

# The Way of Truth

Vol. 75

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

No. 12

**December**  
2017

**WHAT GOD SAYS CONCERNING  
THE GODLY AND THE UNGODLY**

Page 6

**CHRIST'S LEGACY—PEACE ON EARTH**

Page 12



**C**HRISTMAS is not Christian! It is said that the Catholic “Mass,” among other things, claims that the bread and fruit of the vine actually become the flesh and blood of Jesus when it is served by the priest to the individual. They base that on what Jesus said in the upper room before He was crucified. Even the Old Covenant forbade the drinking of the blood of an animal, let alone the blood of a human being.

“Christmas is a shortened form of Christ’s Mass, a term first recorded in 1038 A.D., followed by the word *Cristes-messe* in 1131. The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup> was in 336 during the time of the Roman Emperor, Constantine. A few years later, Pope Julius officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December.”—Internet.

I would like to give you some facts to consider: According to Daniel’s prophecy of the 70 weeks (9:24), Jesus was to be “cut off” in the middle of the 70<sup>th</sup> week, which means that Jesus’ ministry was three and one half years. (He started His ministry at the age of 30.) He was anointed in the Jordan River, which was the beginning of the 70<sup>th</sup> week. Now Jesus was “cut off” at Passover, which was the last of March or the first of April. Whether you count forward six months, or you go back six months, you come to the last of September or the first of October for the time of His birth—no one knows the exact date. Further, those who are supposed to know what they are talking about, say that the shepherds did not leave their sheep out during the winter. They brought them in to shelter.

The *US News* magazine of December 23, 1996, has an article called, “In Search of Christmas.” It has a lot of information in it. I’m sure it is copyrighted, so I can only quote some excerpts from it:

“Christmas is an American passion—90 percent of Americans say they celebrate it in some form, according to a recent *US News/Bozell* poll. Yet for most people, the holiday triggers an intense search for some dimly remembered Christmas past, a nostalgia for a time when yuletide was more pious and more peaceful, when it was free of gaudy commercialism and focused more on the birth of the Savior than on the 20 percent-off sale at the local department store.

“The only problem is that, as historians are increasingly discovering, this purer, simpler, more spiritual past is more a product of our cultural imagination than of historical fact. A series of new studies suggest that the observance of Christmas was never an entirely religious affair, that many of the most popular seasonal traditions are relatively modern inventions and that complaints of crass overindulgence and gross commercialism are nearly as old as the holiday itself.

“Through most of its history, the Christmas season has been a time of raucous revelry and bacchanalian indulgence more akin to Mardi Gras or New Year’s Eve than to a silent, holy night. So tarnished, in fact, was its reputation in colonial America that celebrating Christmas was banned in Puritan New England, where

the noted minister Cotton Mather described yuletide merrymaking as ‘an affront unto the grace of God.’...

“Indeed, they kept it much as Romans [pagan] had in gluttonous feasts and raucous public revelry. ... As one historian put it: ‘The pagan Romans became Christians—but the Saturnalia remained.’ Writing in 1725, Anglican minister Henry Bourne said the way most people behave at Christmas was a ‘scandal to religion and an encouraging of wickedness.’ For many, he said, Christmas was a ‘pretense for drunkenness and rioting and wantonness.’ There is no mention in the New Testament of Christians gathering to commemorate the birth of Jesus.

“Most widely held is the view that the holiday was an intentional ‘Christianization’ of Saturnalia and other pagan festivals. In the third and fourth centuries, the church in Rome found itself in fierce competition with popular pagan religions and mystery cults, most of them involving sun worship. From the middle of December through the first of January, Romans would engage in feasts and drunken revelry, paying homage to their gods and marking the winter solstice, when days began to lengthen. In A.D. 274, Emperor Aurelian decreed December 25—the solstice on the Julian calendar—as *natalis solis invicti* (‘birth of the invincible sun’) a festival honoring the sun god Mithras. In designating December 25 as the date for their Nativity feast, says Restad of the University of Texas, Rome’s Christians ‘challenged paganism directly.’

“Not surprising, the combination of the sacred and the profane made some church leaders uncomfortable. ... But while there were always people for whom Christmas was a time of reverence rather than revelry, says Nissenbaum, ‘such people were in the minority.’ Christmas, he says ‘has always been an extremely difficult holiday to Christianize.’”

—By Jeffery L. Heler

My personal opinion is that God did not intend for people to know the exact day Jesus was born, for He did not want people worshiping a day, but He wanted people to worship His only begotten Son, and this worship was not to be limited to one day out of the year. He surely did not want people following the ways of those who worshiped idols—drinking, dancing, and other sinful acts and ways.

Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, came into this world to open the prison house and to set the captive free, for whom the Son makes free is free indeed. To accomplish this, He had to die on the cross and rise again the third day. He lived a holy life. He ministered to the needs of the people, both physically and spiritually. He called disciples to help Him accomplish His work, and He is still calling disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to everyone, and this work includes healing the sick. †

#### ABOUT THE COVER

Lake Wakatipu is a lake in the South Island of New Zealand. It is in the southwest corner of the Otago region, near its boundary with Southland. With a length of 50 miles, it is New Zealand’s longest lake. It is at an altitude of 1,020 feet, towards the southern end of the Southern Alps. Its setting provides thoughts of calmness and peace.

## THE WAY OF TRUTH

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—Alvin A. Craig, Editor

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## BE AN EXAMPLE OF THE BELIEVERS

By the late Bro. Hoyt Matthews

**I**N BEING an example, we are all emitting an influence that will cause others to follow our example, whether it be a desirable influence, or an undesirable influence.

