

The Way of Truth

Vol. 75

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

No. 8

August
2017

"The Unlimited
Power of God"

Message begins on page 7.

SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

WHAT is sin? “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4). We understand John to be teaching that the law that we are living under today is the “Law of Christ,” and not the Old Covenant. We also understand that imputed sin is when one knowingly commits an act to do wrong, or fails to do that which he knows he should do. The two ways of sinning are called the “sin of commission” and the “sin of omission.” Either way the sin is committed, “the wages of sin is death.” That death is spiritual death which separates one from God, the Source of life. The first sins committed by man were the ones Adam and Eve committed in the Garden of Eden. Those sins separated them from fellowship with God and caused Him to drive them out of the Garden.

It did not take long for other sins to be committed as man began to increase on the earth. We read in Genesis 6:5, “God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” This gross wickedness caused God to determine to destroy man off the earth. But He saw one righteous man, and He would not destroy him with the wicked, so He had Noah to build an ark, and all who believed Noah’s preaching went into the ark and were saved.

It wasn’t so very long after the flood until wickedness was abounding again. Many began to worship idols and tried to make their own way to heaven. As a result, they were scattered to many parts of the then known world as God caused many to speak various languages and, doubtless, those that spoke the same language stayed together.

God still desired a people for Himself, so He called a man by the name of Abram to leave his homeland and go to another country that He would later give to him and his offspring. Lot, Abram’s brother’s son, traveled with him. Later, Lot, his family, and herdsmen separated from Abram. “Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord ... Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; ... and pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.” It was not so very long until Lot moved his family into Sodom, even though he knew it was a wicked place.

Later, three “men” passed Abram’s tent, and one informed him where they were going and what their purpose was. “The Lord said, 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 altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.” Two of the men went on and arrived at the gate. Lot was there, and he insisted that these men come to his house to spend the night. Before they went to bed “the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter; and they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men

which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.” Of course, these men did not mean so they could be introduced to them! They wanted to have sex with them. Lot said to the men, “I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.” Some would tell you the cities were destroyed because they were not friendly toward these men, but such is not the case. The sin that was there started long before these two men arrived. God destroyed those cities because He could not find ten righteous people there, and that included Lot.

Our recent president is regarded by some as one of our best speaking, not of his political polices, but his immoral stand. He has helped bring the morals of this nation to the lowest level it has been in its history. During the recent political campaign, he and the vice-president, along with the candidate and the minority leader of the house, all came out for same-sex marriages. Before he left office he told the people which restroom they must use. If a man says he is a woman, he must be permitted to use the ladies’ restroom. The first “gender change” took place in the nation in 1952. *The National Geographic* magazine devoted its full January 2017 issue to the “Gender Revolution.” In 2015 the Pentagon announced plans to lift a ban on military service by transgender people. According to a publication I have before me, “A federal judge in Ohio in 2016 rejected a school district’s challenge to President Barack Obama’s rule on transgender bathrooms, ordering a biologically male student who identifies as female be treated ‘like the girl she is.’” In California the law allows children from pre-kindergarten and older to be counseled if they are judged to be intolerant, or discriminatory against another student.

In another case in California, “In a major affront to parents’ rights, a law was enacted in 2010 that allows school staff to remove children 12 years and older from any public school and take them off-campus for counseling sessions, without prior parental consent.” Also, in California, 2010: “Schools will enact procedures that include mandatory counseling for students from pre-kindergarten age and older that are accused of intolerance, discrimination, or hate. Such ‘hate’ includes peacefully writing an essay condemning the unnatural lifestyle of homosexuality.”

I realize we are not living under the Old Covenant, and I am not suggesting anyone should be put to death, and no true Christian will hate anyone, but a true Christian will hate *sin and evil*. This is what we read in Leviticus 18:22-24: “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is sin. Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you.” The Lord is saying that because of these kinds of sins I drove

ABOUT THE COVER

On our cover is a view of lower Yellowstone Falls in Yellowstone National Park in Utah. It speaks of an all-powerful Creator. In this August issue we feature a message on the subject, “The Unlimited Power of God.” Truly, God has all power in heaven and in earth!

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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Vol. 75 August 2017 No. 8

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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To Whom It May Concern:

I was introduced to a copy of The Way of Truth at a doctor's office. It promoted and expounded God's Word in a very enlightening and encouraging way. Not many publications talk about holiness as a way of life required by God. I asked permission to take the copy with me and have since subscribed to this great publication. I let my mother and my aunt read copies I have received and both of them became very interested in it as I did. Would you please allow them to subscribe as well? ...

Please know that your publication is uplifting and helpful in knowing what God expects from His children: to be living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service. Living holy requires an internal transformation that only the power of the Holy Spirit can make happen. We are changed from the "inside out." It's more than repeating some creed statement spoken by the minister.

—S. G., North Carolina

Dear Brethren,

Greetings in Jesus' precious name! Your publication over the years has helped me to build my strong foundation for my life in Christ Jesus. I have always read your Way of Truth magazine and study manuals for the Sunday school classes. Your impeccable truth imparted in me has led me through my youth age to this old age of my life. ... Please assist me by sending me your publications for free distribution to the glory of God.

—J. O., Nigeria †

these nations out and gave you this land. We read in Leviticus 20:13, "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them."

As a country, we have many problems, and our worldly churches are adding to our problems. In an article by Jeremiah Jacques, we read:

"The FBI says that altogether, the United States is now home to about 33,000 violent street gangs, with a presence in all 50 states. There are an estimated 1,350 gangs in Los Angeles alone. ... There are a total of 1.4 million criminally active gang members across the country. That means for every two sworn law enforcement officers in America there are three gang members.

"The number of violent gang members today is 40 percent higher than in 2009, and 25 times higher than in 1975. And the figure keeps growing each year. 'We don't see a drop in the key gang magnitude indicators,' said James Howell of the National Gang Center last March. 'In the past five years, we've seen an 8 percent increase in number of gangs and 11 percent increase in members and a 23 percent increase in gang-related homicides.' Of the 15,500 murders that happen in America each year, an average of 2,000 are gang related." I think you will find many of these homicides are drug related.

There are roughly 2.2 million people that are locked up in prisons or jails. Seven million are under correctional control. I understand the United States has the largest prison population in the world per capita.

"Sin is a reproach to any people." †

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GOD UNDERSTANDS

Radio Message by
Bro. James Arch



I AM VERY thankful for the privilege of coming into your homes, or wherever you may be listening to this broadcast today. I trust some soul will be blessed as a result of this service.

I'll be speaking on two words as a pilot thought for this message. It is: "God Understands." I'll read from Hebrews, chapter 4, verses 14 and 15: "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

The Bible tells us that the gospel is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." So I trust as these programs are aired each Sunday that someone will be moved and blessed as a result of what God can do. Maybe you've come to the last leg of life and believe and think that no one understands or cares, but I want to tell you today, Someone cares. It doesn't matter where we may find ourselves in life, God cares and understands. He knows all about us.

The writer of our text very ably reminds us that Jesus understands us when others may not understand us. It is a strong reminder that there is always hope in God. One of the most difficult circumstances to reach in life is to become hopeless. There are so many hopeless people in our world today, but I'm here to say that there is always hope in God. Never give up hope. God is always available. God is on His throne, and He never forsakes His own. Many times we overlook God when He is the One that we really need. Many times in life we don't think about God, but God is thinking about us.

The writer of the old familiar song, "What a Friend," had reached the place where he needed someone to care. He was down, and he said—

*What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms he'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.*

It is very important, of course, and necessary that we preach and teach doctrine. We cannot leave those out. That is how people know about the gospel, about the Bible, and about the church. It is also important to preach about the times we are living in and how to cope with these times. I tell the church here all the time, we are not living in times as it was a hundred years ago. We are living now. All we can do as individuals, and especially as Christians, is to cope and to deal with it. God has never called a human being to serve Him without the necessary power and equipment to survive in this Christian walk. Sometimes it is important to sit down and think about the world we're now living in and how we can cope with it, but it seems like the most present need is to keep reminding ourselves that there is One who really cares and understands.

There are many hurting people who are struggling with trying to survive to meet the demands of the natural life and to live for the Lord. It is a challenge. We all know that it so. It is a huge challenge in today's world. Many people are struggling and hurting, but to exclude God out of their lives will only make things worse. The closer we are to God, and the more we hold on to Him, and the more spiritual we become, the better it will be for all of us. There is always comfort, strength, hope, and sustenance in God. There are those who struggle with very, very wayward children. They are weeping and mourning for their children. Some people are struggling with disruptive marriages and wondering what to do next. That is one of the areas the devil strikes so hard at in the world today. There is One who understands, My Beloved Friends. There is One who cares about us. *Take it to the Lord in prayer; In His arms he'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.*

Life is not always the same. Not every day is alike. Today can be completely different from yesterday. It doesn't take very long in life to find that out. Circumstances change. You can have money in your pocket today, and tomorrow you could be penniless. Young people tend not to think too much about God, and think only about having a good time in this world; but time changes things, and we begin to feel different and see things differently. We don't stay young. If we continue to live, we get older and grow in age. It doesn't matter how much willpower we may have, we cannot change

the fact that age changes the human body. That doesn't mean that God has forgotten us. It doesn't mean that at all. Age has nothing to do with God's love, care and compassion. In fact, we really need the Lord more in our lives as we grow older. We need the Lord's companionship and comfort and strength. So many today are shut-ins in their homes and confined to their beds. They can only listen to the radio to bring strength, hope, and comfort to their souls. We can always hope in God.

God used Solomon to get a message across to younger people. He said in Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." God used Solomon to bring that to our attention.

God surprised an old woman, who was ninety years old, by telling her that she would bear a child. Abraham and Sarah both laughed. If you will look into the 17th chapter of Genesis, verse 17, it says: "Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?" If you will look at verse 12 of chapter 18, it says: "Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" Verse 14: "Is any thing too hard for the Lord?" Nothing is too hard for the Lord. God does things others cannot do. He is still a miracle-working God. Thank God! We don't understand the mysteries of God by which He moves and works in the human family. Circumstances have nothing to do with God.

