

The Way of Truth

Vol. 75

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

No. 9

September
2017

**“RIGHTEOUSNESS
EXALTETH A NATION...”**

THEME OF 2017 INTERNATIONAL
CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION
IN HAGERSTOWN, MD

FOR A REPORT, TURN TO PAGE 2.

LABOR DAY

THE FIRST Monday of September is recognized as a legal holiday in the United States. It is simply called *Labor Day*.

It is “a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

“The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From these, movements developed to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887.

“Labor Day became an official federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day is the last national holiday before the end of summer.”—quote from Internet.

When God first formed man and woman and placed them in the Garden of Eden, He gave them work to do. After sin entered the picture, God cursed the earth. God said to the woman, “I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” And unto Adam he said, “Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return” (Genesis 3:16-19).

It is true that by cursing the ground, God did increase the labor itself that Adam and Eve would have to do itself, but in no way is it proper to say that labor of is a curse. To be able to work—labor—is a God-given blessing. Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonian saints, said, “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat” (chapter 3 and verse 10). Paul, in his letter to Timothy, said, “These things give in charge, that they may be blameless. But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” (I Timothy 5:7, 8). I hardly think that Paul would say that about a curse!

There are many verses that speak of the *work of the Lord*. Many times, possibly most of the time, the work of the Lord involves manual work. When Nehemiah left Babylon to go to Jerusalem, he found the walls of the city thrown down. “So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days. And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: ... And I went out by night [and went around the city from gate to gate], Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us

build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.” As Nehemiah made his plans, Sanballat, Tobiah, and others despised them and determined to stop them. But God was with Nehemiah and those, including the high priest, who joined in the work of building the wall. “So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for bathing” (Nehemiah 4:23).

“So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: *for the people had a mind to work*. ... So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days” (Nehemiah 4:6 and 6:15).

That is one fine example of people working together for the furtherance of the work of the Lord. However, there is much work that does not directly affect the work of the Lord. We can say that when a man works in a proper place doing a proper job to provide for his family, he is doing what the Lord says in His Word is the duty for the man to do.

Let us look at some scriptures that speak of work. I think we will see that labor is not a curse but a blessing.

“Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee” (Psalm 128:1, 2).

“The labor of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin” (Proverbs 10:16).

“Wealth gotten by vanity shall diminish: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase” (Proverbs 13:11).

“In all labor there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury” (Proverbs 14:23).

“There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labor. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God” (Ecclesiastes 2:24).

“Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?” (Ecclesiastes 3:22).

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Hebrews 6:10).

“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth” (Ephesians 4:28).

“They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands” (Isaiah 65:22).

ABOUT THE COVER

Long’s Peak is a high and prominent mountain summit in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. It is here reflected in Bear Lake. The pristine beauty is spectacular. God has blessed our nation in so many ways. We do well to remember He said in His Word what exalts a nation and what is a reproach. This issue proclaims the need of righteousness and the reproach of sin.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

(Registered Trademark)

Vol. 75 September 2017 No. 9

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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Work to support the Lord's work: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. ... Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:8-10). †

A FAITHFUL GUIDE

Jack Downing

Oh, just to think that Jesus is near!
What have I in this world to fear?
Oh, may His presence ever be near
In life and in eternity!

Come unto Him; sweet rest He will give
A fresh new life each day to live;
Your cares and burdens will roll away—
Come all who will, His Word doth say.

He means as much as life to me,
And could mean as much or more to thee.
Come penitent, and bow in prayer,
The true Son of God will meet you there.

I cannot express what I feel within,
I once had wandered, all stained with sin,
But now I walk the way with Him—
Walk upright now, all clean within. †

OUR SERVICES ON CD'S

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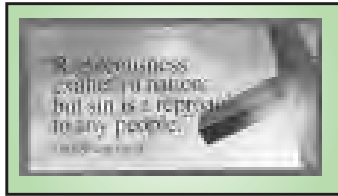
- ___ CD #784 The Beauty of Bible Unity *G. E. Tyler*
- ___ CD #785 Lessons from the Life of Timothy *Mick Akers*
- ___ CD #786 Seeing Our Children Living for Jesus *A. A. Craig*
- ___ CD #787 Gratitude *Doug Shenberger*
- ___ CD #788 Father's Day *Various Speakers*
- ___ CD #789 Facing the Giants *Paul 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*
- ___ CD #793 Why Jesus Came *Donovan Darby*
- ___ CD #812 The Church of God Is Made Up of Doers *A. A. Craig*
- ___ CD #813 Woe to Them That Are at Ease in Zion *Doug Shenberger*
- ___ CD #814 Identifying the Enemy *A. A. Craig*
- ___ CD #815 A Higher Way *Brian Richards*
- ___ CD #816 Society's Need of Integrity *G. E. Tyler*
- ___ CD #817 Singspiration *Various Singers*

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2017
HAGERSTOWN
CONVENTION REPORT

From notes by E. Arch and D. Marquiss



THE ANNUAL International Convention of the Church of God hosted by the Hagerstown, Maryland, congregation was indeed a blessing this year as saints from various states and countries gathered for six days of uninterrupted worship through song and the spoken Word. As usual, the meeting was preceded by fasting and ten nights of special prayer meetings, laying the groundwork for spiritual success. It is impossible to put into words what one felt and sensed as the convention went forth, but we will try to give our readers a brief report of what happened July 4-9.

The theme of this year's meeting was, "Righteousness Exalteth a Nation," based on Proverbs 14:34. Each day there was a prayer meeting in the early morning and three general services.

Below is a synopsis of each service:

July 4—6:00 A.M. Prayer Meeting—Leading the first prayer meeting was Bro. Terry Deville, pastor at Deville, Louisiana. He elaborated on II Chronicles 32:3-8 and inspired us to have great expectations from God. We looked to the Lord for His help for the day.

10:00 A.M.—The speaker was Host Pastor, Bro. Alvin Craig. He spoke on the theme. This message is printed in its entirety beginning on page 4.

2:30 P.M.—Bro. Ronnie Ford, pastor at Fredericksburg, Virginia, was the preacher. "Spiritual Unpreparedness" was the title of the message. He used Matthew 25:1-13 as his text. "I believe the Lord is coming again. Heaven is for people who are prepared to go there. People today seem to be living right on the edge. If you are walking on the edge, you can fall off very easily. It has happened. Jesus wants us to walk on the strait and narrow way. Christ is coming again for His church. Noah believed God. People didn't believe what he was preaching to them. Folks, you could die suddenly. The foolish virgins were not prepared to meet the Lord. People today are still unprepared to meet the Bridegroom. There is going to be a judgment."

7:00 P.M.—Bro. Marion Trisler, Jr., pastor at Jonesville, Louisiana, was the speaker in this service. "Healing the Land" was the title of the message. This message will be printed in a future issue, Lord willing.

July 5—6:00 A.M. Prayer Meeting—Bro. Lowell McClung from Craigs ville, West Virginia, commented on James 1:2-6 and John 14:16, 17, before prayers were made to God.

10:00 A.M.—Bro. Harley McClung, pastor at Craigs ville, West Virginia, brought the morning's message. Title: "Truth and Righteousness versus Deception and Unrighteousness." Text: II Thessalonians 2:1-12. "Truth is truth when it is rightly divided. We need the Spirit of God to inspire us to rightly divide it. The apostle Paul, in our text, was seeing some things. He was given insight by the Holy Spirit in seeing some things that

were to come. We need the Holy Spirit to help us to see and comprehend some things that are happening in our land today. Truth is what gives us the joy that is unspeakable. We become an enemy of some people when we tell them the truth. There is only one Spirit, one faith, and one baptism. God's Word will not return unto Him void."

2:30 P.M.—Bro. Hezekiah Lamey, pastor at Catadupa, St. James, Jamaica, spoke on "Making the Right Choice." His text was Joshua 24:15. "Noah made the right choice. He was called by God. Noah chose the true and living God. Because of that, he and his family were saved from the flood. I am happy to be a Christian. To do the right thing is the best way. We have to be righteous in the eyes of God. Do you see what sin is doing in the world today? I want to do the right thing. As long as we do the right, God will see us through. Christ is coming again. You will see Him as He is. Let us be wise."

While singing the closing hymn, "Kingdom of Peace," the windows of heaven were opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon those in attendance. In waves of joy, there was weeping and shouting as the saints embraced one another. This continued for some time. What an experience!

7:00 P.M.—Bro. Greg Tyler, assistant pastor, Hagerstown, was the preacher. "Do You See Jesus?" was the title of the message. Text: Hebrews 2:9. "Do you really see Jesus? Some people think they see some things, but they really don't. They've heard about Jesus, but they really don't know Him. Do you see Jesus crucified? He died for you and me. Do you see Christ the Deliverer? He delivered the demonic of Gadara. When you see Him, you see One who can deliver from all sin. Do you see Christ as the Door of the church? It is more than just "trying" Jesus. You have to believe Christ—and only Christ—is the Door. Do you see Jesus as the Head of His church? Man is not the head of the church of God. There is only one body and all the redeemed are in her! Do you see the Healer, Jesus? He is just the same today as He ever was. Do you see Jesus as the Judge? He is our Savior now, but will be our Judge at the last day. Christ tasted death for every man."

July 6—6:00 A.M. Prayer Meeting—Bro. Brian Richards, deacon in the local congregation, spoke from Ephesians 6 before we knelt in prayer.

10:00 A.M.—Bro. Darrell Sanford, pastor of the Church of God in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, visiting for the first time, spoke on "Earnestly Contending for Common Salvation." Several scriptures were used, including Jude 1:1-4. Lord willing, this message will be printed in an upcoming issue.

2:30 P.M.—The speaker for this service was Bro. Rupert Shippy, pastor at Axe-and-Adze, Hanover, Jamaica. "Righteousness Exalts a Nation" was the title of the message. Text: Proverbs 14:34. "Joseph had a determination to serve God. In spite of Mrs. Potiphar's advances, Joseph stayed true to God. God blessed Joseph. He served God faithfully. God blessed Joseph while he was in prison. God's eyes were upon him. Moses was determined to serve God. He told the people to stop their murmuring. We must be obedient to God's standard. Serve God in sincerity."

7:00 P.M.—Bro. Terry Deville was the preacher for this service. “What God Says Concerning the Saved and the Unsaved” was the title of the message. Text: Psalm 1:1, 2. This message, Lord willing, will be printed in a future issue.

July 7—6:00 A.M. Prayer Meeting—Bro. Gary Alwell from Deville, Louisiana, spoke from II Chronicles 20:1-17. Prayers followed.