Early in His earthly ministry, Jesus instructed His disciples, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). In other words, be a Christian example in every area of your life that you may influence your fellowmen to follow your Christian example. Few things are more disgusting than one who is not living the Bible standard, while at the same time is endeavoring to raise the Bible standard in the lives of others.

In his first epistle to his son in the faith, Timothy, the apostle Paul admonished him with the following words: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Timothy 4:12). Though Paul penned these words to young Timothy, they are fitting for all ages.

In presenting one's self as a good example in living the Bible standard, it is not only of great benefit to one's self, but is highly beneficial to those who are affected by our influence.

Paul's admonition is especially important to parents in the home, for living a lower standard in the home before our offspring than what we are presenting when mingling among Christian counterparts is dissimulation. What kind of an example are parents setting when they instruct their children to "do as I say, and not as I do"? This is doing nothing more than building distrust and obstinance on the part of the children, and is not very likely to encourage them to follow the paths of righteousness.

Those who declare themselves soul-winners, when they themselves are living lives that do not elevate the true Bible standard, are best avoided, for God does not choose an unclean vessel to carry His message. Those in this category are not usually endeavoring to lead others to Christ, but to that religion that they themselves belong. Jesus said in Mark 12:30, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." This must be more than just lip service. This must be confirmed by the keeping of all of God's commandments. Jesus speaks again: "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" (John 14:21). Herein lies our godly example.

One of the most important things that belies our heart condition is our words. "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). In both the Old and New Testaments, we are cautioned in the use of our words. King David said, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be

(Continued on page 20)

### IN THIS ISSUE:

<b>The Poetry Page</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<i>Celebrating the coming of Christ!</i>	
<b>Blessings on the Journey Home</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<i>Radio message by James Arch</i>	
<b>The Children's Corner</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<i>"The Right Way," by Rebecca Bland</i>	
<b>What God Says Concerning the Godly and the Ungodly</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<i>Full-length sermon by Terry Deville</i>	
<b>Bible Lesson of the Month</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<i>"God's Attitude Toward Sin"</i>	
<b>The Question Box</b>	<b>Page 11</b>
<i>Our monthly feature</i>	
<b>Christ's Legacy—Peace on Earth</b>	<b>Page 12</b>
<i>Full-length sermon by G. E. Tyler</i>	
<b>Exclusiveness of the Church of God</b>	<b>Page 17</b>
<i>Article by the late D. S. Warner</i>	
<b>Missionary Page</b>	<b>Page 18</b>
<i>Article by S. O. Alade, Nigeria</i>	
<b>Young People's Page</b>	<b>Page 19</b>
<i>Bro. Greg introduces a new YPP Editor</i>	
<b>Water Baptism</b>	<b>Page 20</b>
<i>Article by the Editor's father</i>	

## THE POETRY PAGE

### FOLLOW THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Elizabeth B. Delea

Follow the Star of Bethlehem  
that shone on us that night ...  
The night that Jesus came to earth  
in radiant heavenly light.  
Follow the Babe of Bethlehem  
who was born in a manger small.  
Follow the Star of David  
who was born to bless us all.

Follow the Son of Man,  
the only Begotten of God.  
Follow the path He left us  
on the thorn-strewn earth He trod.  
Follow the Star of Bethlehem  
for He is the Heavenly light  
Who leads us forth from darkness  
our Beacon in the night.

Follow the Babe of Bethlehem  
oh be reborn in Him.  
The Lamb who has redeemed us  
and cleansed us of our sin.  
Follow the Star of Bethlehem,  
the precious Son of God.  
Follow in His footsteps  
on the thorn-strewn path He trod.

### THE SAVIOR OF MEN

Lela Hudson Decker

Long ago, in the hours of night  
There shone a Star so wondrous bright,  
Telling the birth of Christ, the Light  
Of Jesus, the Savior of men.

Brightly it shone o'er the little inn,  
O'er the stable where Christ lay safe within;  
From the glory above, to a world of sin  
Came Jesus, the Savior of men.

Mary and Joseph were glad indeed,  
Child of the Promise, of David's seed;  
Never before was there such a need  
For Jesus, the Savior of men.

That was long ago, still we keep the day  
When Jesus was born on a bed of hay;  
And it still is true, we are glad to say,  
He still is the Savior of men.

### THE STORY THAT NEVER GROWS OLD

James M. Gray

O tell me the story that never grows old,  
The story of One whom the prophets foretold;  
The Horn of salvation, the Scepter and Star,  
The Light in the darkness they saw from afar.

O tell me the story that never grows old,  
The story the angel at Bethlehem told;  
The Babe in the manger, of lowliest birth,  
The highest archangel excelling in worth.

O tell me the story that never grows old,  
The story the Gospels repeat manifold;  
The love and compassion in Jesus we trace,  
The power and patience, the glory and grace.

O tell me the story that never grows old,  
The story the ages to come will unfold;  
The kindness of God in redeeming the lost,  
The death of our Savior in paying the cost.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."—Isaiah 9:6.

### A CHILD IS BORN

Gracie B. Allen

Christ came to this earth as a pauper,  
His bed was a manger of hay,  
A stable was found for a birthplace,  
The innkeeper had turned them away.

The stars gave them light from the heavens,  
The angels sang praises of joy,  
And cattle lowed softly to greet Him,  
To welcome this sweet baby boy.

The shepherds were watching their flock at night,  
The angels of the Lord came near,  
To bring them a message of gladness,  
"A Savior is born," was so clear.

He left all the riches of heaven,  
And came to the wicked old earth,  
Love brought Him here on a mission,  
Thank God for a miraculous birth.