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father, stopped to listen to a beggar one time. It tells us in the 10th chapter of Mark, verses 47 and 49, "And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee." Jesus asked him, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" He said, "Lord, that I might receive my sight." And Jesus said unto him, "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way." *What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!*

Jesus responded to the interest of a rich man who had a big job. The Bible says that he was rich. It doesn't matter with God if we're rich or poor or in between. It is the attitude that we take toward Him. You see, God is a Friend of us, but we have to avail ourselves to God. He can only use those who avail themselves to Him. The Bible says, "He sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature." Zacchaeus ran up into a sycamore tree because he wanted to see Jesus. "And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. ... For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." *What a Friend we have in Jesus.*

When you think all is gone, My Beloved Friends, you can go to Jesus. He cares and understands. When

you're down and out in the last leg of life, you can turn to God. He hears the feeble cries of those who trust in Him.

The prodigal son left his father. Evidently, he didn't see the need of his father any longer. He left and walked down that little narrow road with a backpack on himself. Let me tell you something, Friends, it wasn't very long when he found out his mistake. When he was penniless, poor, humiliated, and found himself with the husks the pigs were eating, no one seemed to care. But he remembered his father, and he said to himself, "I know what I'll do; I'll get up, and I'll return to my father." Yes, he made a decision and then a move. He returned to his father. His father was waiting with outstretched arms to welcome him home. He put the best robe on him and cleaned him up. All of us were prodigals before we were converted to Christ. We all took the wrong way. The Bible says, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

When you have tried and failed, you can turn to Jesus. You may not have as much as someone else, but He still cares and understands. Remember, that is who God is. Even when the hairs on your head may be turning gray, and you're getting older in life, when seemingly so few care, Jesus cares. He cares about us and understands.

I left out a verse of that song in the beginning, but I'll quote that verse—

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged,

Take it to the Lord in prayer:

Can we find a friend so faithful

Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness,

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Remember, My Beloved Friends, God cares about us. He sees every sparrow that falls. The Bible says, "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered." "He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names." God made this world, and He is so big that He holds it in the palm of His hand, and yet so small He can live in the heart of a man. †

OUR SERVICES ON CD'S

CD's of our services are available for purchase. These are \$3.00 each, postage paid. Please write in the blank how many you would like to receive. Send check or money order to: The Way of Truth CD Ministry, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088 U.S.A.

- ___ CD #784 The Beauty of Bible Unity G. E. Tyler
- ___ CD #785 Lessons from the Life of Timothy Mick Akers
- ___ CD #786 Seeing Our Children Living for Jesus A. A. Craig
- ___ CD #787 Gratitude Doug Shenberger
- ___ CD #788 Father's Day Various Speakers
- ___ CD #789 Facing the Giants Paul Wilson
- ___ CD #790 Holiness Is the Standard of the Church of God A. A. Craig
- ___ CD #791 My Heart Says "Amen" Rebecca Bland
- ___ CD #792 My Surrender G. E. Tyler



Answered by the Editor

QUESTION: I know Christians do not sin, but please explain the portion of this scripture that is underlined: “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

—A. E., Maryland

ANSWER: I will quote from *Adam Clarke’s Commentary*: “The well circumstanced sin; that which has everything in its favor, time, and place, and opportunity; the heart and the object; and a sin in which all these things frequently occur, and consequently the transgression is frequently committed.”

So Clarke is saying that it is not a certain sin, but for one it may be one type of sin, for another person it may be some other sin. Clarke goes on to say, “Whatever it may be, the Word gives us to understand that it is what meets us at every turn; that it is always presenting itself to us.”

Matthew Henry says this about the sin that so easily besets us: “The sin that has the greatest advantage against us; by the circumstances we are in, our constitution, our company. This may mean either the damning sin of unbelief or rather the darling sin of the Jews, an overfondness for their own dispensation.” Again, it will be different with each person.

QUESTION: In I John 3:4, the Bible defines *sin* as the transgression of the Word of God. I also discovered that sin is a compelling force that channels all memories and resistance to do what is wrong. Explain.

—O. O., Nigeria

ANSWER: That is why Jesus Christ came into this world and rose the third day—to save sinners from their sins. “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him” (I John 3:6). “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Romans 6:1, 2).

Through an experience of salvation we have not only a pure heart, but a pure mind as well. “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

QUESTION: I would like for you to clarify about tithing a gross salary with a bonus amount in it. There

is an opinion that a bonus amount is not required for 10% tithes. Is this biblical?—R. D. C., Dubai

ANSWER: Two answers: 1. You are to tithe your “increase.” 2. Your bonus is part of what you earned. There would not have been a bonus if you had not been working.

QUESTION: Please explain Matthew 5:28.

—P. I. P., Africa

ANSWER: “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” It really means what it says! And what it says is, if a man looks on a woman to lust after her (and the word *lust* means “strong desire”), he desires to have sexual relations with her. Then in God’s sight he has committed adultery with her.

QUESTION: Please explain James 4:17.

—P. I. P., Africa

ANSWER: “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” There are two ways people can commit sin: the sin of commission, that is, they do something they know is wrong; then there is the sin of omission, which is when a person knows there is something that is right to do and knows he should do it, but will not. James speaks of the sin of omission.

QUESTION: Please explain Romans 9:13: “As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.”

—P. I. P., Africa

ANSWER: We are not to understand this statement to mean the two men, Jacob and Esau alone, but of their posterity. Jacob’s people became known as Israel, and God’s covenant with Abraham came down through them. Esau’s people were known as the little country of Edom. If I understand correctly, the Edomites were idol worshippers.

QUESTION: What did Paul mean when he said, “Forbid not to speak in tongues”?—from *The Way of Truth* Question and Answer Book

ANSWER: This is found in I Corinthians 14:39. In this part of Paul’s letter, he was dealing with a condition in the church that was not what it should be. Some were using the gift of languages in an improper manner (notice verses 23-32). This was causing confusion (which comes from Satan and not God). Paul, in his effort to clear up the matter, was not forbidding the proper use of this gift, but he was saying to use it in the proper place and manner.

Corinth was what we would call an international city, in that people from various countries passed through there on their way from Europe to Asia and vice versa. So various languages were spoken there, and the saints found this gift a benefit in trying to win souls to the Lord, but it was to be used properly, not for show. Let me add, there is no Scriptural support in this chapter, or in any other part of the Bible, for the false teaching that you must speak in “tongues” as an

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evidence that you have received the Holy Spirit. The gift of languages was only one of the gifts of the Spirit and is mentioned near the last in I Corinthians 12. †



Dear Young People,

The word *surrender* is not found in the King James version of the Bible, but it is essential to understand that it is necessary for success in the Christian race. We can never surrender to Satan or sin or evil of any kind. But we must surrender to the Lord if

we are to obtain and sustain salvation. The sinner is at war with God and the only way he can know peace with God is by throwing up the white flag and cease resisting conviction. By yielding to the Holy Spirit and repenting, a person has his sins washed away. But then there is the need of sanctification or being filled with the Spirit. How does one become sanctified? Through surrender! Romans 12:1 says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." By surrendering our will to God's will, we become equipped to overcome every temptation and live the wonderful Christian life. However, be advised that one must stay surrendered to God in order to keep the victory. Satan will try to rob us by getting us to question God and cease to surrender to Him. But let us resolve to ever say and mean, "Not my will, but Thine be done."

Following is another chapter from Bro. Naylor's, "Heart Talks." I trust it will be found to be helpful in your Christian walk.

Unworthy servant of God,

Bro. Greg Tyler

DIVINE AND WORLDLY CONFORMITY

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

THE SCRIPTURES say, "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). They also say that we should be "conformed to the image of his Son" (Romans 8:29). We have here two sorts of conformity, one of which is condemned and the other approved. Much is said by some classes of religious professors about worldly conformity, while little is said about divine conformity. It is my purpose herein to point out the essential nature of these two kinds of conformity.

By worldly conformity, most religious teachers mean outward likeness of dress, manner, customs, etc. This, however, is not its true significance. Conformity to Christ does not mean dressing as He dressed, speaking the language that He spoke, eating the same kind of food that He ate, or observing any of those externals that went to make up His life.

In the true meaning of the word, conformity goes deeper than externals. Two things may look very much

alike and yet be very different in their natures. Pyrites of iron looks so much like gold that it has deceived many a person into thinking that he had found riches. For this reason it is called "fool's gold." Likewise things may outwardly seem very different, while in reality they are very much the same. A sparkling diamond seems very different from a lump of coal, but the chief difference is only in the arrangement of their particles. Both are composed chiefly of carbon, so in nature they conform closely to each other.

Conformity is a thing of nature, not of external appearance. We are "by nature the children of wrath." Our likeness to the world consists in a likeness of character, and for that reason we are told that we must be transformed. This transformation is a change of character; it has to do, first of all, with internals, not with externals.

Conformity to the world in most externals is not only advisable but necessary. We wear clothing as the world does; we live in houses built like those around us; we speak the same language as sinners; we have the same habits of thought and speech in general that they have; we use the same implements and tools; we raise the same crops; we employ the same methods of work and business; in fact, we conform to the world in all these things. We cannot avoid doing this without sacrificing what is vital and proper in our lives. Conformity to the world in these externals becomes evil only when such conformity has its origin in an evil principle in the heart or when it produces an evil effect.

When Christ prayed for His disciples, He said, "Keep them from the evil." Paul said, "As using and not abusing." It is that which is evil, or the evil use that is made of externals, that is obnoxious to God. A proper use of all things is permissible, and if our hearts are conformed to God, we naturally desire and seek only the proper use of things. But the natural heart is wicked; it is set on pleasing itself; it is full of vanity and pride. So long as this condition exists, the heart is not conformed to God. There must be a transformation, and this is not one which starts from the outside and works inward, for such at best could be only a reformation. The real transformation is a thing that begins on the inside and works a vital change in the spiritual condition and character. When this internal change is wrought, it gives a new quality and direction to the whole range of thought and activity. It manifests itself in new desires and aspirations, in new habits and customs, in newness of speech and looks and behavior. When we are transformed so that we become new creatures in Christ Jesus, we begin to act like new creatures. But our bodies are not transformed: we still have bodies of flesh, which retain their natural desires and appetites, and these we may gratify in a lawful way without sin.