10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. David Shaw, pastor at Medina, Manchester, Jamaica, spoke. “Healing, a Possibility” was the title for this Divine Healing Service. Text: Malachi 4:2a. After this inspiring message, many came forward to be anointed by the ministry. We have heard about some definite answers to prayer from this service.

2:30 P.M.—Bro. Paul Wilson, from the Hagerstown congregation, was the speaker. Title of the message: “Hear Ye Him,” taken from Matthew 17:5. “God’s church is alive and well. Thank God for the grace of God. We have a responsibility as the people of God to live a holy life. We must let our light shine before men so they can see Christ in us. I’m glad we can live a righteous life. We all face storms, one type or another. Rejoice and be glad in the Lord. We serve a mighty God.”

7:00 P.M.—Bro. Mick Akers of the local congregation spoke on “The Fair Havens.” Text: Acts 27:1, 5-20. This message will be printed in two parts as part of the Young People’s page. See page 18.

July 8—6:00 A.M. Prayer Meeting—Bro. Jet Batalla from the Philippines was in charge. He spoke briefly about the church work in the Philippines and exhorted on the theme before prayer.

10:00 A.M.—Bro. Doug Koerner, pastor of the Essex, Maryland, congregation was the speaker. Title: “Because of the Word.” This message, Lord willing, will be printed in an upcoming issue.

2:30 P.M.—Bro. Gary Alwell was the speaker. The message was entitled, “Fighting the Good Fight of Faith.” Text: I Timothy 6:12. “Jesus has freedom for everyone. Satan fights us when we get saved. Jesus gives us complete deliverance. The Christian life is a victorious life. The Word of God gives us what we need to live and fight this fight. God gave us a landmark to follow. The Israelites were faced with the Red Sea and the Egyptian army. God’s grace helps us to face the devil. Endure hardness as a good soldier. We have to be committed to live this life. God will give us the victory in our fight of faith.”

A baptismal service followed. Five were baptized: Sisters Dena Bowman, Ellie Williams, Cassie Gossard; Brothers Daniel Swain and Camden Reyes.

7:00 P.M.—Sis. Rebecca Bland was ordained as a deaconess before Bro. Harley McClung brought the message to us called, “Kiss of Love or Kiss of Indifference.” Lord willing, this message will be printed in a future issue.

July 9—6:00 A.M. Prayer Meeting—Sis. Enid Jones, pastor at March Town, Hanover, Jamaica, spoke a few words to us before prayer. She used I Thessalonians 5:17, 18, for her thoughts.

9:30 A.M.—Sunday school period. There were a few selections done by the children which was led by Sis. Rebecca Bland. Bro. Brian Richards did a brief synop-

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- ___ CD #798 Making the Right Choice Hezekiah Lamey
- ___ CD #799 Do You See Jesus? G. E. Tyler
- ___ CD #800 Contending for Common Salvation Darrell Sanford
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- ___ CD #808 Kiss of Love or Kiss of Indifference Harley McClung
- ___ CD #809 Sin Is a Reproach Doug Shenberger
- ___ CD #810 The Truth Donovan Darby
- ___ CD #811 Fiction or Fact Marion Trisler, Jr.

- ___ CD #280 2017 ICC Convention Singing #1
- ___ CD #281 2017 ICC Convention Singing #2
- ___ CD #282 2017 ICC Convention Singing #3
- ___ CD #283 2017 ICC Convention Singing #4
- ___ CD #284 2017 ICC Convention Singing #5

sis of the lesson on “The Baptism of the Converted Eunuch.”

10:30 A.M.—Bro. Doug Shenberger, minister in the local congregation, spoke on “Sin Is a Reproach.” Lord willing, this message will be printed in a future issue.

2:30 P.M.—Bro. Donovan Darby, minister from Jamaica, spoke on “The Truth.” Text: John 14:6. “Every religion, in effect, is saying that they have the truth. Pilate asked Jesus an interesting question: ‘What is truth?’ The gospel message is a gospel of truth. It is not a popular message. We need to have a love for the truth. Preaching is delivering God’s message. We need to have Bible unity. Unity is strength. Unity is truth. We need to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. When you depart from truth, you depart from God. Truth is reliable. It is dependable. We can stand on truth. You will not be popular with people when you stand for truth. If we don’t stand for truth, we will fall for anything. We can do nothing against the truth but for the truth.”

6:00 P.M.—Bro. Marion Trisler, Jr., brought the message entitled, “Fiction or Fact.” Text: Luke 16:19-25. “The word *fiction* means, ‘something imagined or a made-up story.’ *Fact* means, ‘what has really happened; a truth known by actual experience or observation.’ This evening, the story I want to relate to you in this

narrative, I want you to make a judgment on it, because you need to be sure. Is this story fictional, or is it a fact? If it is fictional, it means nothing, but if it is a fact, it has to do with where you will be in eternity. Jesus said in His Word that He came to seek and to save the lost. The prodigal went far away from his father. He got a job feeding hogs. Down in that hog pen, he became hungry. Sin will take you down. He went back home and his father welcomed him. That is what God wants to do with every unsaved person tonight. He wants to forgive you. He wants to show His mercy to you. There was once a rich man and a beggar. Lazarus had sores from his head to his feet. Lazarus died. He was carried to heaven in Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died. The rich man was in torment. He said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus that he may dip his finger in water and cool my tongue.' He lived a life separated from God. Don't turn God away."

Thanks to all who helped to make this year's convention a success. The meals were very well prepared by the local saints, families, and others from various congregations. Most of all, we thank the Lord for being present with us in every service, and for those who were saved and added to the family of God. May the Lord bless everyone. †

For some pictures from this glorious meeting, turn to page 21.

Righteousness Exalts a Nation

2017 Hagerstown Convention Message
by Bro. Alvin A. Craig

WE JOIN with the chairman in expressing our appreciation for the presence of each one of you who are here this morning. We're so thankful for your presence, and we thank God for the foregoing part of the service.



I would make one comment in regard to the flag: I do not agree with the Supreme Court in ruling that free speech has to include the burning of the flag. I know that the flag is a flag, but the flag represents something. It represents you and me.

I do need your prayers as always. I never want to try to speak without the Lord's help. So I trust you will hold me up in your prayers as I attempt to speak.

Our theme is actually only the first part of the scripture that you see above my head. Our thoughts are entitled, "Righteousness Exalts a Nation," as the theme says. Of course, that is found in the first part of Proverbs 14, verse 34.

Righteousness is acting in accord with divine or moral law; free from guilt or sin. "For he hath made

him to be sin [or a sin offering] for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Corinthians 5:21).

Man was created a moral and a righteous person. The Bible says that man was created in the image of God. In Genesis, chapter 1, verse 27, we read, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Now, there is no immoral thing about God, therefore we know that God created or formed man and woman, and He gave them a moral nature that was pure and holy.

ADAM AND EVE WERE CREATED HOLY

Jesus Christ said in Luke 6:43, "A good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." So moral evil cannot proceed from God. God never made moral evil, and He never made anyone with moral evil. Listen to what I'm saying this morning. I have a purpose in saying what I'm saying, because there are those in the world that would teach that God created moral evil. There is a verse about God creating evil, but that's not talking about moral evil. He creates the storm. He creates the hurricane. He made the laws that do those things, but nowhere do you find that He made moral evil. "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." So man was created a moral and a righteous person.

Now, God did put Adam and Eve on probation. I know that there are those of the Calvinistic doctrine and teaching who teach that God predetermined who would be saved and who wouldn't be saved, but the Bible does not teach such. The reason we know that God put Adam and Eve on probation is because He gave them a law to obey, and that law had a penalty. If they obeyed that law, they would live. If they disobeyed that law, they would die. God told Adam, and of course, Adam told Eve, "Thou shalt not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden." That was law. That was God's law. It had a penalty if it was disobeyed, and it had a reward if it was obeyed.

God created Adam and Eve pure and holy, and He gave them the responsibility of choosing. Again, in predestination you're going to be saved, regardless, or you're going to be lost, regardless. The Bible teaches that we have the responsibility of making a choice. Adam and Eve had the responsibility of making a choice. Everyone who comes on down has the responsibility of doing the same. It is very evident that Adam and Eve chose to disobey that law. God had come down in the garden before that and had fellowship with them. They looked forward to God's fellowship. They enjoyed His presence, but after they broke God's law, and died, they tried to hide themselves from God, rather than looking forward to His coming. Not only that, they died spiritually, and in dying spiritually, they lost their divine nature. They also lost spiritual life and their home. God drove them out of the garden and away from the tree of life. So they were put on probation. "Thou shalt not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden," God said. That was God's Word, and it was to be obeyed. We are supposed to live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

I read in the Bible where Joshua called the children of Israel together there between those two mountains.

One was known as the mount of blessing, and the other was known as the mount of cursing. Joshua called them together and said, "If it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

IT IS A MATTER OF CHOICE

I read in the book of Hebrews, chapter 11, that when Moses came of years, he "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." "Choosing rather to suffer," he chose Christ. Yes, he chose Christ.

Achan also made a choice. God told the children of Israel that when they took Jericho, they were not to take any of the spoils for themselves. All of it was to go into the treasury. Joshua sent a few men up to Ai to spy out the city. They came back and said, "It is not necessary to send the whole army up there. It is a small place." Joshua took their advice and sent about 3,000 men up there. Lo, and behold, Israel ran from them, and about 36 of them died. Joshua threw himself on the ground and cried unto God, "Lord, you promised to be with us," and God said, "There is sin in the camp. I'm not going to be with you if you don't get that sin out of the camp."

Joshua took them tribe by tribe, family by family, until he came to Achan. Achan confessed to what he had done. "I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it." Achan disobeyed the law of God. As a result, they took him, his family, his cattle, and everything that pertained to him into the valley, and stoned them to death. The law has a penalty as well as a reward. Beloved, this idea that we were predetermined to be saved or to be lost is false doctrine and teaching, even if Calvin did teach it. The Bible doesn't teach such.

This depraved nature that Adam and Eve received when they disobeyed is passed on down to all. "For as in Adam all die." Beloved, I am not responsible for Adam's sin. I did not come into this world dead, spiritually speaking, as well as physically. I came into this world with a soul, but Satan won the right to plant that seed of sin in that soul. The soul came from God, holy. Did you know you were born and then the nature was planted there? "God is the Father of spirits." That is what the Bible says. Again, no evil proceeds from God. So everyone who comes into this world comes into this world with a depraved nature. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Isaiah the prophet said, "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. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so

are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:7-9).