He's King on the throne of my glad heart,  
He's guide to my steps every day,  
He's all that my being could wish for,  
We're blessed because He came our way. †



# BLESSINGS ON THE JOURNEY HOME

Radio Message by  
Bro. James Arch

(aired over Radio Cayman)



preacher, but also a teacher. Jesus loved humanity. That is the reason why He came into the world. He spent some time on earth. Actually, He was God in the form of a man. Jesus understood the problems of humanity. He went around doing good everywhere He went—healing the sick, opening the blinded eyes, unstopping the deaf ears, and healing the crippled and causing them to leap. All of those things Jesus did while He was on earth. He didn't have a nice mahogany pulpit from which to preach. "He sat on the side of a mountain," the Bible tells us, "and he opened his mouth." The whole crowd heard Him and marveled at His teachings. In fact, when He was young, He confounded the learned men. They couldn't understand what He was saying. Yes, He confounded them. One time He said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" If you will read the Bible you will find there, "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again."

Verse 3 of Matthew 5 says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." We know that the word *blessed* means, "happy." This began with humility, recognizing that there is a higher power than us. Conscious of a need, we are all human beings. Verse 4: "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Penitence or sorrow for sinning brings forgiveness. When one becomes very sorry for committing sin against God, he becomes very penitent. Some people shed a number of tears, but we do live in a very dry-eyed era. A lot of that is evidenced in the world today, but the convicting power of God and the Holy Spirit brings us to a place where we realize who we are, and how much we really need the help of God. In fact, we can mourn from a burden. Something that gets real heavy upon someone can cause him to weep. There are a lot of disappointments and problems in the world today. A lot of things are worse than death.

Verse 5 of Matthew 5 says, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." *Meek* means, "gentle; easily imposed on or submissive." God has a meek people; a humble people. That's really the only way we can live for the Lord. Verse 6: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." It says, "They *shall* be filled." The Psalmist says in Psalm 42:1, 2, "As the hart [male deer] panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God." There is a marked decline in spiritual hunger today. There were times when people stood around the windows of the church building here in Cayman to hear the gospel. Some came in from the outside and knelt down at an altar of prayer and asked the Lord to forgive them. We don't see that any more. We don't see that hunger and thirst for God. We live in a very secular and materialistic age, and so many other things have taken the place of a real spiritual walk with God. Hunger and thirst result in growth and good health. That's what causes Christians to be healthy Christians, spiritually speaking.

Verses 7 of Matthew 5 says, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." A merciful person is forgiving and very compassionate. Mercy and compassion have declined in the world now, too. We are living in a very hard and callous world. We need to be compas-

**I** WILL BE speaking to you today on, "Blessings on the Journey Home." Jesus said in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Also, Matthew 25:23, "His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

We know that the final destination of a Christian is heaven, and we know the Bible speaks of the blessings that will be enjoyed there. We find in the book of Revelation, chapter 21, where it says: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." What bliss that will be! It will be our eternal reward if we prove faithful and true to God to the very end. Before we reach heaven, and while we're on the journey here, there are many blessings along the way. Although there are hardships and problems, there are many blessings, too. In spite of all the tribulations and the problems while we're on the journey to heaven, there are also many blessings.

Jesus, who knew that heaven was superior to earthly life, regarded anything as a blessing that increased the longing to make sure to reach it. That is why the Beatitudes are in the forefront of the Sermon on the Mount, where I will be taking most of the thoughts from for this service today. The Beatitudes set the tone for the sermon. Each one portrays the ideal heart condition that brings spiritual blessings to us. Thank God for these spiritual blessings.

The Bible teaches that we should live a life of happiness and enjoy the life that God gave us. Jesus said He came into the world that we might have life and have it more abundantly. I tell the church here all the time, if we can live up to the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> chapters of Matthew, which is the Sermon on the Mount, we have done pretty well.

I want you to listen for a few moments as I draw the thoughts from the Beatitudes, which is the beginning of chapter 5 of St. Matthew. Verses 1 and 2 says, "And seeing the multitudes [It appears as if a mixed audience followed Him, but He addressed primarily His disciples.], he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them." Jesus was not only a

sionate and loving to others. The Bible teaches us to be compassionate and loving. Christians, especially, need to be kind and patient and longsuffering with one another. Verse 8: “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” This scripture means that we must live to the best of our knowledge and not hide anything. Thank God, Christianity is a clean, open life. It’s a wonderful life. There’s nothing to hide. It’s a clean walk. Christianity is not a trip to church every month or so, or every week, but it’s a life. Going to church doesn’t make one a Christian, but Christians should go to church. Being sincere and not afraid to approach God is what I’m talking about here today. If you will look at the 24<sup>th</sup> Psalm, verses 3 and 4, you will see there, “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.”

Verse 9 of Matthew 5 says, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” One of the major problems we have today is, people are unable to get along with one another. People at peace with God like to see others reconciled to God and to one another. The Bible tells us, “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” It’s a big lack in the world today. Everywhere we go, we see friction and conflict in the world that God gave us to live in. Then we have verses 10 and 11: “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.” Those who suffer these things on the journey are still blessed, for enduring makes one eligible for heaven. Thank God for the love of God and what He does for us. Verse 12: “Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.” So the Bible even teaches us that we should love our enemies. Jesus said in Matthew 5:44, “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

The Christian life is like traveling on a road. A road takes you somewhere. Serving the Lord will take you somewhere. You’re on a journey. It will not always be smooth. You’ll reach the corners of the road sometimes, where it takes time to be on guard. When you get to that stage in the Christian life, you have to be on guard for the devil. There are speed bumps. That’s the time you need to slow down. God tells us sometimes that we all need to slow down and think about some things. Think about where you are and where you’re going. There are potholes in the road—obstacles. Christians will have to overcome all kinds of obstacles along the way. Sometimes it’s uphill. It’s then you need more power to climb upward. A road goes downhill, too. You need to put on the brakes at that time. That is the time to be spiritually fit and know your brakes are working well. When the devil would try to slide you down, hold on, and put on your brakes.