When the heart is transformed and purified from its vanity and pride, these qualities will not be manifested in external things. But so long as pride and vanity remain in the heart, preaching to people and requiring them to cease wearing worldly adornment is like trying to kill a tree by pulling off some of its leaves—the people may layoff such things under pressure, but they are no better than before. People must be taught

the Bible standard of externals, but the chief thing is to get their hearts right. When the heart is conformed to the image of Christ, the words of the old song are true of it:

*There's no thirsting for life's pleasures,
Nor adorning, rich and gay,
For I've found a richer treasure,
One that fadeth not away.*

Neither force nor persuasion is required to get persons with such an experience to act properly regarding external things.

In carrying out their idea of non-conformity to the world, some bodies of people have adopted a special garb or a special form of speech to distinguish them from others. This, however, is not a mark of real non-conformity, but a mark of sectarianism. The true and only difference needful between ourselves and the world in externals is that we are to reject those things that are evil or that produce evil. All things else are lawful to us, though these lawful things must also be judged by the law of expediency.

Conformity to Christ means conformity in character. It means purity of desire, so that our hearts reach out for only those things that are pure, and we are moved by pure motives and actuated by holy purposes. It means that we have a conscience toward God in whatever we do. It means to put His will before everything else. It means that the dominating purpose of our life will be to please Him in every detail, and not ourselves. A heart like this is not attracted by the vain and sinful things of the world; on the contrary, it is repelled by them.

When the person is adorned with gold, jewels, costly or gaudy array, or immodest clothing, we must needs look for the root in the heart. There is where the trouble lies. There is the seat of the desire. It is useless to take off the externals while the internal corruption is permitted to continue. God hates all vanity and pride. There is no such element in His character. If we are conformed to Him, there is no such element in our character; and if our character is purged from these things, we have no desire for their external manifestations. God loves meekness and modesty, and these are the opposites of display. If we are meek and modest in character, our dress and deportment will manifest these qualities. If we do not manifest them, it is because we do not possess them.

It may not be out of place here to call attention to the Bible principles relating to the subject of dress and personal adornment. In beginning this phase of the subject we should note that the gospel is not a set of rules, but a revelation of moral principles. It is intended for all people in all countries, climates, and ages. We should not, therefore, expect that these principles as they relate to dress would be revealed in other than the most general terms, or applied to the details of the subject. There is just one principle involved; we may sum up the whole subject under that one heading. The Bible standard of dress consists of just three words, but these three words cover the whole scope of life. They are, "in modest apparel" (I Timothy 2:9). This is the standard, and this is the whole standard. We are given

a hint regarding how to apply this standard, but our own good judgment is sufficient to draw the line in the right place, provided our hearts are conformed to the divine image. There is no excuse for fanaticism any more than there is for pride. Sound judgment and good sense will help us avoid both extremes.

A definition of *modesty* is, "restrained within due limits of propriety; free from indecency or lewdness; not excessive or extreme; moderate." A Christian's apparel should be modest in cut, that is, in the way it is made; it should cover the body as a modest person would cover it, not displaying those parts that the prevailing standards of modesty require to be covered. Judged by this standard, very many religious professors come far short, their clothing being less than decency really requires. Such a thing, of course, does not have its origin in a pure heart. The woman who displays herself to attract attention is anything but modest.

Clothing should be made to conform to modesty in all other respects also. Useless things added to one's apparel for the purpose of display and show do not conform to modesty. "Loud" and flashy colors are not modest. The Bible does not forbid us to wear any particular shade, but there are shades and combinations that are showy and gaudy, and by their extremeness violate modesty, for modesty is the avoidance of extreme. Whatever we wear, it should be modest in color just as well as in other particulars.

Christian apparel should be modest in texture; that is, it should not be so thin that it displays the body or the underwear. No man thinks a woman modest who wears goods so thin as to display her undergarments, or hosiery so thin as to display her limbs. Such things are very unbecoming to saints, and of course not less so to other people. Sisters, dress so that a modest man will not feel embarrassed in your presence.

Apparel should be modest as to cost. It should not be what the Scriptures term "costly array." It is well to buy good material, and for such we must pay a good price, but this is not what the Bible means by "costly array." It means not to be extravagant. We should not waste money, but make the best possible use of it.

Some have thought it wrong to try to make our clothes becoming. This is not the case. The Bible says "that women adorn themselves in modest apparel"; that is, their apparel should be such as adorns or becomes them, so long as it is modest clothing. It should be adapted in cut, color, etc., to harmonize with the complexion, size, and height of the person. We owe it to ourselves to make a good appearance. To make ourselves outlandish in any way is neither wise nor right. It is violating modesty, and this is not consistent. It is only when we make a proper appearance that we can have a proper influence, and so be effective for God.

God delights in modesty in dress, in words, in actions—in all things. Pride and show are an abomination to Him, and if we conform to Him in our inner life and character, outward conformity will naturally follow; but if inward desire runs out after that which is immodest and gaudy, if the heart desires to display upon the person gold and jewels and finery, it is because it does not conform to the image of God's Son, but to the world. †

THE UNLIMITED POWER OF GOD

2016 Cayman Convention Message by Bro. Duane Jeffries



PRAISE THE Lord! The words of the song, “I am Persuaded,” always thrill my heart. It has such a positive statement—a statement of confidence and faith. “I am persuaded, God will see me through.”

My stature is five feet three inches, and I feel so much smaller tonight, but I made God this promise a long time ago: Wherever you send me, or whatever you ask me to do, by your help and by your grace, I am determined to make it through.

We are not here in a competition. We are not trying to outdo one another, but we are here on business for the King. When you realize that the soul of a man is at stake, it is enough to cause you to be serious. No matter what it is that I have to do for the Lord, I try to take it seriously, because working for the Lord is serious business. As I look upon this audience and see so many precious people, I question myself. I say, “God, what can I say, and what can I do?”; but it is “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6). So you pray for me that the Lord will help me.

I have two passages of scripture that I would like for you to look at with me. The first is found in Psalm 90, verses 1 and 2—“Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” The second is Psalm 102:25-27—“Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.”

The thought on my heart tonight is: “The Unlimited Power of God.” The word *unlimited* means, “vast; without limits; immeasurable; without boundaries.”

INDIVIDUALS WHO CHALLENGED GOD

Every now and then, you find individuals who think that they can challenge God. I’ve heard of a man who openly issued a challenge to God. He went out into the open air and called to God. He said, “God, if You’re real, come down here and fight me.” What a fool! He stood there for a while chanting the same thing. “God, if You’re real, come down here and fight me.” God allowed him to go on, but it wasn’t long before a little fly went down into his throat, and he choked to death. The Bible says, “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.”

There was a famous singer by the name of John Lennon. He was a member of the popular pop group called, “The Beatles.” In an interview with an American magazine, he said, and I quote: “Christianity will end; it will disappear. I do not have to argue about that. I am certain. Jesus was OK, but His subjects were too

simple. Today we are more famous than Him.” Soon after saying those words, John Lennon was shot six times in front of his Manhattan apartment. He died and left this world, but Christianity is still here.

There was a politician in Brazil whose name was Tancredo Neves. During the presidential campaign, he made this statement: “If I got 500,000 votes, not even God could remove me from the Presidency.” Sure he got the votes, but before being made President, he fell sick and died. Don’t play with God.

After the construction of the Titanic, a reporter asked the man who built it how safe the Titanic would be. With an ironic tone he said: “Not even God can sink it.” We all know the history. On her maiden voyage to New York City, the Titanic sank. Fifteen hundred people perished in a watery grave.

THERE IS A GOD

I don’t need anyone to try to convince me that there is a God. I believe with all my heart that there is an almighty God. I don’t make that statement passively. I’m telling you from experience, because I have experienced this God. Thank God, He met me at an altar of mercy. He met me at an altar of prayer. I’m not guessing that He is real. The hymn writer said: “I know my God is real.” Every day, by His grace, I see evidences of Him in my life.

I can tell everyone in this building without boasting that I love you. I know it is not me. It is God who has put that love there. You see, when you have God in your life, you must love people. I hear people say all the time that they don’t love this one, or they don’t like that one. How can they know God and not love people? The Bible says, “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” He is a God of love and compassion.

When you have the love of God in your heart, it causes you to do some things. He gives you the capacity to love even your enemies. Those who spitefully use you and persecute you, God gives you the capacity to love them, to pray for them, and to do good to them. What a mighty God! We serve a mighty God.

There is no doubt, My Beloved Friends, that we are living in tough times. It is not only in Cayman. It is everywhere. In the United States, Jamaica, Honduras, Europe, and all over the world, there is economic unrest. There is terrorism, evil here and evil there, evil everywhere! But I’m here to tell you, the people of God need not despair because we serve a mighty God. My Bible tells me that God’s power is unlimited. There is nothing that He cannot do. So that encourages me. I can be optimistic about tomorrow; I can be optimistic about the future.

I believe sometimes as Christians we are too gloomy. We're too negative about everything. All we see is what is wrong. We need to appreciate the things that God is doing for us. When you awake in the morning, appreciate Him for life. It is God who gave us the strength to arise out of our sleep and go about the day. Appreciate Him for the beautiful flowers, the beautiful world He has made. What a mighty God! Even if the dollars are few, and even if there is a problem, always remember, in tough times there is God. What a mighty God!

Please turn to the book of Job 26. I will read the entire chapter: "But Job answered and said, How hast thou helped him that is without power? how savest thou the arm that hath no strength? How hast thou counselled him that hath no wisdom? and how hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is? To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee? Dead things are formed from under the waters, and the inhabitants thereof. Hell is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering. He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing. He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them. He holdeth back the face of his throne, and spreadeth his cloud upon it. He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end. The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof. He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud. By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent. Lo [This is the part that blesses me.], these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?" I tell you at best, Beloved Friends, we can only scratch the surface of this almighty God. Even the great manifestations are only but parts of His power and might. What a mighty God! What a powerful God! They sang the song here tonight, "There's Nothing That My God Can't Do."

THE EXAMPLE OF MOSES

What happens when impossible situations meet with this mighty, powerful God? We read in the Bible of Moses tending to Jethro's sheep. There on the side of the mountain, the Bible says that he looked up and saw a strange sight. He said to himself, "I'm going to turn aside to see this great sight." What did he see? A bush that was burning, but it was not being consumed. How could it be possible? It is beyond human reasoning. Only God can do it. Moses must have been astonished, and he heard a voice speaking from the burning bush. God said, "Moses, Moses, put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." I believe we are standing on holy ground tonight.