GOD'S PEOPLE LIVE A RIGHTEOUS LIFE

Jesus gave Himself to redeem us, to make it possible for us to be a righteous people. "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). God's people are a holy people. They live a righteous life. We read, "God is in the generation of the righteous" (Psalm 14:5b).

Beloved, I want to read a few scriptures in regard to the *righteous*:

"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psalm 37:24).

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved" (Psalm 55:22). Isn't that a precious promise?

"The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous" (Psalm 146:8). Amen!

"He that trusteth in his riches shall fall; but the righteous shall flourish as a branch. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:28, 30).

"The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand" (Proverbs 12:7).

Now, let us look at a few verses that have the word *righteousness*:

"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake" (Psalm 23:3).

"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:17, 18).

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17).

"But thou, O man of God [Paul mentioned a number of sinful things, and then he said], flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness" (I Timothy 6:11).

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous [I guess all of us can agree to that.], but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Hebrews 12:11). So if you will take the chastening of the Lord in the right spirit, it is going to add righteousness to you.

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-24).

I have given you six verses with the word *righteous* and six verses with the word *righteousness*. There are over 200 scriptures with the word *righteous* and over 200 with the word *righteousness*, so there are more than 400 verses in the Bible that teach that God's people are

holy, for righteousness and holiness are one and the same thing. For a nation to be a righteous nation, its people must be a righteous people. You're not going to have a righteous nation if the people are not righteous.

BLESSINGS AND CURSINGS

In the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 28, there are 68 verses in that chapter. In the first 14 verses, God promised Israel what He would do for them if they would do what was right. We read: "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth." But now, starting with verse 15 and going through to the 68th verse, God told them what He would do to them if they didn't serve Him. I'll read the 15th verse: "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee."

Among the things that God told Israel that He would do to them was, they would have a famine so severe that they would eat their own flesh. Do you remember the famine that was there when Syria attacked Samaria? Do you remember the two women who found the king up there on the wall? They got his attention, and they said, "We agreed that we would eat my child and then we will eat her child. We ate my child, but she hid hers and won't share it with me." That's a prophecy fulfilled from Deuteronomy 28. If I'm not mistaken, the same thing happened in the siege of Jerusalem. The famine was so great that they ate their own flesh. They fought among themselves. They threw the dead bodies over the wall.

Jesus said to the disciples when they called His attention to that beautiful temple, "There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Now, the Millennialists believe that the great tribulation is yet out in the future. The great tribulation that Jesus was talking about was the siege and fall and destruction of Jerusalem. While I'm on that, let me say a little bit more: There's not going to be a great antichrist who will rule the world, and there's not going to be an antichrist who will break his covenant with the Jews in the middle of the 70th week, because the 70th week followed the 69th week. The 70th week has already been fulfilled, and they make the antichrist, Jesus. Did you hear what I said? They make the antichrist, Jesus, because it was Jesus who was cut off in the middle of the week, and He was cut off to bring in everlasting righteousness. So there are a lot of things out in the religious world that they're teaching today that has already happened.

SOLOMON FAILED GOD

Solomon was a very humble man in his youth. When he became king, the Lord asked him, "What would you like for Me to do for you?" Solomon said, "I am just a babe, as it were; I need wisdom to govern this great people." And the Lord gave wisdom to him. Solomon became the wisest man that ever lived. He also became

one of the biggest fools that ever lived. In his old age, Solomon had married 700 wives and 300 concubines. What a fool! A man is doing a good job if he can take care of one wife. The sad part about it is, one of the women he married was Pharaoh's daughter. Solomon married a bunch of princesses, and they brought their gods into Israel with them. In his old age, those women led his heart away from God. He even built temples for them to worship their gods in, and he went to those places and worshiped with them. God was angry with Solomon. As far as I know, Solomon died lost. I see nothing in the Bible that would make me believe that he made things right with God before he died. Beloved, righteousness exalts a nation.

God was so angry with Solomon that He said to him, "After you're gone, I'm going to divide the kingdom." Solomon had an enemy by the name of Jeroboam. He fled to Egypt to keep Solomon from killing him. After Solomon died, Jeroboam came back. Some of the people came to Rehoboam, who was Solomon's son and king in Jerusalem. They said to King Rehoboam, "Lighten our load." Solomon had taxed them real heavily. "If you will lighten our load, we will serve you." Rehoboam went to the elderly and asked them what he should do. They said to him, "You ought to obey the people and do what they're asking you to do." Then he went to the young people. Now, I'm not throwing any brickbats at the young people. They said to Rehoboam, "You ought to increase their taxes." He listened to the young people and increased them. As a result, it divided the kingdom. The ten northern tribes formed the nation of Israel.

JEROBOAM WAS A WICKED KING

After the division, Jeroboam said, "It is too much of a burden for you to go down to Jerusalem to worship." At Bethel, which is just a few miles from Jerusalem, he set up a golden calf. Then up at Dan, he set up another golden calf. Then the Northern Kingdom, Israel, began to worship those idols and turned away from God. The Northern Kingdom had 19 kings and not one of them was a godly king.

The Southern Kingdom, the Kingdom of Judah, had 20 kings. A few of those were godly. "Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father did. He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made [for the children to look at and live]." They began to worship that golden snake, and Hezekiah broke it to pieces. "He trusted in the Lord God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him." So Hezekiah was a godly king. He did what was right in the sight of God, and God blessed him and the nation.

JOSIAH WAS A RIGHTEOUS KING

There was another king, who was a godly king, by the name of Josiah. Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign. Whenever he was 17 years of age,

they brought the book to him that they had found in the temple, and he read it. He repented of the sins of the people. "Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left" (II Kings 22:1, 2).

Israel was carried away around the year 720 B.C., and Judah was carried away a little more than 100 years after that. Judah was carried to Babylon, and according to Jeremiah, they were to be there for 70 years. As I said earlier, God's law has rewards and God's law has a penalty. The reason Israel was carried away by Assyria was because they turned to idols and away from God. They were carried away and never did become a nation again. The late Herbert Armstrong taught that the United States and England are the two sons of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim. If you believe such a thing, stand on your head. I appreciate my nation. I'm thankful for the privilege of being an American, but I do not believe we are one of the ten lost tribes.

How can we say that a man can be righteous before God? Obviously, one cannot upon one's own merit be acquitted of the charge of sin. The Bible says, "Our righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of God." Why can't man just be righteous? Because he has sold himself to sin and has become a servant of sin. Once you sell yourself to sin, there's no way that you can deliver yourself. Notice this: God told Ezekiel, "If the righteous turn from his righteousness and sin, all his righteousness shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it" (Ezekiel 33:13). You can serve the Lord for 50 years, and pile up your treasures in heaven, but if you backslide, you lose all of it. If you get back to the Lord, you don't pick up your righteousness. You've lost it. You have to start over. It doesn't pay to backslide.

CHRIST WAS THE SACRIFICE FOR OUR SINS

Romans 5:19, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." II Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us [a sacrifice; It doesn't mean Jesus Christ became a sinner.], who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." I was amazed when I read that some of these TV evangelists today teach that Jesus Christ sinned, died, and went to hell for three days. One of them even said that Jesus Christ was born again in hell. That's about near to blasphemy as a person can get. This verse simply means that Jesus became a sacrifice for our sins. He atoned for us. He did that which we could not do for ourselves.

Paul said, "Ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." Righteousness then comes through faith in Christ and obedience to His Word. Paul also said, "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" (Philippians 3:9).

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As to obedience, John said, "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4). "The Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation" (Genesis 7:1). "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Hebrews 11:7). Abraham's righteousness was shown by his offering his son, Isaac. "Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God" (James 2:23).

What does the future of our nation hold? I am 89 years old, and I tell you this morning, in the last 50 years, our nation has gone down, down, down in a moral way. Our former president was proud of the fact that he stood for, and approved, same-sex marriage. He was born of a Muslim father. He had a Muslim stepfather. He was sent, as far as I know, as a child to a Muslim school in Indonesia, and it appeared that he was more favorable towards the Muslims than he was Christians, although he claimed to be a Christian. Beloved, it takes more than the name "Christian" to be a Christian. It takes more than a church membership to be a Christian. It takes more than just a religious profession to really live the gospel. Righteousness is living right. Righteousness is living a life free from sin.

CONCLUSION

Why did Rome fall? Why did Babylon fall? Why did Assyria fall? Why did all nations, down through the history of man, fall? Because of sin. What does America have ahead of it? Religion won't save this nation. Religion won't keep God from pouring out His wrath on this nation. Righteousness is what this nation needs. Righteousness caused God to keep from destroying Nineveh when they obeyed the preaching of Jonah. They got down in sackcloth and ashes, repented, and God spared them. America needs to get on its knees in true repentance and in seeking God.

Bro. Terry referred to Hezekiah this morning. Hezekiah sought the help of the prophet Isaiah. They agreed together. There was an army of 185,000 people outside of Jerusalem preparing to attack Jerusalem. Hezekiah went to the temple to pray. Isaiah told him he would pray, and the next morning, those who saw them, saw them dead. The king went home in disgrace. After he got home, in a short period of time, his sons killed him. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). May God have mercy on this beautiful land that He has given us. †

Dear Bro. Alvin,

Greetings to you and the saints there. On behalf of the Jamaican brethren, I would like to express our gratitude to you and the other saints for the kindness shown to us during the time spent with you there. We were truly blessed to be in the convention. We have been strengthened and encouraged to keep the light of the gospel brightly burning in our corner of the world. Let's pray for each other as we endeavor to stay true to the Lord until the end.

—Sis. Enid Jones, Jamaica

FORBEARANCE NECESSARY FOR UNITY

By G. E. Tyler



READERS of this magazine may have noticed that in recent issues we have published some articles on the thought of unity within the ranks of the Church of God. There appears to be a real desire from several quarters to expose the error of “groupism,” or “division-unity,” and see the walls separating true saints of God to come crumbling down. We might feel that the effort to see this come to pass is the result of new light, when in reality, it is simply returning to the pristine state of unity for which Jesus prayed in John 17 when He cried out in passion, “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” (verse 21). Biblically, there is no justification for the existence multiple fellowships of Church of God people who refuse to have anything to do with each other because the ministry can’t get along with others and are alienated by animosity for one reason or another—and sometimes for no reason at all, except “this is the way it has always been.” It is time for the ministry to get its act together! And, by the way, this is not the way it has always been!

The biblical standard of fellowship is having the same spirit. Ephesians 4:3 says, “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” If other spirits are involved, there can be no unity. But, if we have the same Spirit of God, we are unified by our common experience of salvation and demanded by the scripture to endeavor to keep it! We might not see eye to eye on every single point of consideration, but the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost compels us to forbear with each other in fellowship, “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).