The Bible is our spiritual road map. You can follow that road map, My Friends. It takes endurance to go on. The Christian life must be run until the end, whether

long or short. Some people live a long time, others short. Whatever the age you might live to be, end it well with the Lord. Ask the Lord to help you to keep straight ahead and not to divert on the side roads, spiritually speaking. Keep focused on the road that is ahead. Keep focused on the final destination, which is heaven.

Jesus said, “Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” (Matthew 24:12, 13). †

## THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



### THE RIGHT WAY

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

“Guess what!” I said to my younger sister, Twila, one Saturday morning.

“What?” she asked.

“I’m going to make a new kind of bread!”

Twila looked toward the sewing room where our mother was hard at work mending clothes. “Does Mommy know?” she asked.

“No,” I said. “It’s going to be a surprise. Do you want to help me?”

Making bread was not a new endeavor for me. Every Saturday morning, I made five loaves, just as my mother had taught me to do. First I dissolved a cake of yeast in warm water and then added sugar so the yeast would grow.

After the yeast bubbled and grew for awhile in the sugar water, I added salt, milk, and softened lard. To this mixture I added enough flour to create a proper consistency for dough. Then I kneaded the dough. After it rested in a warm place until it had doubled in size, I punched it down and shaped the loaves.

When the loaves had rested and risen to the tops of their pans, I baked them in the oven until they were golden brown and fragrant. It was a big job, but I had done it often enough that my mother no longer needed to supervise me.

Sometimes my younger sister, Twila, helped me. Although she was only nine, she already knew most of the steps and would soon be able to make bread all by herself.

“What kind of bread are we going to make?” Twila asked.

“Come here,” I said. Twila joined me at the screen door that led from the kitchen to a side porch. “Look there across the driveway,” I said, pointing to a large green field. “Do you know what is growing in that field?”

“No,” said Twila.

“It’s rye,” I told her. “I heard Dad tell Mom this morning. He said, ‘That field of rye next to the driveway is looking really good.’”

"I don't even know what rye is," said Twila.

"It's a plant," I told her. "And people make bread from it. Haven't you ever heard of rye bread?"

"I'm not sure," Twila said doubtfully.

"Well, I've heard of it," I said, "and I want to make some. Won't it be nice to have a different kind of bread for a change?"

"How will you make it?" Twila asked.

"I guess we'll have to pick some rye and grind it," I answered. "That's how they make the flour we put in regular bread. They pick wheat and they grind it."

Just then our dad walked through the kitchen on his way out to the barn. "Dad," I said, "is it all right for us to pick some of the rye in the field beside the driveway?"

"What do you want it for?" he asked.

"We just want to make something with it," I told him.

"I don't mind as long as you stay on the edge of the field," he said. "Don't go running through the field and tramping down the plants."

"We won't," I promised.

Twila and I took scissors and walked across the driveway to the rye field. The rye wasn't very tall yet—it barely reached our knees. Carefully we cut several of the bright green stalks and carried them back across the driveway.

"Now what?" asked Twila.

"I guess we have to grind it now," I said.

"How do we do that?" Twila asked.

"I think people in the olden days used stones," I told her. "We could try grinding it like that."

We walked around the house to the garden and found a couple of stones that weren't too heavy to carry. We placed a rye stem on one of the stones and pounded on it with the other one. When we lifted the stone to check the results of our grinding, all we could see was a tangled green mess. The harder we pounded the stems and leaves of the rye plants, the worse the mess became.

"I don't know what's wrong," I said to Twila. "Why isn't the rye turning into flour? We have to have flour to make the bread."

I was discouraged. Things were not working out the way I had pictured them.

"Why don't we ask Mommy what's going on?" Twila suggested. I hated to give away our surprise, but I knew there was no choice but to ask for help.

We went back into the house and found our mother at her sewing machine, still hard at work. "Mom, isn't there such a thing as rye bread?" I asked her.

Mom looked up, puzzled. "Yes," she said. "There is such a thing as rye bread."

"And isn't that a rye field across the driveway?" I continued.

"Yes," said Mom. "That's a rye field."

"Is it the same kind of rye people use for making bread?" I asked.

"Yes," said our mother. "Why do you want to know?"

"I thought maybe I could use some to make rye bread instead of regular bread, for a change," I told her.

Mom snorted. "Well, yes, I guess you could if it was mature and had kernels. The kernels are what they grind up to make bread, once the plant is as tall as it's going to get, and turns brown." She paused and then she asked, "What were you trying to do, make bread out of the leaves?"

"Yes," said Twila. "We tried to grind them up for flour, but we just made a mess."

"Not in the kitchen, I hope!" said Mom.

"No," I answered dejectedly. "We were grinding them between stones, out on the sidewalk."

"Well, now you know better," said Mom. "And if I were you, I'd get in there and start the bread—like you were supposed to—before it ends up taking all day."

I sighed and headed for the kitchen. It seemed like my big ideas, that were always so fine in my imagination, were often doomed for failure.

Children, as you live your life you will often find yourself in situations where you must decide which way is the right one for you to take. It won't always be a simple decision, such as whether to try making one type of bread over another. It will sometimes be a very important decision, such as whether or not to follow a friend's advice instead of doing what your parents have taught you to do.