God had a message for Moses. His people were in bondage in Egypt for many years. Those of you here in this building who are in bondage, God has a message for you. God said, "Moses, I have heard the cry of My people. I have seen their suffering and affliction, and I am come down to deliver them." God is here to deliver you tonight. No matter what your condition may be, God is able to deliver you. "I have come down to deliver them." We know the story well of how God, by His mighty hand, wrought this miracle in the land of Egypt.

By His mighty hand, He delivered the people of Israel. The Bible says that He took them across the desert. Thank God, He did not abandon them. He was with them every step of the way. The Bible says that in the dark night, He led them by a pillar of fire. Thank God, His people do not walk in darkness. There is no confusion in the Church of God. Thank God for the light; thank God for the truth. God led them by day in a pillar of a cloud. God takes care of His people.

The trials of God's people were not over. The Red Sea represented their greatest challenge. Before them was a vast sea, and behind them were their enemies, but we would think that after God had done so much for them, and after they had seen the power of God manifested time after time in their presence that they would have faith in God. But they murmured. All they could see were their enemies. They forgot who was on their side. They forgot who had delivered them. People of God, be careful you don't forget God. In the midst of your trials, be careful you don't forget God. We have too many fair-weather Christians. As long as things are going well, they're up, but the minute the winds are contrary, they drop out of the race. Many murmured against Moses. They began to question, "Why did you bring us here? You should have left us in Egypt where we would have died, but you brought us here to be slaughtered and killed." Thank God, there was a man of God in the camp. Moses knew that God was with him. The Bible says, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion."

Moses stood up in the midst of a charging enemy, and before him, the Red Sea. God said, "Moses, stand before My people." Moses stood before the Red Sea and said, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord." God delivers again. Praise God! The song says, "He's always right on time." You might be going through a valley, problems, and trials, but I am here to tell you, if you wait on God and trust in Him, He's going to deliver you. The Bible says, "The sea opened before them." How can this be? The sea opened before them, and they were able to walk on dry ground. Only God could do it. Scientists, historians, and astrologers try to refute this by writing all kinds of stories, but since the Bible says it, I believe it. Not only did they walk through on dry ground, but their enemies perished before their eyes. God is still on His throne, and He still fights for His people. We've had a tough year, so to speak. There were a lot of trials in the church. A lot of ups-and-downs. Some people walked away from us, but thank God, we are still here. There is still a church in George Town, and we're still marching to glory. The Bible says, "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

We read in the book of Ezekiel 37:1-3, "The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry." The circumstances represented the most severe of circumstance. Death everywhere. No sign of life. Can you see it? The valley of dry bones: strange relationships, broken dreams, broken homes, a country drifting towards

immorality, the fear of God leaving the land, children running to and fro without direction, without God. The question came: "Son of man, can these bones live?"

There is a group of us here who visit the Northward Prison from time to time to minister to the young people there. We look in their faces and see their sad despondency. Young people lost, full of despair. We leave there sometimes with a heavy heart. We wonder how much more we can do to reach them. Here in this building tonight, there is a valley of dry bones. Don't get offended with me, for I am going to tell you the truth. There are people who are under a form of profession that are nothing more than a dry bone. On the surface, they're beautiful. They dress right, they put on the right things, but deep inside in their hearts, they're very dry. "Son of man, can these bones live?" We talk about conventions and revivals, but do you know what we need before those? We need some anguish. We need some deep soul-searching for God to operate in our midst. "Son of man, can these bones live?"

MY OWN STORY

I am going to tell you my own story. There was a time when I was on the surface. I was a Christian but only in name. Behind everyone's back, I did my own thing. You see, it is easy to fall into a form of godliness, and to deny the power thereof. We can fool people, but we can't fool God. I am so thankful that God had mercy on me. Ezekiel 37:5, 6: "Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and [by the grace of God] ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord." Thank God, no matter how impossible a situation may look, no matter how desperate, God can turn things around.

Ezekiel said in 37:9, 10, "Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army." I tell you, when God comes into a heart of an individual, something magically happens, something extraordinarily happens. Bones come back to bones; sinews come back to sinews. "You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). Once we were all dead. All of us! Thank God, through His Son, we were made alive again. Ezekiel 37:13, "And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves." Thank God, we are no longer in a dead state. The Church of God is not a dead church. Thank God, we are alive through the blood of the Lamb.

We read in Jeremiah 18:1-4, "The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter." Oh, Beloved Friends, so many are broken tonight. Some of you are so broken. You don't even have

any hope within yourselves. You don't know where to turn, or to whom to turn. Some have even given up on life, not even caring what happens from one day to the next. There are those who have given up on their marriages. They're tired of a straying husband and tired of a straying wife. Broken and marred! Many of our children have gone astray. They're caught up into drugs, alcohol, and all kinds of ungodly things. Some of us are broken and crying. Have you ever seen a mother weeping for her wayward son? It is a hard thing.

Come to the Potter's house. Look at what He sees. The clay was marred. There was a time when I was marred. Many of these brethren sitting on this platform were once marred. What I love about this: the Potter didn't throw us away, even though we were marred and broken. Even though we were hopeless, He didn't throw us away. He made us anew. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). A songwriter said, "Over and over, He molds me and makes me, Into His likeness, He fashions the clay. A vessel of honor [Thank God!], I am today, All because Jesus didn't throw the clay away." Another one wrote: "I was a captive, but mercy released me, I was in darkness, but now I can see; Over the mountain, where lonely I wandered, Jesus, my Savior, came looking for me." Praise the Lord! Jesus is looking for you tonight.

CONCLUSION

In closing, I will read this: "The Value of a Soul" by an unknown author—

"What is the value of a soul?" I asked the Lord one day.

"What is its worth upon the earth? How much does one soul weigh?"

Then He showed me a set of scales, in perfect balance, there.

And, as I watched, He filled one side, with wealth beyond compare.

There was silver, gold and jewels, so beautiful and rare.

The different treasures of the world, He quietly placed them there.

My heart began to tremble as I watched His nail-scarred hands,

For on the other side of that great scale, I saw one single man.

"Who is that man?" I asked Him, "that he should have such worth?"

He surely must be famous and the greatest man on earth."

"Step closer, now, and take a look," Jesus said to me.

As I drew near, I recognized a man I'd often seen.

His clothes were old and ragged; in his hand he held a glass.

He was our city's poorest drunk, a man of lower class.

“Lord, you don’t know that man,” I said. “He’s lived his life in vain.

He’ll bring disgrace into the church and reproach upon your name.”

“I’d like to know him,” Jesus said, “but he does not know me.

But if you’ll help me reach him, then what a change you’ll see.

I’ll take that wretched, sinful life and cleanse it with my blood.

And when he gives his heart to me, I’ll fill it with my love.

“His soul cannot be purchased with the wealth you’ve seen today.

But I was sent to die for him; my blood has paid the way.

He’s my lost sheep,” the Savior said, “and I love you both the same,

But if you think he’s worthless, then I surely died in vain.

“So when you look upon someone whose life is wrecked by sin,

If you’ll just have compassion, then you’ll share your brother’s pain.

You must not look upon his past or what he seems to be.

But look beyond his many faults and know, I’ll set him free.

“Don’t look at him as just a man and only see his shame,

But see him as a precious soul that I have died to save.

This earthly wealth,” the Savior said, “cannot draw men to me.

But I paid a price upon the cross, to set this whole world free.”

Is there someone here who is tired of failing, tired of sin, tired of straying? Perhaps there is a professing Christian who has been struggling in your walk with God. Why not come tonight? Come, and be revived; come, and be renewed; come, and seek a deeper walk with God. †

FAITH

Lucena C. Byrum

Faith does not fear nor falter
But trusts through darkened hours;
Faith knows that God o’erruleth
Satanic, evil powers;
Faith’s tears may flow in silence,
In trembling and distress,
But faith knows God is faithful
His waiting child to bless.

THE CHILDREN’S CORNER



HERE TO STAY

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

“What happened to your feet?” my younger sister, Wilma, asked me.

In alarm, I looked down quickly at my bare feet to see what might be wrong with them, and then I smiled. “There’s nothing wrong with my feet,” I told her. “These purple stains are from mulberries. There’s a bunch of mulberry trees along the pasture fence, and when I went to get the cows, I must have walked on the berries that had fallen from the trees.”

“Mulberries!” exclaimed my cousin, Mary. She was about Wilma’s age—seven years old—and had come to spend a week on the farm with us. “Can you show us the trees? I want to pick some mulberries!”

“I know where they are,” said Wilma. “The trees are easy to climb. We can get all the mulberries we want.”

“Just don’t make yourself sick eating them,” I warned. “The neighbor girl did that last year. She had a stomach ache all night long.”

“And don’t be surprised if your fingers turn purple,” I called after the two little girls as they ran out of the house. “You won’t be able to wash mulberry stains off your skin!” I looked ruefully at my purple toes and wondered when they would return to their original color. *It’s a good thing my socks and shoes will cover them, or everyone at church this evening would be looking at my feet during prayer meeting!* I thought to myself.

I didn’t give the mulberries another thought until later in the afternoon when my mother asked me to go find the girls and tell them it was time for supper. We would be having a quick meal of cornbread and beans so there would be plenty of time to get ready for prayer meeting afterward.

I walked briskly toward the pasture, calling my sister’s and cousin’s names as I went. I hoped they would hear me and I wouldn’t have to walk all the way to the mulberry trees. It was a vain hope, however. Finally, I stood just under the trees. Looking up, I could see two sets of purple feet. “Girls!” I called impatiently. “Mom said to come for supper right now! Couldn’t you hear me calling you?”

The two girls climbed down from the branches where they had been sitting. Slowly they slid down the trunk of the tree. When they turned to face me, and I gasped in astonishment. Each girl’s face was a solid purple color, from the bottom of her chin all the way up to her hairline!

“What happened to your faces?” I asked them, although the answer was plain to see. “Did you do this on purpose?” It was another needless question.

“It won’t come off, will it?” Mary asked. Her purple lips smiled, showing purple teeth.

“No, and you’re going to look ridiculous at church tonight!” I told her.

