, help me."

Let us exercise our faith today in God and ask Him to give us the strength to make this day victorious. May the Lord bless your heart that you will find in Him your all in all. Whatever you come forward for today, just believe, and you shall receive. †

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JAMAICA, MELLO-FM, 88.1, 88.3, 88.5, 7:00 A.M. Sundays

Heard throughout Jamaica; *Listen live—Go to www.mellofmjamaica.com*

SHORTWAVE

WWCR, Nashville, Tennessee 4.840 on SW band

Sunday, 7:30 A.M. Eastern Time—12:30 G.M.T.

Listen live—Go to www.wwcr.com

WINB, Red Lion, Pennsylvania 9.320 on SW band

Friday, 9:30 P.M. Eastern Time, Saturday, 9:30 P.M. Eastern Time—2:30 G.M.T.

Listen live—Go to www.winb.com

COMING MEETINGS

2017 INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION

Hagerstown, Maryland U.S.A.

July 4-9, 2017, Lord willing

Bro. Alvin A. Craig, Host Pastor

2017 CAYMAN CONVENTION

83A Walkers Rd.

George Town, Grand Cayman

November 21-26, 2017, Lord willing

Bro. James Arch, Host Pastor

2017 PHILIPPINE CONVENTION

Lacayanga Subdivision

Paniqui, Tarlac, Philippines

December 26-30, 2017, Lord willing

Bro. Rey Fabian, Host Pastor