Whenever you are faced with such a decision, remember Proverbs 14:12, which says, *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* Taking the wrong way (making the wrong decision) may seem right at the time, but it can lead to serious consequences that last for many years. God will always be with you to help you make the right decision if you stay close to Him and trust in Him with all of your heart.

### Activity

We read in the Bible of a young man who made the right choice, even though it was difficult. After reading this verse, can you guess what his name was? *Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.*

HINT: You can find the answer in Hebrews 11.

### Answer to Last Month's Activity

The scripture in the New Testament that compares the tongue to a fire is James 3:6. †

### CONVENTION THANKS

Dear Bro. Alvin and Brethren,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Truly giving God thanks and praise in helping me to see another day. He is worthy to be praised.

It was such a blessing for me to be in the convention this year for my very first time. The messages were a great lift to my soul. I received healing for my body. I also took a prayer cloth to my daughter. We have seen improvement in her illness, and I believe that God is going to finish the job. My unspoken requests are coming to past, thank the Lord. I want to take this time to thank you all for your kind hospitality.

May the Lord bless you as you keep up the good work. I would love to receive some of the magazines. I am blest by reading them.

Please pray for us here and in Jamaica.

—Sis. Linnett Anderson, New Jersey



# What God Says Concerning the Godly and the Ungodly

2017 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Terry Deville



**T**HIS HAS BEEN a glorious convention. I love the people of God. We thank the Lord for what we heard today. I said *amen* to the morning's message 100%. It was a Church of God message, something we've been needing to hear for some time. I trust God will be able to continue to work. Unless there is some coming together of the true people of God, this world will keep going on the same pathway. So I am going to leave this convention with some hope. We want God to continue to work and move. I know we want it. I know any true people of God want it as well. Pray for me, please.

You can turn to Psalm 1. I'll read verses 1 and 2: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

I'd like to entitle the message, "What God Says Concerning the Godly and the Ungodly." One thing God does make clear: There are only two pathways. I know this is basic teaching, but we need to be reminded that there are only two ways. That's it! God told us that one is the narrow way, and the other one is the broad way; but He also told us that we have to go through the strait gate to enter the narrow way, and to strive to enter in at the strait gate. When the Lord convicted me of my sins, I had to strive to get through the opposition of the devil. The devil is here to oppose you, to keep you from getting through to God tonight. It is not God's will that any be lost, but that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. The saved are on the narrow way, and it's a good way!

I trust that nothing I say concerning the unsaved (the sinners, the lost) will be offensive, for what I am going to say is what the Bible says. The Bible puts it in the true light of what it is to be like without God. There's a grave, grave difference.

After hearing the "Hallelujah Chorus" sung by the choir, I am thankful that I can say and sing, "I've Been Redeemed." How? By the blood of the Lamb. "I am saved from all sin, and I'm walking in the light; I'm redeemed by the blood of the Lamb." The Psalmist says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction." We were all on that road to destruction. Don't let anyone fool you otherwise. We were all on that road to destruction. Even the rich young ruler was on that road. I guess he lived a moral life, but he still lacked one thing. He was not saved, and he was on the wrong road leading to destruction. But, thank God, we've been redeemed from destruction.

Some of us were on the road to destruction a lot sooner than others, but let me get this through to you: I don't care how good you are, how kind you are, how you treat others, you're still on the road to destruction. Before we leave this service, I trust that you'll come to yourself, come back home to the Father, and come back home singing, "I'm redeemed by the blood of the Lamb." I still like to use the word *saved*. I'm saved! If you're saved, you're not lost. We're either saved or lost, godly or ungodly.

## THE GODLY ARE BLESSED

What does God say concerning the saved and unsaved? First of all, He says, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Do you know what the word *blessed* means here? "Happy." I don't live ungodly any more, and since I don't live like that any more, I'm happy in the Lord! I've found what is called "the joy of the Lord"! I've found what is called "the peace that passeth all understanding"! The Bible says that we are blessed. I say, "Amen, Lord; we are blessed." I thank God that I don't stand in the way of sinners, nor walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor sit in the seat of the scornful any more.

We're living in a world where there is a lot of scorning and scoffing. Against who? Against God, His true way, and the righteous way He gives us to live. They scoff at the lifestyle He's given us to live. Did God give us the best life to live, or not? If you're here without God, do you believe what we're saying? He gave us the very best life we can live on this side of eternity. It is blessed! It is a different walk than the sinner's walk. It is a different way from the ungodly. Thank God, I don't scoff at any of God's plans that He gave me to live by. I love it just like it is, don't you? Praise the Lord!

Psalm 1: 2, 3: "But [our] delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth [we] meditate day and night. And [we] shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water." Are you planted? If God planted you, He planted you by the rivers of water. You need to let the roots go down deep, Dear Ones. Deep, deep! Doing so will bring forth fruit in seasons. "[Our leaves] also shall not wither; and whatsoever [we] doeth shall prosper." With the ungodly, it is not so.

Solomon had all the treasures, the very best of Israel. It seems like Solomon finally realized how much he had lost while writing Ecclesiastes. As he looked back at everything he had (and the things some people are trying to seek for in the world tonight), he tasted it all. He tried it all! Do you know what he said about those things? "All is vanity and vexation of spirit." In other words, those things were useless. They are not worth anything. Those things satisfy the old pleasures of sin,



but Dear Ones, it isn't long before we realize that they are a vexation of spirit and all vanity. So many people don't come to themselves, but you have an opportunity to change all that around tonight. Come to the One who can change your heart and make life worth living. Is life worth living? It is since I've been set free. With the ungodly, it is not so. Psalm 1:4, "The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away."