Let me say in passing that there must be a guardian foundation of truth to build upon—justification, sanctification as a definite second work of grace, and holiness in heart and life. We are not speaking of uniting with false religion or compromising the true gospel. But, Beloved, if we have the same Spirit and the same foundation, then all the demons in hell should not be allowed to keep us apart! As we sing, “No pow’r of earth or hell, withal, Can rend us from each other.”

Forbearance is necessary! Ephesians 4:1-3, “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” We must get off our high horse! “With all lowliness and meekness.” This is exactly why some people can’t seem to forbear. They are too high and mighty in their own eyes! Some don’t want to forbear or endeavor. They don’t think they have

to. The Bible says otherwise. If disagreements arrive—and they will—there is a way to handle them. Colossians 3:12-14, “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.” This formula will work! It will always work! What has happened in our generation that we refuse to use the biblical formula when disagreements come?

I have been recently reading from *Soul-Stirring Sermons*, copyright 1915, by *The Gospel Trumpet Co.* I want to quote from F. G. Smith’s message, “The Work of Christ.” He goes in detail about the gifts of the Spirit, then says:

“Since there are diversities of operations by the same Spirit, we each have our own place. We may try to do the work somebody else does, but when we do it, it is done in a different way. We should thank God for this diversity. I should like to preach a sermon on unity in diversity, showing you God’s plan of unity. We observe many different things in the world—a most remarkable diversity of objects and things—and yet there is a law of unity running through all nature. It is that way in the church. We have gifts differing and yet there is unity in all this diversity. We are all one in Christ, not numerically one, but one in the sense that we are joined together in one common cause and acting for one common purpose. This is the kind of unity we have in nature.

“On the lemon tree, the blossom, the green fruit, the ripe fruit, and the leaves may all be seen at one time. So in the church there are the little ones partly developed, some others more advanced; in fact, members in all stages of development. Unity is not always synonymous with uniformity. Do you know that some people’s idea of unity is the kind of unity that is made with the lemon squeezer? Everything must be brought to their standard of uniformity before they will recognize any unity. Be careful how you attempt to get unity by the squeezer process.

“God’s plan of unity is the right kind. The basis of unity in our family is in blood-relationship. The little babe in the cradle and his brother in college are one. Their unity is not based on development nor attainments, but on their relationship. So also the unity of the church of God is not centered in and upon our particular stage of development in the truth, but on the fact of divine relationship—we are one in Christ.

“By developing and increasing we grow up into him which is the head, even Christ. The trouble is, some people do not give us a chance to grow. My little boy comes up by my side and I think, ‘I wish he were as tall as I am.’ But if I undertake to force him to that standard I will kill him. The reason why so many of the children of God have been killed, is because they have been stretched. The Bible does not say stretch them; it says, feed them. If you feed a child it will exercise and grow.”

Smith said he wanted to preach a message, “Unity in Diversity.” This is a foreign concept in our generation.

He emphasizes blood-relationship. This should be discernable by all. Every child of God is bound together by the blood of Christ. We be brethren! How can we remain alienated from our brothers and sisters? How can we allow Satan to keep us apart? I for one can't—I won't!

Let's get "Back to the Blessed Old Bible." Let us let the Lord lead us out of the dimness of the past to the glorious light of the present day—the beautiful Church of God laboring together, arm-in-arm, displaying to our generation the true unity for which Jesus prayed, that the world will believe that God sent Jesus as Savior of the world.

I will close this article with some excerpts from a message published in the aforementioned book, *Soul-Stirring Sermons*.

Excerpts from, "The Great Supper," by J. M. Nichols-Roy—

"Now, turning even to Christendom, we find some movements that could not have a universal application on account of the mistakes of their leaders in unconsciously, or rather ignorantly, imposing their tastes, characteristics, and natures upon their followers. I will give you an example that illustrates the different natures of men. As there are different kinds of leaves of trees, so there are different natures of men. The leaves of a poplar tree are so thin that they shake in every breeze. I have observed the leaves of many trees in this country but I have not seen any tree that has such thick leaves as the rubber tree of India. The leaves of this tree hang on very thick stems. If you put the rubber tree side by side with the poplar tree, you will see that when the breeze blows very gently the leaves of the poplar tree shake, while the leaves of the rubber tree do not shake at all. Why? Because the leaves of one tree are thick and the leaves of the other tree are thin. That is their nature. In certain parts of our country some people have the false idea that on very hot days, if you want to be cool, you must go and sit under the poplar tree, for the poplar tree gets more breeze than does the rubber tree. They have this idea because the leaves of the poplar tree shake more. Now let me say to you that just as the leaves of the tree are different, so the natures of men are different. The same grace of God may blow, as it were, upon the hearts of two persons; one man will leap and shout, while the other will be quiet. To suppose that the person who leaps and shouts has more of God's grace than the other, is just like believing that a poplar tree gets more breeze than does the rubber tree. ...

"The pure religion of Jesus Christ unmixed with any human ideas, is suited to all people of all natures.

Christianity Adaptable to Different Dispositions

"The religion of Jesus Christ does not take away the nature or disposition of a man, although it does take away all the sinful disposition. A man does not lose his human nature when he gets into the church of God. This church is not just for one class of people or nation, but it is for all kinds of people—not just for a people like you or like me, but for everybody. I see some of the brethren in this country jump high when they

get happy; but I see some others who, like myself, cannot do that. They are of a quiet disposition. I see some of the brethren that do not smile very much, and others that smile a great deal. But both classes have the grace of God. If you go to India, you will find that our people are sober and grave; and I have found since coming to this country that I have had to adapt myself to the manners of the people in this country. I believe in the law of adaptation. And I want to say that this religion of Jesus Christ is adaptable to the man that smiles and to the man that does not smile very much. It will fit the man that can jump and the man that cannot jump. But it is natural for each of us to want to make everybody like himself. Don't you know that is true? It is also natural for us to dislike a person who does not suit our taste and ideas. I remember a story that was told me at a certain place. A woman said to her husband, 'Everybody looks queer to me excepting you and me, and sometimes you too look queer to me.' That is the tendency of human nature—'everybody is queer but me.' I look queer to you, and you look queer to me. Every one has his own characteristics and disposition, his likes and dislikes. There are religions that advocate uniformity in dress and in eating and drinking; the supporters of these religions think that everybody must suit their notion. We have such teaching in some of our heathen religions. The Sikhs in India are known by their big turbans (head-dress) and by their long beard. They lose their religion if they do not wear their turban and if they shave their beard. When I came to this country, I was surprised to see that there are even Christian movements that teach similarly. Such religions would not do in all the world. They would fit only in certain localities. I cannot be like you, and you cannot be like me; but we can all be like the Lord. We can all have the nature of Jesus Christ.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is suited to all classes of people. Since this gospel has to pass through human hands—through human thoughts and ideas—oh, how God's fear ought to rest upon us lest we add to or subtract from it! We should be very careful lest we mix with it some of our own ideas. Brethren, remember this, the Holy Spirit of God does not change human nature nor remove individuality; and if we are not very careful we may add a little of our own tastes and ideas to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and thus, by our foolishness, we may hinder the progress of the pure gospel. God has given us this pure gospel to carry throughout the whole world; and its successful propagation depends upon the manner in which we preach it, just as a good crop from your field depends upon the manner in which you sow your seed and the care you take in the cultivation of your field. Ten of you, for example, may go to the same store and buy the same seed, and take it home and sow it in the same kind of soil; and what is the result? The seed sown by one may yield an abundant crop, while that sown by another may not grow very well. Why? Because growth and yield depend on how you plow the ground, how you sow your seed, and how you take care of it. It depends upon the hands that do the work. It is about the same way with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We preach the same gospel; we proclaim the same truth to the people; and the hearts of the people are about

the same; but whether the seed grows or not depends on how we sow that seed. Ah! when I think about this the fear of God comes on my soul. God, give us wisdom that we may preach just the pure gospel of Jesus Christ!

“Yes, there is a tendency in human nature to desire to make everybody like one’s self. When we came to China from India, we were there about ten days. Almost every night we had meetings. Brother Hunnex asked me one day if I would baptize the converts who wanted to be baptized.

“I said to him, ‘You had better do it. You know the people better.’

“He said to me, ‘But the Chinese brethren want you to baptize them; they may not have another chance to have a brother from India to do the baptizing.’

“So I consented to take charge of the baptismal service. We went near the water; I was very solemn and grave, and addressed the people in a solemn manner. I don’t know whether they enjoyed the service or not. I could see that some of those Chinese converts, before they entered into the water, were breathing very fast and seemed almost afraid to enter.

“When the baptismal service was over, Brother Hunnex said to me, ‘Well, Brother Roy, if I had been you, I should have jumped into the water, praising the Lord, and that would have suited the Chinese nature better.’

“I said, ‘Brother, I did not know what the Chinese brethren would enjoy; I could do only as I used to do in India, for I have not learned enough of the nature of these people.’

“I found that the Chinese people have a care-free disposition. I saw brethren and sisters smiling in the service when I felt like weeping. Sometimes in my preaching I felt touched and even shed tears, but those brethren would smile. At first the thought came to me that they were not spiritual enough. If I had not known better, I should have concluded that they did not enjoy Christ very much, for they did not seem to be devotional, as we would consider in India. But the truth of the matter was that they enjoyed Christ as much as I did. So, in consideration of all this, I could only praise God for the religion of Jesus Christ that is suited to men of every nation, whatever their natural characteristics may be.

Human Ideas Should Not be Made the Standard of Christianity

“Yes, there is a tendency in almost every religious leader to want to make everybody like himself—even in matters of dress, eating and drinking, and manner of living—and to condemn anyone who does not measure to his standard. We find sometimes that a religious leader, or even a layman, if he is careless regarding his clothes or dress and is without wide knowledge, will hardly have patience with people who are tidy and particular in that respect; and he is likely to think that they are proud. On the other hand, a person who is tidy and particular regarding these things can hardly have patience with people who are untidy and dirty; and he is likely to think that there is something wrong with their hearts or that there may be some self-righteousness in them. Every one is likely to think that he is right

and the other fellow is wrong, because he judges the other man by his own ideas. A man who is not used to being tidy in dressing may reject a brother who is tidy, thinking he is proud if he does not measure to his (the former’s) idea of dress; and the brother who is tidy, when he has, without effect, once or twice admonished the careless brother, may be tempted to condemn and reject him. So it is that when a person sets up his own tastes and ideas as commandments of the gospel, he may cast aside even God’s children who do not suit his ideas.