“Mommy can’t take us to church tonight,” Wilma said. “We won’t be able to wash the stains off our faces.”

“We’ll just have to stay here and play while the rest of you are in prayer meeting,” Mary said.

“I don’t know why you are smiling,” I said. “You are in so much trouble!”

I marched my sister and cousin to the house and presented them to my mother. “They painted their faces with mulberries,” I announced, “so they can stay home from church this evening and play!”

My mother whirled around from the stove, her eyes widening when she saw the two purple faces.

For a moment, she stood speechless, staring at the two girls. “The very idea!” she exclaimed at last. “What in this wide world made you do such a thing?”

Wilma and Mary looked at each other and their smiles faded. “We wanted to stay home this evening,” Wilma admitted in a small voice.

“Well, it will take more than that,” my mother said firmly. “Go in the bathroom and get as much of it off as you can. Hurry up! It’s time for supper!”

Mary looked at my mother in surprise. “Aunt Melda!” she said. “Do we have to go to church looking like this?”

“Well, I don’t know how else you’re going to look,” replied my mother. “But you certainly are not going to stay at home and play just because you were silly enough to get mulberry stains all over your face!”

My sister and cousin walked dejectedly toward the bathroom. Their little plan had come to nothing. At church that evening, they kept their purple faces hidden behind their hands as much as possible, trying to avoid the stares of the congregation members. As soon as the dismissal prayer was prayed, they ran to the car.

Eventually, the mulberry stains faded from the girls’ faces. Never again did they purposefully smear mulberries on their skin. Those stains took a long time to depart.

There are some things, however, that we should want to keep with us. These are good things that should never depart from us.

In Proverbs 3:21 we read, “*My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion.*” In this verse, the wise King Solomon tells us that wisdom is of such great value that we should never let it depart from us. Where do we get this wisdom?

In Psalm 111:10 we read, “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*” This verse tells us that we are wise to fear the Lord. This does not mean we should be so afraid of the Lord that we cannot pray to Him. It does not mean we should be afraid to be near Him. No, when the word “fear” is used in this way it means “respect.” The “respect” of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. We respect the commandments of the Lord, and we fear to do anything that will cause Him to be disappointed.

Wisdom and the fear of the Lord are things that we want to keep before our eyes at all times. Keeping them “before our eyes” means keeping them in our minds.

August 2017

Wisdom and evil cannot be together. They are total opposites. If wisdom does not depart from our minds and hearts, then evil cannot conquer us.

Activity

Here are some other Bible verses about wisdom. See if you can fill in the blanks with the missing words.

1. The mouth of the ____ speaketh wisdom.
2. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our ____ unto wisdom.
3. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh ____ and ____.
4. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth ____.
5. For wisdom is better than ____.

Answer to Last Month’s Activity

God is often referred to in the Bible, especially in the book of Psalms, as our “Shield.” In the book of Psalms, the word “shield” is referred to in this way at least 13 times. †

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

SIN, MAN’S GREATEST ENEMY

THE BIBLE—GOD’S WORD

Scriptures: Hebrews 4:12; John 1:1; Mark 4:36-41; Psalm 119:89, 105; II Timothy 3:15, 16.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Mark 4:36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

Psalm 119:89 For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

II Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Memory Verse: For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.—Hebrews 4:12.

Aim: To create a deep respect and love for God's Word.

INTRODUCTION

"The Bible is composed of sixty-six distinct books, written by at least thirty-six different authors, during a period covering sixteen centuries. These books are not only many in number, but great in variety. Some of them are poetry, some are prose; some are books of law, some are historical writings; some are prophecy and symbols, others are simple epistles. The writers wrote under a variety of circumstances, in many countries, to different peoples, for different purposes, about different subjects, in various conditions, and moved by different influences.

"Being written under such conditions, it is altogether improbable that there should be any unity or agreement in the Bible. No other book pretending to unity was ever written under such unfavorable circumstances. And yet the Bible, though composed of sixty-six distinct books, is one book. Though it has not less than thirty-six different human writers, it bears all the marks of being the work of one mind. It has a single subject throughout—the history of the redemption of men through Christ. The same spirit pervades all its books. Their one aim is to lead men to salvation through Christ.

"The only adequate way to account for such unity is to allow that it is what it claims and appears to be—the work of one superintending and inspiring Mind. ... As the different parts of a great temple are wrought by numerous workmen, in many places, and under different conditions, yet when brought together they all fit in one great whole because all designed by the single mind of the architect, so the book of revelation, though wrought by many minds, yet has unity and harmony because of the superintendence of the master mind of its Divine Architect."—R. R. Byrum, *Christian Theology*, Pages 148, 149.

MEDITATIONS

THE AMAZING WORD—Hebrews 4:12—Quick and powerful—The two-edged sword in the days of Paul (supposedly the writer of Hebrews) was a mighty and fearful weapon. Knowing the power of God's Word, he sought to inform his readers that there was something to be feared more than the deadly two-edged sword. The Word of God does something that nothing else can do. It searches the deep recesses of the hearts of men. Be sure—known to God are all the doings of man, yea, the very thoughts and intents of the heart.

THE WORD IS DIVINE—John 1:1—The Word was God—The beginning, in this verse, refers to the beginning of time and the earth's creation. God and His Word know no beginning. The written Word conveys to man the mind and will of God. It is an offense of the greatest degree when any man puts the wrong interpretation upon the Word of God. To interpret the Word of God wrongly is to misrepresent God Himself; and if God is wrongly represented, someone is in danger of being misled.

THE WORD AT WORK—Mark 4:36—As he was—Jesus had been earnestly ministering to the needs

of the multitude. Without rest or any adjustment of any kind, He took ship to face new tasks.

MEETING THE UNEXPECTED—Mark 4:37—Arose a great storm—Unexpectedly, the forces of nature can disrupt carefully laid plans and necessitate a strong hold on the Word of God for survival. Fierce natures in the spiritual world threaten to sweep us from our moorings, but reliance on the Word of God brings the faithful through.

NO STORM CAN DISTURB CHRIST, THE WORD—Mark 4:38—Asleep—The disciples were disturbed, but not the Master; He slept peacefully. Weak in faith and experience, the disciples had only one alternative if they were to survive, and that was to wake the Master. **Carest thou not?**—They were not able to understand how Jesus could be so calm in so great a storm. Let us each one draw a lesson from this example of Jesus and give to the world a like testimony of life's unexpected visitations. Storms are permitted so that we may develop spiritual strength in riding them out.

PERFECT CONTROL—Mark 4:39—A great calm—Christ the Word is Master of all things, both spiritual and natural. In John 14:12 we read that the things which Christ did, we who believe shall do also. The Christian is a member of a great and renowned family, doers of miracles, skillful soldiers, ardent worshippers. May our Father sustain us all so that not one will lower the standard!

A SLIGHT REBUKE—Mark 4:40—Why are ye so fearful?—The Word has granted to all men perfect peace if we believe. ("Great peace have they which love thy law."—Psalm 119:165.) Jesus, being fully conscious of the power of God's Word and its never-failing comfort, was, of course, grieved by their fear. Faith is fast disappearing from the earth, and men are trying to build security around material things; consequently, when material things crumble, fear follows.

STRANGERS TO THE WORLD—Mark 4:41—What manner of man—Anyone who is not acquainted with the Lord and His Word is certain to show great surprise and even fear when the Word operates in answer to prayer. Christians should never be found fearful when the Word moves miraculously, but be found rejoicing victoriously.

God's Word ETERNAL—Psalm 119:89—For ever ... settled—Having spoken truth only, coupled with the greatest wisdom, God has no need of ever changing His Word. The dazzling purity of the character of God makes it impossible for Him to speak in such a way that He would later need to make a restatement. Heaven is the location of the throne of God, so it is only natural that the Word should issue from there and also have its execution from there.

THE WORD, A MORAL LIGHT—Psalm 119:105—A lamp unto my feet—Just as a man is sure to stumble among obstacles in darkness, so are men sure to stumble spiritually if they have not the light of God's holy truth on their pathway. In our age Satan has so cleverly placed his stumbling blocks that millions are tripping and falling.

II Timothy 3:15—Make thee wise unto salvation—It is within the power of the Word of God to

convert the soul of everyone who will believe. It is a most excellent practice to fill the minds of the youth with the Word of God.

II Timothy 3:16—Profitable for doctrine—There is nothing the soul needs that cannot be supplied by the Word of God. Therefore, we should make it our constant companion, becoming better acquainted with it each day. Jesus used the Word very successfully in defeating the devil. It will help us, also, in every one of his attacks.

CONCLUSION

We are prone to think of the Word of God as being just the writing, word by word, line by line, as we look upon it in our Bible. But this is not the truth. The Word of God is an invisible, powerful force, skillfully hidden away in the writings of the Bible and can be grasped and made evident only by the Spirit of God Himself. It is because of this that many men read the Bible and never see the Word of God at all. They write down many interpretations which are contradictory one to another because such are the products of their own thinking and reasoning power. In their compilation they always have the ready assistance of the devil, who has no book of moral laws except as he distorts and misinterprets the Word of God, subtly declaring it to be pure truth. Therefore, in the study and interpretation of the Word of God, it is necessary, and I should add, necessary to the point of indispensability, that we have the guidance of the Holy Spirit. According to David, the Word of God is a lamp and light to our feet and path. A false interpretation cannot be; such is certain to produce darkness, loudly proclaimed as light.

It is very evident from the study of this lesson that modern man is rapidly drifting away from a knowledge and practice of the Word of God. Even though men lose sight of God and His Word, its force and power remain unchanged, and every transgression shall face it with all its power in the judgment day. It is very necessary, then, that we who know God and His Word labor diligently to turn men back to God and His Word. It is forever settled in heaven; it will not hastily be changed in the last day to accommodate careless, indifferent, sinful men. Now is the day of salvation, and all men everywhere are called upon to repent, turning away from their sins.