*Chaff* is "the outer shell or husk that must be removed to get to the valuable kernel or grain." They had a way of doing that in Bible times. They would take the wheat, the grain, and stomp on it and beat it to pieces. Then they would take it all and throw it up in the air. Do you know the slightest breeze would blow the chaff away? That was the way of separating the chaff from the grain. The grain fell back to the ground. I think Jesus said, "And we'll gather grain into My barn." This is teaching a difference here. Don't get offended at this. If you were to look up the word *chaff* in the dictionary, you will find that it has "no substance and no value; like the dust which the wind scatters, it drifts away with every kind of wind." Without direction, so is the ungodly or sinner.

God is saying that if we don't have Him, every wind can blow us; but not only that, we're really not of any use to Him. Don't get offended at me. It's not saying that God can't use us, but in the context of what I'm talking, He can't. We have to be part of God's grain to be of use to Him. Either we are used of God, which is the grain, or we're part of the chaff, which is nothing and useless. That's God comparing the godly and the ungodly. Now, I believe every human being wants to feel useful in order to have some kind of purpose in life. Do we believe the Bible, or the way of the world? More money, more this and more that, but it is all away from God. A lot of people look on it as success.

One the most successful lives that I can think of is Bro. Lester Burlew. He was a humble man. That sweet brother had cancer of the brain. I was asked to preach his funeral. Let me tell you, to preach at funerals, you want to get something from God. But I knew we had a good man, a man of God. What came to me was, he didn't grow to great esteem in the world, or considered as someone great, but do you know what the Bible says? "As unknown, and yet well known, as having nothing, and yet possessing all things." Do you know what I'm talking about? I'm talking about what Bro. Lester had. He wasn't known by the governor, the mayor, or the president, but he was known by God. I can gladly say that this man's life was a success. This man's life meant something. Unless we're serving God, we're not going to be successful. If you will serve the Lord, you will live a victorious, successful life, and when the record is read at the judgment, you'll be able to stand in honor and glory to the King of kings. You'll hear "Well done, My good and faithful servant." May the Lord help us to see the great difference between the saved and the unsaved.

### THE GODLY ARE LIKE GOLD

The Bible says that we were dross, but now we are gold. There's a scripture which tells us so. Lamentations 4:2, "The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold."

Dear Ones, listen, don't let the devil get us down for anything. We are part of God's jewels. We are gold in God's sight, especially when we love and walk in the truth. We're no longer dross when we have been made fine gold by the Purifier of souls. The precious sons of God are comparable to fine gold; but before, we were dross. Let us be honest. We were what we were, but because of the mercy and love of God, He has made us a precious gold jewel for Him. Do you believe it? I'm not ashamed of anything that concerns serving the Lord. I know who I was before, and I know who I am tonight. Thank God, I'm not the old man I once was. God's purifying power can purify away all the dross, because He wants us in His image. As the dross goes away and the gold is there, He's looking to see His image. This is what I want to be: a reflection. That tells me we're living a successful, wonderful life. No longer filled with dross, but precious gold to the Lord our God.

### THE GODLY ARE HIS SHEEP

God also told us that we are compared to having a nature of a goat or a sheep. Which would you rather be—a sheep or a goat? The nature of a goat is not a good nature. The Bible tells us, "Before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." Try as you may, but if you're unsaved, you have the nature of a goat. Have you ever seen a goat that wasn't stubborn? A goat wants his own way. Goats are not pleasant to be around, are they? But, thank God, He can change our nature. He took that old nature away, and He made me a sheep in the Shepherd's fold. Instead of the nature of a goat, I have a nature that's tender and mild.

I want to follow the Lord. The good thing about it is, when you become a sheep, God gives you a Shepherd. He's a good Shepherd. "He goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow." I'm not too worried about a stranger's voice, because it's strange. It has a strange feel and sound to it. Now, sometimes the devil can come as an angel of light, but he will expose himself. He's too depraved not to. So the Bible says that we're either sheep or goats. Let us act like sheep and make sure we follow the Shepherd wherever He leads us.

Paul described this just a little different. He said, "By nature the children of wrath, wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." Why is there so much rage? Did you all read recently in the paper about a young eighteen-year-old girl who just graduated and a twenty-three-year-old boy? They were getting into the same lane, and he went into a rage. He pulled out a gun and shot her in the head. That's rage. The Bible says, "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?" Because there is a raging spirit in the world, a vexing spirit in the world. I thought about that young girl. Can you imagine how that young man feels now? Dear Ones, what I'm trying to get across to you tonight is: Satan is trying to enter in to destroy your lives, right here and now. People don't know when they are going to go into a rage, but they do. If you will

get into the Shepherd's fold, you can live beneath the shadow of the Almighty, where no evil can harm you. "Resting in Jesus, I'm safe evermore."

Rather than being by nature the children of wrath, we are now His workmanship. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). I'm a brand new creation. You don't even want to know that old man who died on October 29, 1978. It's hard to believe I was like that, but the devil is real. He's trying to keep himself hidden from you. He tried to even hide himself from us, but thank God for watching over us. The devil tries to hide his motive for your life.

### THERE ARE TWO WAYS

As I've said in the beginning, there are two ways, and we choose. In choosing these ways, we're choosing our destiny and our eternity. Think with me just awhile. First of all, let me ask the saints: Is there anything worth giving up on God? People are so touchy and sensitive. "They don't speak to me, or they don't do this or that." So what? Jesus said, "Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." The devil will use some of your closest friends and family to try to tear you down, and they don't even realize they're doing it. The devil is behind it.