“But someone says, ‘Is not pride manifested in dress?’ It may be that it is. But what is the means to get rid of the pride? If you change a man’s dress, will that destroy his pride? One time I met a man who was living in one of the backwoods villages which were hardly half-civilized. He used to go naked from his waist up. He said to me, ‘I feel proud whenever I wear a new suit.’

“What should we tell that man? Would he get rid of his pride if we should tell him to take off his shirt? Surely not! Is pride in the shirt or in the heart? Ah, people may be proud in their rags! It is the blood of Christ alone that will remove pride from the heart. Suppose that that man should judge everyone else by what he felt, and should say, ‘Surely these people who have on shirts and coats must be proud, for I myself feel proud when I wear a shirt.’ Would that be right? He would make everybody go half-naked then! But what about his wearing a shirt? If his pride were taken out of his heart, would he want his shirt any more, or would it be right for him to wear a shirt? All of you will say, ‘Yes; it is right for him to wear a shirt, for we must be civilized.’ Then you judge him from your standpoint. Ah! but there are some who would advise him to wear no shirt, because from their standpoint it is worldly. What then should the poor fellow do? I tell you the poor man would be in terrible bondage if he had to dance to the music of everybody. It is childish and wrong to condemn people on account of some things that do not just suit our ideas. Remember we are human beings and have our own ideas; our judgment is governed by our ideas, and these ideas are drawn from our environment, previous training, or condition in life. And since our environment and training and conditions in life are different, our ideas will be different, and hence, our judgment will be different.

“Sometimes people fall into the fatal error of setting up their own ideas as God’s ideas, and thus cause confusion among God’s people. Let us beware of such an error. Some of you who are scrupulously clean may feel that you cannot bear people that are not very clean, and you may lay the judgment so strong on them as to say, ‘You will have to clean up; if you won’t you are stubborn and cannot be saved.’

“I have heard of such extreme teachings. Ah! let us remember we cannot civilize people in a day. A man may be filthy as to his body and his house, and yet have salvation in his soul. You would realize this more if you should go to some places in heathen countries. The gospel of Christ is for the salvation of men’s souls, for their redemption from sin. It is for a man who is dirty about caring for his body and his house as well as for a man who is clean in both.

“There is, however, a civilizing influence in the gospel, and this gradually works an improvement. Again, a man with an education may be inclined to look down upon his illiterate or uneducated brother, and a man without an education may be inclined to consider that the educated brethren are proud; and thus these two classes of people might set each other aside. But Christ’s religion is for both of them, and they ought to feel the need of each other. Oh! may God help us that we may not fall into such childish errors, but rather that we may lift high the pure gospel before all nations, that it may reach the hearts of the people and deliver them from their sins. Jesus Christ came to this world for the salvation of the souls of men. God wants us to keep our eyes set upon Jesus Christ alone, and to keep our own peculiar ideas out.” †

by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of” (II Peter 2:1, 2).

Jude exhorted the saints to “contend for the faith, because certain men had crept in unawares, even denying the only Lord God, and the Lord Jesus Christ.” And the apostle John warned against antichrists “who went out from us, for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us.”

The apostasy these apostles prophesied would come, came just as they said it would.

“The pope is of such dignity and highness, that he is not simply man, but, as it were, God, and the vicar of God.”

As man-rule came in, false doctrines came with it, and the church of God fled into the wilderness for a long period of time, symbolized by the 1260 days.

There were dozens of teachings introduced by the Roman Catholic Church during what is known as the Dark Ages. I will list some, but not all by any means:

1. Prayers for the dead—310; 2. Veneration of angels and dead saints—375; 3. The mass, as a daily celebration, adopted—394; 4. The worship of Mary and the term, “Mother of God”—421; 5. The doctrine of Purgatory—593; 6. The title of “Pope” was first given around 606-610; 7. The kissing of the pope’s feet—709; 8. Temporal power given to the pope—750; 9. Worship of the cross, images, and relics was authorized—788; 10. Holy water mixed with a pinch of salt and blessed by the priest—850; 11. Canonization of dead saints—995; 12. The Rosary, or prayer beads, copied from Hindus—1090; 13. The sale of Indulgences—1190; 14. The priest changing a wafer into the actual flesh of Christ and eating it—1215; 15. Confession of sin to the priest at least once a year—1215; The Doctrine of Purgatory as a Dogma of faith, something you MUST believe—1439; 16. The assumption of Mary; she was bodily taken to heaven—1950.

During the Dark Ages, you have not only the Roman Catholic Church, with all its error—purgatory, the infallibility of the pope, infant baptism, forbidding to marry for the priest, and much more—but you have the Greek Orthodox, the Egyptian Coptic, the Russian, the Armenian, etc.

There were a number of men who rose up to oppose and expose the Roman Church before the rise of Martin Luther. Some were slain, some were put in prison, some were put out of the church. At first, Luther tried to reform it. The 16th century Reformation is considered the beginning of Protestantism. However, I say a distinction needs to be made between the Reformation (Restoration) and Protestantism. They are not the same. The Reformation was the restoring of the true gospel light. Protestantism was the beginning of sect making.

H. M. Riggle said in his book, *Roman Catholicism in the Light of Their Own Scriptures and Authorities*:

“We have seen that ‘Babylon the great’ of Revelation 17 consists of a family, a mother and her harlot daughters. The mother is the Church of Rome, while the daughters are in particular the Protestant sects. This fraternity of so-called churches, from Rome down to the latest born daughter, does not represent the pure bride, ‘the Lamb’s wife.’” (End of quote.)

WHAT ABOUT THIS?

By Bro. Alvin A. Craig

THE New Testament reveals the early work and growth of the Church of God—the church Jesus said He would build (Matthew 16:18)—the church Paul said that Jesus loved and gave Himself for (Ephesians 5:25).

“The true church is characterized by its receiving and retaining the doctrine and faith of the apostles. It is ‘built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.’” (Ephesians 2:20).

Jesus gave Himself for only one church, and He prayed for the unity of all His followers (John 17:21). Yet we see so many sects and denominations all around us today! How did it happen?

A great apostasy was foretold—

By the apostle Paul warning the elders at Ephesus: “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears” (Acts 20:29-31).

Paul warning the church at Thessalonica: “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [the coming of the Lord] shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (II Thessalonians 2:3, 4).

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron” (I Timothy 4:1, 2).

The apostle Peter also warned the church of future events: “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their evil ways;

The first real division started over whether the actual body of Christ was present in the Eucharist. Luther believed as the Catholics that the bread and juice actually became the body and blood of Christ. Those who disagreed said that Christ was present only in a sacramental and spiritual manner. Neither side would change, so a permanent division existed. In 1530, Charles V assembled the famous Diet of Augsburg. Luther drew up a summary of the Protestant doctrines to be presented to the Diet. It was called *Confession of Augsburg*. H. C. Wickersham in his book, *A History of the Church*, published by the *Gospel Trumpet*, said: "This confession dates the close of the dark night of the papacy, and the beginning of the cloudy day of sec-tism."

Some who received some light would go no further and became a denomination. That happened over and over again. Groups split and another sect was formed. Still the "woman" was coming out of the wilderness!

After the "two-horned beast" of Revelation 13 had produced many "daughters," John said, "I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads" (Revelation 14:1). They did not have the mark of the beast!

I read where one was teaching that these were converted Jews, evangelists, going over the world converting people during the millennium. There will be no literal kingdom of a thousand years.

This is the second time we see 144,000 people. The first time was during the early morning time when 144,000 were "sealed" (Revelation 7:4), which represented the early morning church. Now we see the same number with their Father's name written in their foreheads, representing the church of God in the evening time of this gospel day. And they were indeed converted saints of God.

They were a happy, rejoicing, congregation of people! "I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four created beings, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God" (Revelation 14:2-5).

Here then, we have a symbol of the church of God in the latter days, having come out of the wilderness, standing for the truth, distant from the great apostasy with Christ in their midst.

The church in the evening time was given the same commission as the morning church:

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with aloud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment

is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, ... [part of the message is] Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Revelation 14:6-8). †

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



A DEADLY MYSTERY

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"Aunt Becky, we have a mystery at our house," said my nephew, Alan. He and his younger brother, Andrew, were spending the afternoon with me, helping me make raised beds for my garden.

"A mystery at our house?" said Andrew. "I didn't know we had a mystery."

"Yes, Andrew, we do," said Alan. "And you know about it."

"What mystery?" Andrew asked with a bewildered frown.

"The disappearing chickens," Alan said.

"Oh!" said Andrew. "That's right! Something strange is happening to our chickens. They keep disappearing, one by one."

"Yeah," said Alan. "We don't know what is getting them."

"Do they have a chicken house to stay in?" I asked.

"Yes," said Andrew. "But we think maybe something is getting them while they are in the chicken yard, even though we have a fence around it."

"Maybe they're flying over the fence and escaping," I said. "Have their wings been cropped?"

"No, we haven't done that yet," said Andrew.

"Well, then," I said. "They're probably just flying away."

"They would be better off to stay in the chicken yard," said Alan. He looked at Andrew. "Tell Aunt Becky what we found in the woods."

"About two days after the first chicken disappeared," said Andrew, "Alan found a trail of white feathers in the woods. He followed the trail and found the body of a missing chicken beside a hole in the ground. Something had hurt the chicken very badly."

"You know what?" Alan said slowly. "We found some feathers at the top of the chicken yard fence, too. Maybe the chicken didn't fly away. Maybe a wild animal climbed the fence, grabbed the chicken, and dragged it up over the fence and into the woods."

"That's terrible!" I said. "Poor chicken!"

"If it keeps happening, we won't have any chickens left," said Andrew.

"Well, I hope you solve the mystery soon," I said. "Be sure to keep me updated."

“We will!” the boys promised.

The next time I talked to Alan and Andrew, they told me that they were pretty sure they knew what had been getting into the chicken yard. At first, their dad had made a “roof” of chicken wire over the chicken yard, in case a hawk had been making the attacks. But chickens continued to disappear. Then the boys found a tunnel where an animal had burrowed underneath the fence. When that problem was fixed, the chickens stopped disappearing.

“Dad thinks it was a raccoon,” Alan told me. “Raccoons can climb and they can burrow.”

“I think our mystery has finally been solved,” said Andrew.

Later that day, as I walked in the quiet woods behind my house, I thought about all the wild animals that live there, and how clever they are at seeking their prey. However, wild animals do not hunt and kill out of meanness. For them, it is a matter of survival. Farmers must constantly be on guard to keep their animals safe from predators.