Dear Reader, if you are not a Christian, you will gain nothing by further delay, and there is great danger that you will be cut off suddenly. Accept Christ now while opportunity is yours.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Make comment on St. John 1:14.
2. What is the first need of the man who undertakes to study the Word of God?
3. Why did Paul compare the Word to a two-edged sword?
4. Consider the difference between man's word and the Word of God.
5. Name some of the things that the Word of God will do or has done. (Examine Hebrews 11:3.)
6. Why are spiritual storms allowed to cross our path? †

THE TRUE CHURCH AND THE FALSE CHURCH

By the late M. H. Craig



IN THE religious world today, there is true and false; there is a true church, and there are false churches. There is only one true church made up of all true Christians, and one true religion. Christ is building only one church. The Bible teaches that the body of Christ is the church, and that the church is the body of Christ. Paul said, “For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ” (I Corinthians 12:12). “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling” (Ephesians 4:4).

We shall study the church as the one body: “And he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” (Colossians 1:18). “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body” (Ephesians 5:23). Christ is the Head of the church as the husband is head of the wife. This means Christ is to rule in the church as the husband is to rule in the home. Man does not have the authority to take in members, nor to put out members.

Acts 2:47 tells us that God adds to the church when a person is saved, and I Corinthians 12:18 tells us that God places the members in the body as it pleases Him. This is a fact that people need to consider. There is only one way to be inducted into the true church, and that is by salvation through Christ. Water baptism does not save your soul, neither does joining a church. You may have joined something called a church, but it was not the true church! You cannot join the church. You must be born into it.

We have a number of religious groups in the world today that call themselves church of God. How shall we know the true church of God? We can know the true church of God by its head and government. It doesn't matter what a church is called. If it has any other head but Christ, it is not the true church, and the headquarters of the true church is in heaven, for that is where Christ is. Further, any church man can take you into, or put you out of, is not the church Christ is building.

Let us notice the false religions: first, we must know the true before we can know the false. To get “pure religion” you must repent. Jesus said, “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:5). Repentance carries with it the thought of forsaking all sin: “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7). We must not only repent confessing our sins, but we must forgive those who have trespassed against us. And, as far as possible, we must make our wrongs right—“restore the pledge.”

When one is saved, for him to live a true Christian life, he must live free from sin. A religion that people have, and sin more or less every day is a false religion. True religion saves from sin and keeps us from sin. "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Romans 6:22). "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1, 2). "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11, 12).

There is true holiness and false holiness. God intended for His people to be holy. He said, "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:16). "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). The church must be holy to be ready when Christ comes back for it. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might *sanctify and cleanse it* with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; *but that it should be holy and without blemish*" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

There is a false holiness in the world. Had there not have been a false holiness, there would be no need as saying put on true holiness. Holiness is claimed sometimes by people who live ungodly lives, and it is not true holiness. If a person is holy, he is made so by the blood of Christ, and he will live holy. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is one of the greatest promises made to man here in this life. This experience is ridiculed because of some who claim the experience and do many things which is contrary to godliness and common sense. A person filled with the Holy Spirit would have added power, but he will use his power in a godly and decent manner. The Spirit of God will never cause people to fall down and wallow and roll on the floor. Those who do such are under a false spirit. The true baptism of the Holy Spirit will give power to live a godly life. A man filled with the Spirit of God has power to control himself. He is not under a power that causes him to lose control of himself. This supposed power that some people have today that causes them to act unseemly is not of God.

This uncontrollable power that some have claimed to speak in an unknown tongue comes upon them, takes control of them, and uses their tongue. They know not what they say, nor no one else knows whether they are cursing or blessing. This is contrary to the teachings of the Word of God and is false. All the Bible accounts of those who spoke a different language spoke a language that some could understand, and according to the Bible had control of themselves. Paul said that the spirit of the prophet was subject to the prophet. To speak something you did not know, nor no one else knew, would not be an evidence of Holy Ghost baptism. The evidence of Holy Spirit baptism is the Holy Spirit Himself. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16).

The gifts of the Spirit are given to various members of the body of Christ—to Christians—for the profit of all, not for the profit of an individual. Beware of false prophets that come to you in sheep's clothing.

Note: This has been edited and condensed for printing. †

SUSTAINING THE VISION OF BIBLE UNITY

By Bro. Darrell Sanford



WE HAVE embarked upon a great crusade which the Lord has led us to embrace and pursue. The eyes of the world are upon us. The hopes and prayers of all the faithful, in whose hearts the liberty of Christ reigns, are with us. Our task will not be an easy one. The enemy is well-trained, well-equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely. But this is the year 2017! He has made his advances against us long enough. He has divided, discouraged and deterred far too many in the years previous. The tide has turned, and our Captain has issued the call and command to unite as one body under the banner of love and holiness, and defeat once and for all the foe of all things right and true. Through the grace of our God and Savior inspiring us to courage, and through devotion to duty and skill in battle, we will accept nothing less than total victory! May God's blessings be upon each one as we engage in this great and noble undertaking.

Many of you will recognize that introduction as a rewrite of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's address to those brave soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force, who left the safe shores of England to storm the murderous shores of Normandy, on June 6, 1944, known forever after as D-Day. It truly was an undertaking like no other for a make or break effort which, had it failed, would have altered the face of the world forever. The political salvation of mankind hung in the balance—there was no turning back and there was no second chance. The result was to either secure liberty and hope for all humanity, or to be plunged into a dark night of tyranny and oppression with no foreseeable end!

We, too, find ourselves at the genesis of just such an endeavor, and in hope of winning just such a cause. I do not believe that the dramatics are misplaced or overstated. The time has come to launch our assault against the error of division and crush it once and for all! WE must banish it from the ranks of the church of God, so that we may focus upon the work we are intended to do! That work is the salvation of the world; the freeing of humanity from the choking grasp of diabolical tyranny which enslaves tortured souls in its cruel grip!

We cannot see all the battles which await us. We don't know every course, every twist and turn this effort

will take, but I do know this: we must keep pressing, we must keep trying—we cannot cease! After D-Day there were yet many lost battles, many setbacks, many stumbles, many protracted engagements, many deprivations, sufferings and casualties, but quitting was never an option. The full unity of the church of God—that divine body sent down from heaven, built up by Jesus Christ—must prevail here on Earth! There is NO alternative! If we are to be the church AT ALL, then we must be the church IN ALL! There is one body, and one Spirit ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of ALL, who is above ALL, and through ALL, and in YOU ALL. If we divide it and organize it in our own image, we will not be it, and we will give account before the judgment bar of God!

Having previously identified the condition which I term, “Division Unity,” (described in the article, “Is Christ Divided?” which was printed in *The Way of Truth*, June 2017 issue and posted at John1721.org), I would like to further address the seriousness of this situation. It is unsustainable. We cannot, in good conscience before God, perpetuate any longer this condition of having a body of people believing and teaching the true doctrines of Bible holiness and unity of God’s people in the one true church, yet divided into groups and fellowships over matters which do not involve sin or false teachings.

We have come to a point of choices, Brethren. Will we continue in this state of Division Unity within the church of God and act like everything is alright, or will we recognize the obvious; that everything is not right, and in fact, some things are very wrong? The power of any entity to exist and continue to function, be it a nation, a company, an organization or a religious body, is the willingness of the people to support it. Without the support of the people involved in any of these entities, they would soon crumble. I contend, in the fear of God, that I can no longer support walls of division within what we have traditionally known as the church of God. I am free and clear of group-ism and fellowships, and am determined to fellowship all true ministers and saints of God. Brethren—ministers and saints alike—it is time to tear down the walls! To the degree that we refuse to participate in and empower these divisions, we will render them ineffective.

I, personally, cannot go back in mind, body or spirit to the practice of separating myself from saints over traditions and customs not supported by the Word of God, or for any other “reason” other than sin and false doctrine. Are there situations in which some people have not conducted themselves properly and thereby caused breaches? Yes, I know some, and most probably, so do many of you. They are real, and they are serious. No doubt, many of these exist due to serious hurt and betrayal, as well as the resulting mistrust toward the instigators. Things of this nature would be some of the hardest to solve. I do not pretend to possess the solutions to all such situations, but I am certain that God does. He must be allowed to work in these matters, and that work could take time, perhaps a lot of time. However, for our part, we must love, we must endeavor, we must patiently endure, and we must follow after the things which make for peace! I have already personally

seen the humility manifested by one brother make great strides toward repairing a “years old” breach among brethren. There’s still work to do there, but what a glorious thing it is when brethren who have been separated (admittedly, somewhat by their own misguided actions in the fog and heat of a difficult and contentious situation), begin to restore trust, love and fellowship! “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments” (Psalm 133:1, 2). Truly, “the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace” (James 3:18).

Breaking the Mold

Concerning the comfort we find with the familiarity of our particular “fellowships”; I understand that it can be unsettling to let go of the concept of “our church group” with which we have identified, for most, if not all of our religious lives, and expand that to include others which may be different from our mold—not the Lord’s mold, I mind you, but ours. Many, if not most, saints consider their fellowships—their group—to be “the church of God.” We have been, in reality, conditioned to think of it as such. We see our congregation, then, our fellowship of several congregations, and beyond that, the universal church of God, with which we basically never have any contact. All that remains are those various groups which have, over time, compromised or fanatized or otherwise taken some wrong turn along the way, which has caused us to part from one another.

“It’s not a perfect body,” we reason, “but it’s our body, and it’s just the way things are now.” All of which are true because, it’s certainly not the perfect body Christ designed, and, it is OUR body—one which we have “imperfected” over time, and it is definitely the way things are now. I stress these things in such strong terms, not to demean the body of Christ, for I do believe we are part of that one true church divinely built by Jesus Christ, but rather to emphasize a point. Brethren, can we not see what has been done among us!? It is ludicrous to believe and to teach that 10 or 12 or ever how many few congregations with which we associate constitute the church of God! And, it is equally ludicrous to believe that, IF many of these other existing fellowships do have credibility and standing with the Head of the church, that we can continue to function as we are in a united/divided condition! My brethren, these things ought not so to be!

We may talk ourselves into believing that we have an option on whether or not to act concerning this matter, but we do not. The Word is clear—God’s church is ONE.

Then Jesus said unto them, “Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them” (John 12:35, 36).

We know the truth of unity—Jesus has long ago given us that light. Now, He has shown us our fault—

THE TRUE TEMPLE OF GOD

By the late D. S. Warner

now He has lit the path and revealed our straying. Will we correct our steps? Will we believe in the light while we have it, or continue the present path and go into darkness? I believe with all my heart that it is just that serious!

“Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them” (Matthew 21:42-45).

It is the Word of the Lord, Church, it is not my word! God help us! Do we not see the seriousness of this!? Are we bringing forth the fruits worthy of the one, unified, divinely structured and divinely led church of the living God!? We are living holy, free from sin, giving Him worship and praise, yes all of that, but are we exemplifying oneness in Christ!? Are we exemplifying a people “made perfect in one” that the world may know that the Father sent Jesus Christ here for us, and for them!? I ask us all, is that what we see before us today!? Will we fall upon the stone and be broken? Will we yield our will, our opinions, our traditions, our ideologies, our heritages, our comfort zones to Him!? Will we be broken, and allow all of these things to run out of us that we may be filled with the fullness of the love and devotion and humility and wisdom and knowledge and will of Christ alone, so that we may truly be a people of which it may be said, “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure”!?

Now, you may say, “stop beating around the bush, brother, and just tell us what you’re really trying to say.” Okay, I am merely urging that saints and ministers alike, cease drawing lines around the church of God; cease numbering God’s people, and begin reaching our hands in fellowship to all saints of God, even as the Bible and our own songs exhort us to!

We must remember that many of the Jews were very settled and comfortable in their religion when Jesus brought the gospel. They were satisfied with the status quo and, while some may have seen certain things that were not particularly kosher, they were content to carry on in that with which they were accustomed. We are faced with a choice—it is clear that the message of oneness in Christ is not being lived as it should—what shall we do? Will we fight against the truth? Will we ignore it? Will we cast it out as evil? Saints and ministers, we had better be very careful how we handle this call to destroy the walls which divide us, and repair the one true wall which surrounds our city! †

“What is the sanctuary of the new covenant?” It may be answered thus: Whatever, under the new covenant, takes the place of, and is the antitype of the temple, is the sanctuary under the present dispensation. Or still more simple, Whatever is now the temple of God, is his sanctuary. And thus the Word of truth points out:

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (I Corinthians 3:16). “If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (I Corinthians 3:17). “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?” (I Corinthians 6:19). “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (II Corinthians 6:16). “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:19-22). “He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (Revelation 3:6). “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name” (Revelation 3:12). As the ancient temple was God’s sanctuary, the church being called his temple, must be his present sanctuary. ...

Here are six positive declarations that the temple of God is his church, right here in the world. Nothing can be plainer than this fact.

Again, the ancient sanctuary was called the house of God. Whatever, therefore, is the house of God or his building now is his present sanctuary. And thus we read:

“For we are laborers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building” (I Corinthians 3:9). “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” (I Peter 2:5). “For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house” (Hebrews 3:3). “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end” (Hebrews 3:6). “But if I tarry long, that

“So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.”

—Nehemiah 4:6.

thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Timothy 3:15).

Here again are six positive testimonies that God’s present house or sanctuary is his church. If the testimony of two witnesses is true, who can set aside or overthrow the united testimony of twelve declarations of the inspired Word of God? And this temple or “spiritual house” of God is positively declared to be the sanctuary of Christ. Hence we read: “And having an high priest over the house of God” (Hebrews 10:21), “whose house are we” (3:6); which house he built (3:3). Hence he is “a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man” (Hebrews 8:2). Then the house which Christ built, which he called “my church,” and this writer of Hebrews designates as “his own house,” is positively declared to be the present “sanctuary, the true temple,” in contradistinction of that which was only the shadow. And the shadow agrees with the substance in every lineament. The first was holy, so also the second. God was the designer of the first, so was he of the second. The first was his dwelling place, and likewise the church is a “habitation of God through the Spirit.” The first sanctuary was a place to offer daily sacrifices; and the church is a “spiritual house, an holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices.” God sent down the fire from heaven upon the altars of the first sanctuary, and so sent the fire of the Holy Spirit, and filled his New Testament sanctuary. And so we might wind our way back, through all the beautiful objects we have so long been looking upon, and again complete them as shadow and substance in the ancient and present sanctuary of the Most High God. But this is not necessary. Already we have taken much pains and heaped up scripture in great abundance to establish the new covenant sanctuary, because we believe the explanation of the words of truth contained in that temple of shadows will prove instructive and profitable: but more especially it is important that we understand what that structure is. Hence we have given place to the abundance of scripture which prove in so many ways that the church of the living God is his present sanctuary, and so settled this fact beyond the possibility of doubt. †

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WHEN MY HEART IS OVERWHELMED

By Bro. Greg Tyler

Psalm 61:2: “From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”



THIS VERSE of scripture is a valuable resource to the family of man as we journey through life on this terrestrial ball we call Earth. Life has many twists and turns, high points and low points with which the human spirit must contend. The Psalmist did not say, “If my heart is overwhelmed ...”; he said, “when my heart is overwhelmed ...” So our subject is of universal interest inasmuch as all, at some point in time, must cope with being overwhelmed.

Overwhelm means: “1. to overcome completely in mind or feeling: *overwhelmed by remorse*. 2. to overpower or overcome, especially with superior forces; destroy; crush: *Roman troops were overwhelmed by barbarians*. 3. to cover or bury beneath a mass of something, as floodwaters, debris, or an avalanche; submerge: *Lava from erupting Vesuvius overwhelmed the city of Pompeii*. 4. to load, heap, treat, or address with an overpowering or excessive amount of anything: *a child overwhelmed with presents; to overwhelm someone with questions*.”

You get the picture. Things happen in life. Sometimes bad things happen to good people. What we do when unfortunate circumstances in life are unleashed against us will determine our eternal destiny. Under such pressures, many turn to alcohol or drugs for a reprieve from the feeling of being overwhelmed. This only complicates an already bad situation and makes it worse. Some fall into deep depression and are so overwhelmed they attempt to do themselves bodily harm and end it all, not realizing that that route opens the door to eternal damnation and falling into a state of being overwhelmed forever.

These scenarios are not the plan of the Almighty, nor are they the lot of the redeemed. Thank God for His wonderful plan which provides another recourse in times of trouble: “When my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”

We need to be willing to be led when times are tough. “Lead me ...”

Lead me to the Rock. We need to flee to the Rock that is higher than we are. Christ is that Rock!

I Corinthians 10:1-4 says, “Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.” He has been the Rock for all generations—and He is the Rock in our generation! He will make a way of escape in times we are overwhelmed.

We do not have to bear our burdens alone. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:7).

Lead me to a place of prayer. Here is where we connect with the Rock. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." There is help to find when we are overwhelmed. We will find sweet relief when we find hope kneeling at His feet.

Lead me to the Word of God. It will comfort and direct us when our back is against the wall. Romans 15:4 tells us, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." The Bible has an answer for every situation of life.

Lead me to the congregation of saints. They will sympathize and support you in your present dilemma. Sometimes when individuals are overcome, they absent themselves from the divine worship services. That is the worst thing they could do. When we are overwhelmed we need help! The Psalmist said, "Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart. But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end" (Psalm 73:1, 2, 17). We understand more clearly the hope God gives when we congregate with the saints. Also, we receive needed support. I Corinthians 12:26, "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."

SITUATIONS IN WHICH WE CAN BECOME OVERWHELMED

Overwhelmed by the cares of life—This happens to so many. It is so easy to feel sorry for ourselves. There is a devil who will pile on and convince you that life is unfair and you have it worse than anybody else. This can become overwhelming to the point of complaint. Psalm 77:3 points this out: "I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed." Get a grip on yourself—you *don't* have it worse than everyone else. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13). Look for that way of escape that the Lord has provided when you are overwhelmed.

Overwhelmed by affliction—Sickness is a natural occurrence in life and at times can be overwhelming! Not only your own physical struggles, but perhaps someone close to you is suffering and that can be overwhelming. The Psalmist felt this as he penned Psalm 102:1. The prelude to the verse says, "A prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed, and poureth out his complaint before the Lord." Just look at the example of Job. He did nothing wrong—on the contrary, the Bible says, was "perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." God expressed joy concerning Job, that there was none like him in the earth. But the Lord allowed Satan to attack him, first with one thing, then another. The devil piled it on. Then his body was afflicted with boils. His plight was overwhelming, but

Job looked to the Rock that was higher than he was. He was able to say "the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, Blessed be the name of the Lord." Remember, Saints of God, God promised never to let us be tempted above that which we are able to bear (I Corinthians 10:13). At times when we feel overwhelmed, we just have to stand on that promise!

Overwhelmed by discouragement or depression—It is so easy to be discouraged! Many are prone to depression when this sets in. "Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul" (Psalm 124:4). It is critical to be led to the Rock when this happens. Again, the Rock that is higher than us is found in the Word of God.

Isaiah 41:10, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Rather than fall deeper and deeper in despair, we can be strengthened and upheld by His mighty hand.

Overwhelmed by failure—We are human and subject to failure. If failure comes, the devil is right on the scene to punish us and sift us like wheat. We are doubtless down on ourselves and overwhelmed. "When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me" (Psalm 142:3). We need to forgive ourselves and look upward in times like these. The church must step in and help someone who has failed and inspire him to get back up and keep going. Galatians 6:1 says, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

Overwhelmed with loneliness—A recent survey of more than 2,000 Americans conducted by the Harris Poll on behalf of the American Osteopathic Association, showed that almost three-quarters (72%) of Americans experience loneliness. And for many, it's not just a once-in-a-while occurrence—one-third said they feel lonely at least once a week. Loneliness can be overwhelming. Even married couples can feel alone. Again, the Psalmist said in Psalm 143:4, "Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate." But the Christian has an advantage. To him the Bible says (Hebrews 13:5), "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Think of it—He will always be with us. If loneliness is pressing against you, go to the Rock that is high and lifted up.

Overwhelmed with fear—Ever been afraid? Fear can be haunting. "Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me" (Psalm 55:5). Be not afraid! Fear brings torment. II Timothy 1:7 says, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." If fearfulness attacks you, be led to the Rock, for He will be your Protector.

Overwhelmed under financial stress—Modern life produces stress—it just does! Many are drowning under debt and are overwhelmed. Be led to the Rock, for He can supply all your need by His riches in glory.