This was true even in Bible times. We read that David, the shepherd boy, killed a lion and a bear that attacked his flock. The Bible tells us that a good shepherd will give his life to protect his sheep. Jesus is our “Good Shepherd.” He protects our souls from evil.

Just as my nephews’ father reinforced the chicken yard fence to keep the raccoons away, so our Good Shepherd stands between us and the Tempter that seeks to destroy our souls.

The most important thing we can do is to stay close to our Good Shepherd. He cannot protect us if we keep wandering away from Him.

Our wise saying for this month comes from Proverbs 1:33, “But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.”

To “hearken” is to hear. We hear the voice of Jesus when we read and obey His words. We hear the voice of Jesus when we pray to Him and ask Him to guide our steps each day. If we stay close enough to Jesus that we can hear His voice, then we will be safe from evil.

Activity

There is a very familiar chapter in the Bible that describes the Good Shepherd. See if you can choose the correct word for each blank without looking it up. Then check yourself by reading

Psalm 23:

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not _____. (*run, want*)

2 He maketh me to lie down in _____ pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. (*green, rich*)

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of _____ for his name’s sake. (*happiness, righteousness*)

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of _____, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. (*death, darkness*)

5 Thou preparest a _____ before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. (*banquet, table*)

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the _____ of the Lord for ever. (*house, palace*)

Answer to Last Month’s Activity

1. “The mouth of the *righteous* speaketh wisdom” (*Psalm 37:30*).

2. “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our *hearts* unto wisdom” (*Psalm 90:12*).

3. “For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh *knowledge* and *understanding*” (*Proverbs 2:6*).

4. “Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth *understanding*” (*Proverbs 3:13*).

5. “For wisdom is better than *rubies*” (*Proverbs 8:11*). †

For Poetry Lovers

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Esther T. Barker

God, give us strength these days
To work for common good,
God, show us how to pave the ways
To peace and brotherhood.

God, give us willing hearts
And faith that shall not cease,
Until we can unite all men
In friendship and in peace.

OUT OF DEFEAT—VICTORY!

Ray E. Hooper

The gloom of sin hangs as the blackness of night
O’er the world just created, pure, holy, and light!
Behold the gross darkness! All happiness lost!
Fatal day of transgression! Tremendous cost!

Nay, the way of salvation, God’s infinite plan,
Is already finished, to uphold fallen man.
The seed of the woman shall the serpent’s head
bruise;
All men may be saved, except those who refuse!

TRAGIC LOSS

Lucena C. Byrum

Defeat, though dire, can never
Compare to loss of soul;
Earth may redeem her losses
And come back as a whole;
But if one misses heaven,
There can be no return
To strive again nor labor
A crown of life to earn. †

THE QUESTION BOX

Answered by the Editor



QUESTION: When I was still a child, I stole my classmate's bracelet when I went to her house. I didn't want to do it, but I was a sinner and had no power against the thing. I never have had the chance to confess it to her. I threw it away afterwards. Also, I stole the ring of my cousin, but the maid got the punishment by being fired from working. I buried the ring somewhere in our place and couldn't find it later. These things happened a long time ago. I'm too ashamed as I remember what I did when I was young. I thank God I'm now a Christian. What should I do now?

—Anonymous

ANSWER: In regard to your question:

First, thank the Lord you are now a Christian. Continue to serve Him. It is the only way to have eternal life.

You need to make things right as far as possible. Of course, the Lord does not require that we make something right if it is impossible for us to do so.

If these people are still living, and you confess what you did and offer to make it right in whatever way they may require, I feel sure they will be willing to forgive you and will respect you for doing so.

QUESTION: Please explain Hebrews 6:4-6.

—J. D., Alabama

ANSWER: The writer of Hebrews is saying that if someone has left Judaism and has truly accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and been filled with the Spirit, if he falls away and returns to Judaism, it will be impossible for the person to be saved. Jesus Christ is the only Savior this world has.

QUESTION: Explain Hebrews 10:26.

—J. D., Alabama

ANSWER: The answer to this verse is somewhat the same as Hebrew 6:4-6. If a person has seen and embraced the truth, that Jesus Christ is the only Savior there is, and he sins willfully after he has received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins. There is nothing, no sacrifice, in the Jewish religion whereby you may be saved.

QUESTION: Is there any difference in the Crusades and what ISIS is doing now?—J. D., Alabama

ANSWER: This question is not very easy to answer! The first crusade was launched by Pope Urban II in 1095. There were four armies. However, a group of people went before them and were defeated before they got to the Holy Land. It is reported that the Crusaders killed many on the way. The Crusaders arrived at Jerusalem, June 1099. When they took the city, they slaughtered hundreds of men, women, and children. Many were Muslims, as well as Jews.

This is why some compare them to ISIS. There were at least nine Crusades in all. The last one was called

"The Children's Crusade" because many children were enlisted in the effort.

QUESTION: Comment on Revelation 20:11, "The great white throne."—J. D., Alabama

ANSWER: There will be only one general judgment. Jesus, in Matthew 25:31, called the throne "the throne of His glory." Here it is called "a great white throne." Adam Clarke says in regard to it: "Refulgent with glorious majesty."

QUESTION: Please comment on I Timothy 1:15.

—J. D., Alabama

ANSWER: I am assuming you are asking about Paul calling himself the "chief of sinners"? I will quote from *Adam Clarke's Commentary*: "This is a *hyperbolic* expression, arguing the height of the apostle's modesty and humility; and not to be taken according to the letter."

QUESTION: My brother wants to know if Satan can bring thoughts to your mind that has some truth mixed with error?—R. B., North Carolina

ANSWER: The answer is yes. He even quoted a verse from the Bible in his tempting Jesus after He ended His forty days of fasting. "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Matthew 4:6). See Psalm 91:12.

QUESTION: Was King Necho of Egypt a righteous king before God?—R. B., North Carolina

ANSWER: We have no reason to think so. The TARGUM, which is a translation of the Hebrew language into Aramaic, uses the word "idol" rather than God.

QUESTION: Why do you think King Josiah went up against Necho?—R. B., North Carolina

ANSWER: King Necho had received a request from the King of Assyria to come and help him in a battle against his enemy. So Necho and his army were on their way, presumably passing through the area that Josiah ruled over. Necho sent Josiah word to turn back: "I come not against thee this day, but against the house where-with I have war." Josiah did not listen. As a result, he was slain in the valley of Megiddo and was later taken to Jerusalem and buried in one of the sepulchers of his fathers.

QUESTION: When a man has started to live a holy life and is baptized, but suddenly falls into sin and backslides along the way, then comes back to his senses, feels sorry for his actions, and asks God for forgiveness, is it necessary or expedient for such an individual to be baptized again?—J. C., Africa

ANSWER: The Bible teaches that when a person returns to a life of sin, he dies spiritually, and none of his righteousness will be remembered. So when a sinner comes to Christ to be saved, he needs to be baptized for the same reason he was baptized the first time. †

Send us your Bible questions.

The Way of Truth

AWAKE AND BUILD

Radio
Message
by
Bro.
Rupert
Shippy

(aired in Jamaica)



I WANT to greet you, Dear Ones, in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. We are so thankful for His blessings, His goodness, and His kindness toward us. God is a good God, and so we should be serving Him in holiness and in righteousness all the days of our lives. I trust that we will be prepared to awake to righteousness.

I want to entitle my thoughts, "Awake and Build." If there ever was a time to awake, it is now. The signs of the times are everywhere. God is coming again, and He's coming back for a prepared people. I trust today that we will prepare ourselves to go with Him when He comes again. Awake out of our sleep and slumber! Awake to the situations that are around us! We need to look and see what is really happening, but as long as we are sleeping, we won't be able to see. A sleeping person cannot see what is really happening. We need to awake; we need to open our eyes; we need to come to consciousness; we need to get out of our slumber and seek God.

There is sorrow everywhere. There are babies, mothers, fathers, and wives who are crying. There is a lot of crime around us because of the situations that are now showing up. We have seen a lot of fatherless and motherless children. Oh, what sadness! what sorrow! what pain! what woe! Dearly Beloved, we can see for sure that sin is taking sway in our country. We have seen where sin is invading our land. Sin is taking people farther than they want to go. Sin is costing them far more than they want to pay. Therefore, I am calling upon everyone of us to awake. Awake, awake to righteousness! Thousands and thousands of dollars are being spent on building prisons. Thousands and thousands of dollars are being used to fight crime and violence that is raging around us. Let us get up, let us look, and understand what sin is doing to our people.

Let us rebuild the love for family, the love for God, His church, and for His people. Let us rebuild that trust and confidence in one another. Let us rebuild the broken homes. Let us rebuild the community relationship. Let us rebuild our lives in Christ. Let us look and see how different and how separated our churches are today. We want to rebuild that unity and that oneness. Yes, we want to rebuild that kind of communication that we need to have one with another. We need to stand up for Jesus. We need to stand up for righteousness, for purity,

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holiness, and for Jesus Christ. "Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Ye soldiers of the cross; Lift high His royal banner, It must not suffer loss: From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army shall He lead, Till every foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed."

Bring back the family altar. Do you notice what is really happening? The families that pray less are the families that have more problems, but the families that pray the most are able to have more victories. We need to pray. We will be able to see clearly the path that we need to go. We need to seek the Lord while He may be found. We need to call upon Him while He is near. We are told, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14).

If people will turn from their wicked ways, there will be less killing. We would see more love. Stop the murdering. Stop the crime and violence that surround us. How can this be done? When people repent of their sins and turn to God with all their hearts. When they love and care for one another. When they see the will of God done in their lives and see the clear path they are to go.

We are given a divine invitation in the Word of God. We need to look into it. What are we to do? How are we going to do it? Let me tell you, Loved Ones: In Isaiah 55:1-3, we read, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."

The way to begin to rebuild is for you to come to Christ. Are you thirsty? Are you hungry? Are you thirsting after righteousness, or are you thirsting after money, variance and strife? What are you craving? Are you craving for righteousness and truth? Are you craving freedom and deliverance? What are you seeking? What foundation are you standing on? Are you standing on the solid Rock, Jesus Christ?

Isaiah says to us in chapter 56:6-9, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 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. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Again, let us arise and build. Let us awake.

Do you know what we are told in Isaiah 52? "Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean." God has a way to deliver His people. "Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O

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Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion." Let me call upon Jamaicans. Jamaicans and others around the world today, it is time to look at yourselves. It is time for you to be what God wants you to be. "For thus saith the Lord, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money." Jesus shed His life's blood on Calvary to redeem you. Thank God! "For thus saith the Lord God, My people went down aforetime into Egypt to sojourn there; and the Assyrian oppressed them without cause." What are people seeking after? Worldliness and things that are unclean and indecent. "Now therefore, what have I here, saith the Lord, that my people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them make them to howl, saith the Lord; and my name continually every day is blasphemed." People are sinning more and more against God. They are going farther and farther away from God.

In the religious world, many people are separated from God because of evil. I'm sure the Holy Spirit will not separate one from another. The Holy Spirit unites, brings all in oneness. If the Holy Spirit was ruling in our religious system, all would be speaking the same thing. All would be living a godly, a righteous, and a sober life in the sight of God. All would be obedient to the will and the way of God. All would walking in the light of God's Word.

My Beloved, a good way to build our lives is on truth, holiness, and righteousness. God will be well-pleased. There are so many broken homes all around us. There needs to be a change in our lives, and we can only do so by coming to God. Isaiah 52:6, "Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I." Are you hearing the voice of God? If you hear His voice, harden not your heart. "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" Yes, peace, My Friends, we need to have peace in our hearts and with one another.

Do you know what the hymn writer said? "When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well [Glory to God!], it is well with my soul." This is what is needed today. Peace one with another and peace with God.

Isaiah continues in chapter 52:11, "Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord." That is our responsibility. That is what God desires of us. Yes, He wants us to be clean from all corruption, all hatred, crime, and violence. We need to be free in our hearts. When that peace reaches us, we can be free. When salvation reaches us, it makes a change and a difference in our lives. Depart from sin.

Let us listen at this time to what John says to us. John 6:35, 36, "Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not." This is why the world is in the state that it is in today. It is because people do not believe God. They will not

yield their lives to Christ. Verses 37-40, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." What joy and happiness! What a great day that will be when all the saints of God will arise and worship Him!

Would you want to be in the number of the saints of God? My Friends, for you to become a saint of God, you have to repent. You have to be free from all your sins. You have to make a commitment to God. You have to make a full surrender to God. You cannot join some human religion and become a child of God. No, Dear Ones, you have to be born again. You have to be free from your sins. You have to be a child of God; not a church-joiner, but a child of God. Christ in no wise will cast you out.

Wherever you are, it is you God is calling. Those who will come unto Him, He will never turn away. John 7:38, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." Yes, it will be bubbling up in you, as it were, like it did for the woman at the well. It will be like a spring of water bubbling up in you, and it will last throughout eternity. What joy it brings! What a pleasure it brings when we can have that living water springing up in us! What freedom and liberty! Oh, what joy it brings to our hearts when we come to God!

There is hope in Jesus, My Friends. There is hope in the Lord today. All is not lost. Jesus died that we all can be saved and have life more abundantly. Would you yield yourself to that divine invitation?

Hear what Jesus said in the book of Matthew, chapter 11, verses 28-30: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." I found it so when I gave myself to God. What about you doing that today? You need to be delivered. Christ will give you that rest that you really need. We are told by the songwriter, "The great Physician now is near, The sympathizing Jesus; He speaks the drooping heart to cheer, O hear the voice of Jesus!"

Will you seek to surrender all to God? Jesus Christ is coming again. He wants to find you with rejoicing in your soul.

Come today and be saved. God bless you. †

Dear Uncle Alvin and Brethren,

Thank you so much for all The Way of Truth magazines and quarterlies you are sending to us regularly. ... They have been a great blessing to us by reading the messages and teachings based on the Bible. May God bless you more for all the effort, sacrifice, and love you are doing in His name.

—P. de L., Canada

SIN, MAN'S GREATEST ENEMY

THE DEFINITION OF SIN

Scriptures: Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 30:15, 16; Romans 4:15; I John 5:17; I John 3:4; Romans 14:23.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Deuteronomy 30:15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

16 In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Romans 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

I John 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

I John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Memory Verse: Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.—I John 3:4.

Aim: To present a clear understanding of what sin is.

INTRODUCTION

Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words says the word *sin* means: “a missing of the mark.”

The New Ungers Bible Dictionary says sin is “a falling away from or missing the right path. ... The underlying idea of sin is that of law and of a lawgiver. The lawgiver is God. Hence sin is everything in the disposition and purpose and conduct of God’s moral creatures that is contrary to the express will of God. ...

“The sinfulness of sin lies in the fact that it is against God, even when the wrong we do is to others or ourselves.

“The being and law of God are perfectly harmonious, for ‘God is love.’ The sum of all the commandments likewise is love; sin in its nature is egotism and selfishness. Self is put in the place of God. ... Selfishness (not pure self-love or the exaggeration of it, but in opposition to it) is at the bottom of all disobedience, and it becomes hostility to God when it collides with His law.

“All sin therefore has a positive character, and the distinction between sins of commission and those of omission is only on the surface. In both cases, sin is actual disobedience.”

Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary says:

“Sin is not represented in the Bible as the absence of good, or as an illusion that stems from our human limitations. Sin is portrayed as a real and positive evil. Sin is more than unwise, inexpedient, calamitous

behavior that produces sorrow and distress. It is rebellion against God’s law—the standard of righteousness (Psalm 119:160).

“Since God demands righteousness, sin must be defined in terms of mankind’s relation to God. Sin is thus the faithless rebellion of the creature against the just authority of his Creator.”

MEDITATIONS

THE WORD, GOD’S LAW—Matthew 4:4—Live by—Sin in its primary sense is a want of conformity to law. It is the opposite of holiness, which is the result of conforming to divine law. The eternal God created this world. He created man and He gave man His Word, His law, to live by. To fail to obey the known commands of God is to sin.

LOVE GOD—Deuteronomy 30:15, 16—Walk in his ways—God is just and right in all His ways; He does not condemn one for truth he does not know. His Word clearly teaches that we are to love Him and the way we show we love Him is by obeying His Word. To knowingly disobey His Word is to commit imputed sin, for imputed sin reveals a rebellious attitude of heart toward God, and thus is the way of death and not life. If we really love Him we will walk in His ways.

THE LAW DISCLOSES SIN—Romans 4:15—Where no law is—Sin is made known by the law that God has given. God does not leave His creation in the dark, but lightens the faith of men by His Word. Many are not informed or walking in the light of the Word because they have turned their backs upon it. There is no one so blind as he who does not want to see. Unto others who know not because they have not heard (such as the unlearned in heathen lands) their conscience becomes their law (Romans 2:14). If such break the law taught by nature, they are guilty before God.

SIN, THE OPPOSITE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS—I John 5:17—All unrighteousness is sin—There is a difference between the righteousness of the law and the righteousness of faith. Merely to keep the law to the letter and do right is not what God is looking for. Paul said, concerning the law he was blameless, but still he was not in favor with God. It is only after regeneration through the blood of Christ that we can have favor with God. It is faith in His atoning blood that delivers from the power of sin and imparts power to live victoriously over sin. So what some people call right is wrong and what some call wrong is right. Some say it is unrighteous to eat pork (and a sin), but God said that every creature of God is good. So, we need the constant guidance of the Spirit of God to be able to live rightly and divide the Word, rejecting the unrighteous (sin) and clinging to the right.

TO BREAK GOD’S LAW IS SIN—I John 3:4—Transgression of the law—Stealing, taking God’s name in vain, worshiping idols, committing adultery, etc., are forbidden by the law of God. Why? Because they destroy the moral fiber of the soul and undermine the health of the body. By the coming of Christ in our hearts we receive a heart of flesh (tenderness and compassion), and we have an aversion to transgression of the law. However, at times the devil does tempt the

Christian, giving a false desire, and bringing a great pressure against him, but this is not sin; sin results from the yielding of our members as servants of transgression (Romans 6:16). Christ, at His death, did bring an end to the Old Covenant, but the New Covenant has laws, and these laws actually hold a higher standard than the Old Covenant. At least, in some respects, this law must be fulfilled in the life of each child of God (Romans 8:4).

UNCERTAINTY IS DANGEROUS—Romans 14:23—He that doubteth—The Christian religion is not a hope-so or a guess-so religion; it is a know-so religion. We must not allow men to deceive us with vain words, which is happening to many. The way is so plain, Isaiah said “the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.” If there is a doubt about anything, we should not do it.

CONCLUSION

With all our improvements in the system of education, still little emphasis is laid upon the subject of sin, about which it is most needful that everyone be informed. Sin is increasing, and it is now evident everywhere, it seems, that the masses of people consider it as a necessary evil and are trying to adjust themselves to living with it rather than driving it from their midst by the good old gospel route. When God created all things, He made laws to govern their operation. This included man and his relationship with his fellowmen. To disregard or break any of these established laws of God is sin; and since God, in His infinite wisdom and power, so created man that transgression always produces a harmful and destructive reaction, it is necessary that we know what sin is and how man can by force of will, curb sin, avoid it. However, I would add that it is impossible for anyone to escape from it completely in his own strength. No educational system can free him from it. Its power is of such great strength that only the Lord Jesus Christ can master it and give deliverance from it. He does this for everyone who seeks deliverance with all his heart. No man can be permitted to retain even one sinful practice. Christ delivers from all or none.

Men everywhere are wondering what is wrong in the world today, since there is so much unrest and fear. They seem to be unable to grasp the fact that sin is the sole cause of all that is wrong in the world today, as well as it was in all ages that are past. Sin is the transgression of the law of God, which brings death. Obedience to the law of God always gives peace and life. If the world would turn to Christ today, our troubles would end at once. We have the example of the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It seems this should awaken men to the seriousness of sin, but the unfortunate part about our present situation is that men are not giving time to the study of the Word; consequently, they are not mindful of the Bible standards and the penalty of sin. For all of you who know the truth, it is our duty to impress everyone possible with the undesirability of sin. Sin to the soul is what cancer is to the body. If left alone, it will produce death.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Can education eventually bring an end to sin in the human family?

2. What was it that Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden that was pronounced sin?
3. Why did God give the law?
4. What great work does the law do?
5. What is the difference between the righteousness of the law and of faith?
6. If a man is confronted with a strong temptation to do wrong, is it sin?
7. What is the danger of uncertainty?
8. What is wrong with our generation? †



Dear Young People,

We had a glorious convention in July, and on Friday night the young people were in charge of the service. It was a wonderful group of young people from various congregations. The specials were blessed. Bro. Mick Akers of our local congregation brought the message, his first ever during camp meeting. The Lord truly blessed the entire service and I want to share with you the message. It will be published in two parts, the first of which begins on this page.

Let me hear from you if you receive a blessing.