THE STANDARD OF GOD'S KINGDOM

By Bro. Eugene C. Ononuju, Nigeria

Remember Matthew 6:25-33, "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Overwhelmed with grief—The loss of a loved one is probably the singular occasion, where universally, humanity becomes overwhelmed. Even if we have the assurance that our loved one was saved, there is still an overwhelming sense of loss because death is so final. The Bible says death is an enemy. Especially at these times we need comfort from the Rock that is higher than us. The apostle Paul knew about how overwhelming this can be, for he spoke of Epaphroditus, "For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow" (Philippians 2:27). In times like these, we need to seek the God of all comfort. "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (II Corinthians 1:3, 4).

One final thought: **sin will overwhelm a man**—Sin will take you farther than you want to go. The man in Mark 5 was overwhelmed in the tombs. He had no hope—then Jesus came! The prodigal son left home and went into a far land where he was overwhelmed to find himself feeding swine, so hungry that the slop looked appetizing. But he came to himself and returned to his father. If sin is bearing down on you, and you are overwhelmed, turn to the Rock that is higher than you. He is waiting for you right now.

Whatever your circumstance, Christ stands ready to help you—especially if you are overwhelmed!

"From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Psalm 61:2). †

**LEAD ME TO THE
ROCK!**

I SUPPOSE it will not sound outlandish to the listening ears that the kingdom of God has a standard. The standard of a thing could imply the initial quality, feature, or identity of that particular thing at a given time. As we move around towns and cities, we set our eyes on various types of buildings with different designs. With these designs, it makes it easy to identify one building from another.

There are some things that can depreciate or change in standard. There are some things that remain as they were from the beginning. For instance: the heavenly galaxies, such as the moon, the stars and the sun. Even mountains remain. The natural shape and the size of the earth has remained the same. Only the activities of man have changed from their natural standard, even though the physical frame may remain the same. This is incredible. It is man's activities that have brought the downfall on the human standard of living, the standard of government, and the economy.

Earthly kingdoms have equally dropped in their standard. We heard of the world-ruling Babylonian Kingdom which dropped its standard and was succeeded by the Medo-Persian Kingdom. This condition was applicable when both the Persian and the Grecian Kingdom fell and was succeeded by the Roman Kingdom, which existed until Christ came to establish the kingdom of God in a definite and an unchangeable standard. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44).

The kingdom of God did not come by the way or by the will of man. It has a foundation and its qualities originated from God. No wonder the scripture warns thus: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 3:11). The kingdom of God, which is the church of God, was built with heavenly material that makes the difference amidst all other kingdoms. It has no duplicate in heaven or upon this earth.

Noah built the ark according to the Divine Master's plan. It had one door only. It was made of gopher wood which enabled it to float on the water. It was capable of ensuring safety to those on board during the flood. The standard of this ark is a standing symbol of a typified kingdom of God today. As much as the ark had the ability to save the people on board, the Scripture says, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Proverbs 18:10).

Joel had a vision of the kingdom, and he prophesied saying, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call" (Joel 2:32). This is proof that "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ

Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” The question now is, How can you enter into this kingdom? The Scriptures bid us to ask in order to receive, but a lot of people today love the pleasures of this world more than the pleasures of God. However, just as Noah’s ark had only one door, so also the kingdom of God. It has one door to let everyone in. This is the standard when Christ stood and declared, “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (John 10:9).

While the door remains open, Christ is standing there to bring every willing soul into the kingdom. Whoever follows some other way is bound to condemnation. The Scriptures say, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.” Some people think that by giving tithes and offerings, or by fasting and praying that they can enter God’s kingdom without being freed from sin, no! With our giving or our church activities, we cannot lower or change the standard. I often think of this: If the kingdom of God was built or formed by man, as some sects still believe, entrance could be by many means. To reign with Christ in this kingdom, the scripture says, “And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there” (Psalm 87:5, 6).

Salvation is the one outstanding feature towards becoming a member of God’s kingdom. The Pharisees thought that because they were Abraham’s seed by blood that they could inherit God’s kingdom. The scripture has placed the standard that if you are of Abraham’s seed, you should produce fruit that is worthy of repentance. Abraham walked with God and it was imputed to him for righteousness. Being Abraham’s seed by blood cannot give anyone membership into God’s kingdom. That is never the standard; for the circumcision is not of the flesh, but of the Spirit.

The standard for membership into God’s kingdom is, you must repent of your sins and be saved. For this reason, a man of the Pharisees, a ruler of the Jews, came to Christ one night to know what he must do to inherit the kingdom of God. Jesus said unto him, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). But Nicodemus, wanting to know more, asked: “How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?” (verse 4).

By nature, no one, not even a child one day old, can reenter his mother’s womb and be born again. This has to do with your soul. You forsake your sins, confess them, and accept Christ as your Lord and Savior. It is a work that has to be done to your soul. There is no age limit to it, but as soon as you reach maturity, you can obtain this grace to be born of water (the Word) and of the Spirit of God. Apart from this, there is no acceptable way to enter the kingdom. Acts 2:37, 38, “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall

receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” When Peter opened his mouth and preached salvation to the multitude that gathered together, the scripture records, “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41). Any foundation that does not build according to this standard cannot be the kingdom of God. It has become the standard of God’s kingdom since the world began, and it will continue until the kingdom is delivered to God the Father by the coming of Christ. No one can lower the standard and yet remain in it. “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12).

Being laid upon this Divine foundation, every member of God’s family is purchased with a price, a price that is far more than silver and gold. The price is the precious blood of Jesus Christ. You are not your own. I am not mine own either. Someone has paid for you and for me, as well as others who believe in Him. This is not imaginary. By the grace of God, we are members of His kingdom. People who were once dead in trespasses and were condemned by sin are now free from eternal death, and have risen unto new life through the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. We are God’s husbandry. We have passed from death unto life by His cleansing blood. Everyone who is born into this kingdom possesses this experience. There is power in the blood of Jesus that cleanses all manner of sin. It is far more than the blood of animals that can never cleanse from sin. As souls that are purchased with His blood, we become highly placed before God. One soul is worth more than the wealth of this world. “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Corinthians 6:20). For this reason, you are not your own. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1). This is only obtainable by those who give their lives to Christ.

Holiness and purity are beautiful robes which every citizen of God’s kingdom is obligated to put on. God Himself is holy by nature. His name is synonymous with holiness, too. No one can serve God or to go to be with Him without being holy. The kingdom of God is the church of God. It was established on holiness. There should be no surprise that the scripture commands us to be holy, even as God our Father is holy. Children of God do not touch unclean things. Neither is sin mentioned among them. They are spiritual Nazarites. Those are people without sin. They are identified by holy living. Since God is holy, those who come before Him ought themselves to be holy. Obadiah 1:17, “But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.”

Isaiah, in his vision concerning the kingdom of God, prophesied thus: “And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.” Since God is holy, one of the qualities of His kingdom

is holiness. When Luke wrote of Christ and His kingdom, he told us that Christ came to deliver us from sin. Therefore, we must serve Him in holiness. "That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life" (Luke 1:74, 75).

Holiness is the fundamental principle of God. Abraham and a host of old prophets believed it. It cannot be lowered. David, at one time, felt the joy to declare the salvation of his soul upon Mount Zion. He said, "Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever."

Some sects do not believe in sanctification. It is an integral identity in Christ's kingdom. It is also called the second work of grace, or Holy Ghost baptism. The first work of grace is salvation, or justification, which is total freedom from committed sin. If anyone continues to live sinless after being saved, and strives more and more to live right and true to God's Word, there is opportunity to obtain the grace of God to be endowed with the Holy Spirit. Christ has promised this kind of faith to His disciples. In order to avoid doubt, Christ sanctified Himself that He might sanctify the church. So sanctification is never a strange thing among those who are born into God's kingdom. If it were not so, John the Baptist wouldn't have been able to unveil the need of sanctification to the Jews in his first information on the coming of Christ and His kingdom. "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

Sanctification can be seen as another level of faith by which disciples or believers are readily consecrated for God's use. It does not come by mere will or by the power of man. No minister of God can give it to you. It is given to those that God deems fit. For this reason, Christ said, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." It isn't everyone who will receive the Holy Ghost baptism, but it will be for those who sincerely ask and work by faith, waiting patiently on the promise of God. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matthew 7:11). God is so ready to bestow His Spirit on us so we may go far and near to proclaim the kingdom of God as it was done in the early morning church. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other [languages], as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

Sin can remove you from God's kingdom. Sin has been an enemy of God from the beginning. Sin cannot find favor in the presence of God. You cannot love God and the world at the same time. You cannot serve two masters at the same time. If you love God, live true to His Word, and do righteously, your name will be written in the Lamb's book of life. But the moment you turn back to the world, your name will be blotted out of the book of life. The kingdom of God does not permit the

doctrine of eternal security, or once saved, always saved. You cannot commit sin and be in God's kingdom. Whoever goes back to sin, he shall be removed from the kingdom of God. No matter how dear Adam and Eve were to God, when they disobeyed Him, He drove them out of the Garden of Eden. Likewise, when the children of Israel committed evil before God, He decided to blot their names out of the book of life. Although Moses as a leader pleaded with God to blot out his name from the book of life on behalf of the people, God insisted He could not lower the standard of His kingdom for that reason. Exodus 32:33, "And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book."

The Bible tells us that whosoever commits sin is of the devil because the devil has sinned from the beginning. That is the standard. Having taken notice of this while running his race, Paul said, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Corinthians 9:27). Therefore, anyone who loves to remain in God's kingdom should discipline himself, just as Paul said. No man should commit sin at all. However, many mysteries are there to be revealed to you about the kingdom of God and the Holy Spirit. Be ready to ask and to seek His kingdom. The Word of God is given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God. Remember the foundation, which is the standard of God's ever sure kingdom. †

YET TODAY

Peggy Sanborn Young

Savior, lead me yet today
In Thine own sweet holy way.
Savior, lead me lest I stray;
I'm so prone to turn away.

Savior, may I yet see Thee,
May I yet Thy sweet face see;
May I yet with Paul agree—
None of self but all for Thee.

MY TESTIMONY

Leota Brant

When I knelt at the altar
In trouble and despair,
My soul within me trembled
As I knelt there in prayer.

And when I finished praying,
My heart was opened wide
To let the Savior in,
Who long had been outside.

And now my heart is joyful,
It sings both night and day—
My sins have taken flight,
Christ's blood washed them away. †

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Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

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