Yours in His service,
Bro. Greg Tyler

THE FAIR HAVENS

2017 Hagerstown Convention Message
by Bro. Mick Akers

OUR SCRIPTURES will be taken from the 27th chapter of Acts.

We're going to talk about a character in the Word of God that we don't often talk about. When I read this, and the Lord gave me the thoughts that I have, there was something about this man that drew me close to him. He wasn't a Christian man. The Bible, as far as I know, doesn't say he ever received salvation. He was someone who was acquainted with the apostle Paul. He was a centurion named Julius.



The first verse in Acts 27 says, “And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band.”

Just to give you a little background of the story: Paul had returned from his third missionary journey, and he had decided to go to Jerusalem to spend time in the temple. While Paul was there, some Jews from Asia basically grabbed ahold of him and drug him out of the temple. They said, “This is the one who turns the world upside down. He is one who is preaching false doctrine.” This created such a tumult in the city that

the Roman centurions were brought in to break up the tumult and save Paul. Ultimately, Paul was delivered from Jerusalem to Caesarea. There he stood and gave his witness unto Festus and unto Felix. It was then determined that Paul would go on to Rome because he had appealed unto Caesar. He had that right as a Roman citizen. He felt like he wasn't going to get a fair trial in front of the Sanhedrin, as it seemed the Romans were going to try to turn him over to them. So, Paul appealed to Caesar, which was his right.

Now, in the 27th chapter of Acts, we see where Paul was turned over to Julius. Julius began with Paul, in what we would call his fourth missionary journey, which was his route from Caesarea through the Mediterranean and various ports, to Italy. So that gives you a little background of what the relationship was between Paul and Julius. Maybe they knew each other before this, but the Bible doesn't tell us. However, they began their travels and made some distance in their journey.

Continuing in Acts 27, beginning with verse 5: "And when we had sailed over the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia. And there the centurion [referring to Julius] found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein. And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone; And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The fair havens; nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea. Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them, And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul. And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west."

The Bible doesn't really tell us a whole lot about Julius, but I think if we'll use our imagination a little bit, we can deduce a few things. Julius must have been a person of responsibility. He was reliable, because he was a man of authority. He was charged with a great responsibility. Being charged with the responsibility of a prisoner was a great thing, because if a prisoner was lost in those Roman times, the one in charge would lose his life. Julius had to have some "street smarts" about him. Not every prisoner was the apostle Paul. Not at all. Julius was a man who faithfully carried out his duties and responsibilities. In considering man down through the ages, Julius probably wasn't any different than you and me. We all have responsibilities. We have duties at work, at school, to families, etc. You know your responsibilities. You're just like Julius. You're just fulfilling your duties in daily life.

I think Julius was a reasonable man. I didn't read all of the verses in Acts 27, but I think he grew fond of Paul, because he allowed Paul more latitude probably than he would have allowed any other prisoner. He

allowed him to refresh himself and meet with some friends along the way, so Julius was a reasonable man. Again, the typical mark of most mankind. You're here tonight with some understanding. You're not harsh. I said that as a compliment to you.

I think Julius came to the point where he recognized the faith and character of Paul, and I think Paul became comfortable in the relationship, because he felt free to speak out. I don't think Julius discerned what Paul said there about the danger in the remaining portion of their trip if they proceeded. Paul just didn't come up with that of his own mind. God had given Paul that message for the benefit of every passenger on that ship. We're told later that there about 300 people on board.

Paul was faithful in giving that message to Julius. I believe Julius must have paused to consider it; and really, it is no different with you in what I'm going to ask you. Will you listen to this message? Will you consider it? Listen to what God has put on our hearts and consider the thought. I'm not the apostle Paul. I won't make that comparison by any stretch of the imagination. But, a gospel message is a gospel message, whether it is delivered by a child or a mature person. A true message is a true message, so I want you to listen and hear me. Be reasonable, and really consider things the way they are.

Julius was on a journey, and so are we. We are all on a journey. It started with our birth, and it will end with our death. We're all on the journey of life. That is just the way it is. None of us can escape the final destination, can we? We're travelers on life's road. All of us act as though tomorrow is guaranteed. I made plans for tomorrow. We go to bed at night and think about tomorrow, but tomorrow is not guaranteed. I think of my grandfather who passed away recently. This story was related to me by my mother or my aunt: My grandfather went into the hospital with the intention of getting well. He allowed some procedures to be done because he thought they would hasten his recovery, but he soon came to the realization that he was going to die. This is a true story. I thank God that my grandfather reached out to Him and found salvation before he passed away.

Julius, like you, was a man trying to navigate life. Just like a lot of people, he relied on worldly wisdom. Did you hear what I read from Acts 27? It said in verse 11, "Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul." Julius relied on worldly wisdom. He relied on counsel from those he thought really knew what they were talking about. He trusted the master of that ship. There are a lot of people who want to give us advice. They have Dr. (Doctor) in front of their name, or Ph.D. after their name. They're educated, and we think we can get good advice from them, or we should be able to live our lives if we follow some of their teachings, but it is not always so. Some people, even with the best intentions, give us bad advice in living life. That is just the way it is. I tell you, the best thing you can live your life by is the Word of God. That is what you need to build your life on.

Julius looked at "The fair havens," the harbor where he was, and it was unacceptable to him. Why was that?

Because the master and the owner of the ship said that it wasn't a place to harbor in. It wasn't commodious. Julius wasn't alone. The group felt the same. It says, "... the more part advised to depart" (Acts 27:12). So Paul was outnumbered. There were more in favor of leaving the safe harbor than there were in favor of staying. Paul knew it was a safe place. He admonished them. That is like the world today, because there are more people who would say something negative about Jesus than there are who would say something positive about Him.

There is opposition in the world to living a holy life. There is opposition in the world to living a Spirit-filled life, a holy life free from sin. We face opposition. We see it all the time. There is opposition in peer pressure that our young people face today, and it weighs on their judgment. Many of them want to get saved, but people they respect say to them, "You don't need to worry about that right now." Their friends tell them, "No, don't do that; you're too young to get saved. You don't need to live that way. That's for older people." There is a spirit of opposition in the world today. It is not just for young people. There is opposition toward everyone in living the gospel life. "Don't dress like those people. You can still serve Christ and select things in the Word of God that you like or don't like. You don't have to pray or read your Bible every day." There is opposition to the truth. There is opposition and pressure put on people in not accepting the gospel and the Word of God as it is.

There is a materialistic spirit in the world. "I want to be comfortable. I don't want to be thought less of. I don't want to be looked down upon because I don't wear shorts. I don't want to be looked down upon because I don't wear a wedding ring." Those things put pressure on people to conform to the world. We know. We feel that opposition; and by the grace of God, we fight against it, and stand for truth. I'm not telling you something that I'm not aware of. I know the opposition that is in the world today. It is typical for man to put his comfort and material desires first when there are more important things to consider. There was a rich man who said to his soul, "Soul, take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry," but it didn't take but a few hours for him to be gone into eternity. All he could consider was what he could see; all he could consider was what he could consume. He didn't give enough attention to spiritual things. Those are the most important things. Those are the eternal things. Many people assume that because they have had smooth sailing in the past, the sea of life will continue to be smooth.

I'll read a little bit more in Acts, chapter 27: "And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete. But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon. And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive. And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat: Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven. And we being exceedingly tossed with

a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship; And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship. And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away." They were in peril of life. They were fighting a powerful storm. They were not equipped to fight it. Their boat wasn't ready for that storm. They were in a bad spot, weren't they? They were in a place where they recognized the fragility of life.

I know, Dear Unsaved, you go through some difficult times. You wonder what life is about. Why is it so hard? It is because you're not equipped for the storm that you're in. You need Christ. You should be heeding the gospel message. You should be in "The Safe Haven." You should drop your anchor in "The Safe Haven." You should be there. We're talking about a traveler on life's road, who is not listening to a gospel message when he should be getting himself on a solid foundation, but he moves on. That is really the gist of what I'm trying to bring to you. He then goes out and faces a storm that he's not equipped for. In the face of that storm, the value of "The Safe Haven" is truly recognized.

Julius' decision: stay or go. What an unrecognized crossroad he was at when he listened to Paul and listened to the captain! In some of the most important decisions we make, we don't recognize the value of them until much later on. That is life. "Lord, help us all to lean on You in making decisions." The weight of Julius' decision was unrecognized. He didn't realize the risk of leaving God's chosen anchorage behind. He didn't realize the seriousness of the consequences of that encompassing decision that was made, in that his very life was in peril with everyone on the ship. How similar to your decision here tonight! When you first decided to come here, you probably didn't give a thought to making a decision. You wanted to come and go, just as you are, and you didn't recognize the importance of a decision that you're going to be forced to make. I'm not going to force you to make that decision. The decision is whether you're going to serve God or not. If you don't give your heart to God, you've automatically chosen to serve Satan. You continue to go on in your life and against the warning of the gospel message.

I think it is reasonable to assume that Julius should have listened. Does anyone think otherwise? Paul's admonition was just cast aside as another man's opinion. Be careful, Saints and Sinners, a gospel message is a gospel message. It is not another man's opinion. We ought not to be preaching opinions. We should be preaching the Word of God. We know we're right when we're on the Word of God. The gospel message is not just another piece of advice, but a true warning delivered under the inspiration of the Spirit of God. Paul's message seemed contrary, didn't it? Maybe even ours, too, this evening. Why leave the material? Why let those things go for the gospel life? It may seem contrary to the unsaved, but to us who are saved, it makes sense to heed God. The Bible tells us, "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." That is the whole duty of man. †

(To be continued)

2017 HAGERSTOWN CAMP MEETING MEMORIES



Photos by Steve Crooks



Praise the Lord for all He has done!



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COMING MEETINGS

2017 CAYMAN CONVENTION

83A Walkers Rd.

George Town, Grand Cayman

November 21-26, 2017, Lord willing

Bro. James Arch, Host Pastor



2017 PHILIPPINE CONVENTION

Lacayanga Subdivision

Paniqui, Tarlac, Philippines

December 26-30, 2017, Lord willing

Bro. Rey Fabian, Host Pastor



Revival Services

Jonesville, Louisiana

October 3-8, 2017, Lord willing

Bro. Harley McClung, Evangelist

Bro. M. H. Trisler, Jr., Pastor



Essex, Maryland

October 4-8, 2017, Lord willing

Bro. Doug Shenberger, Evangelist

Bro. Doug Koerner, Pastor



Salem, St. Ann, Jamaica

October 24-29, 2017, Lord willing

Bro. Harley McClung, Evangelist

Sis. Dorrett Clarke, Acting Pastor