Let me tell you, the devil wants to do his worst to get into the Church of God and destroy it. That's why we as ministers have to stand watch all the time. We need to get the walls built back up. Get all the breaches built back up. We need to work with one hand and keep a weapon in the other hand, and don't forget what Nehemiah said: "Remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses." We're not only fighting for ourselves, but for our families, for our homes, for our grandchildren. This is a lifestyle that only a very few love and accept. We can't let it die. It's a beautiful way! We just need to love it more and live it more.

We can't let the devil get in. We have to look to the Head of the church. Don't forget that! We get caught up by worrying about this and that. There's a Head of the church. Just stay open to the Holy Spirit and be pliable to Him. The Holy Spirit wants to use us; but let the Head do His work, and we do our work by keeping the devil out. Paul said, "Bickering and strife ought not so to be. We are brethren." David asked, "Is there not a cause?" Praise God, there is a cause. I'm thankful to be a part of that cause. I want to be like David and not like the other Israelites who were fearful before Goliath.

We were like thorns and thistles, but thank God, He plucked up that old tree, root and all! He just plucked it up and placed a new Seed there. The Seed is Christ. As long as that Seed is there, I'm not going to sin. The key is keeping the Seed there, and let it grow until it becomes a tree of righteousness.

For the older people, of which I include myself, I love these verses more and more as I get older: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the

house of the Lord shall flourish [Where?] in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age [Yes, we may be old and can't get around any more, but we can still bring forth fruit, because of where we're planted.]; they shall be fat [strong] and flourishing; [For this reason:] to shew that the Lord is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him" (Psalm 92:12-15).

### CONCLUSION

I'm going to close now with this: Jesus said, "In such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." I don't expect the Lord to come tonight, do you? "In such an hour as ye think not." He said that for a reason. He wants us to be ready. He wants us to be wise virgins and not foolish virgins. Jesus goes on to say in Matthew 25:31, 32: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." There is going to be a separation; and in a way, that burdens me. Verse 33: "And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left."

Some of you, as precious as you are to God and to us, if you don't repent, you'll be separated from God, your family, your people for eternity. We might as well face facts. There's a great separation. What I want to be able to do is to stand before the Lord without regrets; and if I've made some mistakes, in which we all do, "Lord, I hope you'll override my foolish mistakes." I don't want anything in my life to be a stumbling block. I hope there will be some who will say, "That brother helped me. He spoke a word of encouragement to me." But, at least, I want to be able to stand before the Lord and say, "Lord, I've done my best," and hear Him say, "Well done; enter in."

*And the toils of the road will seem nothing,*

*When I get to the end of the way.*

*And the toils of the road will seem nothing,*

*When I get to the end of the way.*

"Just one glimpse of him in glory will the toils of life repay." How long are we going to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus"? I think I heard *forever* tonight. I can't even comprehend it, but I like it. "Forever, and ever; forever, and ever; Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" a world without end! It is so good to know we have treasures over yonder. Thank God, we have treasures over yonder! I don't want to miss heaven.

The good news is: No one has to be on the left hand; no one has to hear those awful words, "Depart from me into everlasting punishment." You don't have to hear those words, but if you don't prepare to meet God, that's exactly what you will hear. There's a difference here, and there's going to be a great difference at the judgment. It's a choice. The Spirit says, "Make Me your choice."

I thank God that I can wake up every day, even though the devil may say, "You sure don't feel saved today," but I still choose to serve the Lord. It seems to put the devil in his place. That's a good sign that I'm on the Lord's side. It's a choice.



We are about to sing a song that will go into eternity. Jesus loved us so much that He went to Calvary for us. I hope everyone of you will hear a good report. "My record is in heaven, and my name is in the Lamb's book of life." You can have that assurance tonight. Don't listen to that liar and deceiver. We all need God, but the unsaved need salvation.

There's a song that *The Way of Truth Singers* sang at times: "Don't Go Home Tonight Unsaved." One verse says—

*The end of time is drawing nearer,  
Can't you hear the Savior say,  
Now's the time and there's the altar,  
Don't go home tonight unsaved?* That song moved me when I heard it.

Please don't go home tonight unsaved. We want you to be on the right side. †

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## BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

### SIN, MAN'S GREATEST ENEMY

#### GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN

**Scriptures:** Matthew 12:31, 32; John 8:3-11.

Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

**Memory Verse:** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—I John 1:9.

**Aim:** To show God's attitude toward sin.

#### INTRODUCTION

**I**T IS SAID of Jesus that He did no sin, which is absolutely true. In other words, He never transgressed the law of His Father. Neither has God transgressed His own law. He will never allow a sinner to enter heaven or a Christian to go to hell, for to do so would be a transgression of His Word. Sin is absolutely contrary to the nature of God, repulsive to Him, and originates with His great enemy, the devil. So we can expect God to hate it with the greatest of hatred and to punish those who fail to repent of it, and destroy it whenever a penitent sinner turns sin over to Him. God loves His creation and knows what sin does for it; so we know, at once, how God would look upon sin that brings sorrow, suffering, and death to the work of His hands. When any man is born of the Spirit of God, he becomes a member of the family of God; so it will follow that the children of God will have the same attitude toward sin that God has.

## MEDITATIONS

**GOD IS WILLING TO FORGIVE CONFESSED SIN—Matthew 12:31—Shall be forgiven unto men**—Man is at a disadvantage just as soon as he realizes he is lost, because he is guilty and there is nothing he can do in himself to remedy his state. But he does not need to stay in this state, for God, in love, has made the promise that all kinds of sin shall be forgiven men, except the one sin of blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. To attribute willfully the work of the Spirit of God to the devil will not be forgiven. **Verse 32—Shall not be forgiven**—God the Father and God the Son dwell in our hearts through the Spirit. The Spirit came not to speak of Himself, but of the Father. To say anything against Him is an unpardonable sin. All other sins, regardless of what they be—murder, war, stealing, devil possession, sectism, etc.—if confessed and forsaken, will be blotted out by God.

**RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY—John 8:3—Scribes and Pharisees**—Of all people, these two classes should have known the import of the Scriptures. Their study had been under the hand of man, and they had learned only man's wisdom. If they had been led of God, they would have known the truth of the Scriptures and would have recognized Jesus as the Son of God. They were at all times intent upon carrying out the letter of the law, but disregarded the spirit of the law. **Verse 4—Taken in adultery**—The evidence was conclusive, but these religious zealots had no knowledge of the forgiving grace of God. They would have rigidly applied the penalty of the law. The attitude of God was different. Mercy required that He forgive.

**THE LAW MERCILESS—John 8:5—Law commanded**—Jesus bore the penalty of the law in His own body, thus delivering every man from death on the condition that he believe on the name of Jesus. Without Christ, there could be no setting aside of the law. **Verse 6—Wrote on the ground**—Jesus knew what was in the hearts of each of her accusers and could, if He desired, write their besetting sin on the ground. Jesus displayed marvelous wisdom always in His actions. Who is it who can stand before Him? Only the redeemed.

**EVERY SIN CARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY—John 8:7—He that is without sin**—Man has, in his thinking, marked some sins as being worse than others, setting different penalties upon them, but God has a different attitude toward sin. He has set the death penalty upon sin, be it large or small in the estimation of man. One of the very smallest sins unrepented of will damn a soul in hell for the whole of eternity. Any man who is guilty of the least sin is in no position to criticize or condemn a man, even though he be guilty of the greatest sin. When Jesus spoke on this occasion, the Pharisees were compelled to recall their own sinful doings. **Verse 8—Again he stooped down**—No doubt, He further exposed their sins, thus fully awakening them to their transgression. Knowing their ages, He convicted the eldest first and then on down to the youngest. Being as guilty as the woman and convinced of it, they were unable to condemn her further; so, as we see in **verse 9**, everyone departed. Evidently, the woman who was also convicted was sorry and truly

penitent, for she did not depart but waited for the One, and only One, who could erase the guilt of sin.

**THE ACCUSED WOMAN ACQUITTED—John 8:10—Hath no man condemned thee?**—No doubt a heavy load was lifted from this woman, for the law demanded death, and she was justly accused, but the gracious words of Jesus had defeated every accuser. Though once guilty, she now stood uncondemned.

**PUTTING AWAY SIN—John 8:11—Sin no more**—Jesus gladly and fully forgave this sinful woman. It was now as though there had been no transgression. However, Jesus commanded one thing of her, that she should sin no more! Thus it is with everyone He forgives. All who are forgiven must now live a life of sinlessness by the grace of the living God. He who has power to forgive sin has also the power to enable one to abstain from sin.

## CONCLUSION

The very fact that Jesus required this woman to go and sin no more proves definitely that God does not consider sin something that cannot be completely eradicated from the soul of man. How foolish it would be for God to ask the impossible! Sin can never be condoned in the heart of man by God. Any man who sins is a sinner and stands in need of the new birth; and let us bear in mind that even the least sin, as rated by man, carries the death penalty, and if not repented of will deal destruction eternally to its victim. God is always glad to forgive and cleanse the vilest sinner if he comes to Him.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What penalty does all imputed sin carry?
2. What will happen to the moral man who has rejected Christ?
3. Under what conditions will God forgive the most wicked man?
4. How do the children of God look upon sin?
5. When man first awakens to his moral condition, what is his state?
6. Why did the Pharisees bring the woman to Jesus?
7. Why did the Pharisees depart from the presence of Jesus without condemning the woman?
8. Does Jesus allow for sin in the life of a Christian? †

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

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*Answered by the Editor*



QUESTION: Should all baptisms involve water?  
—Flower Garden

ANSWER: The Bible speaks of Holy Spirit baptism, which would not involve water. When it comes to a sinner's conversion and baptism, it would have to involve water, for baptism is a burial in a watery grave. Burial shows death to sin. Being brought up out of the water is a type of being raised to life in Christ.

QUESTION: Please explain Acts 10:47.  
—Flower Garden

ANSWER: Acts 10:47 deals with Gentiles. Peter had been shown in a vision at Joppa that under the New Covenant, God made no differences between Jews and Gentiles. Cornelius and members of his household had been baptized by the Holy Spirit, so Peter was asking, "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized [in water]?" Anyone who would, would be going against God.

QUESTION: Please explain "the servant of the Lord must not strive" (II Timothy 2:24).—Flower Garden

ANSWER: There are some things we are to strive against—all evil. Paul is telling Timothy that a Christian should not strive in a carnal way, but be gentle.

QUESTION: I read about tithing being practiced in the Old Testament. What scriptures in the New Testament talk about tithe?—Flower Garden

ANSWER: This is what Jesus said: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees hypocrites! for ye *pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin*, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, *and not to leave the other undone*" (Matthew 23:23).

The Hebrew writer tells us that Jesus receives tithes. (See Hebrews 7:5-8.) In the Old Covenant, the priest received the tithe. In the New Covenant, Jesus is the High Priest, and He receives the tithe: "Bring all your tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in MINE house"; that is, bring it to Christ and His church.

QUESTION: Can the tithes of the churches be used for helping the poor or sick members in need?  
—Flower Garden

ANSWER: The tithes are to be brought into the church treasury, and the church can use its tithes and  
December 2017

offerings in the way they see fit. Our congregation has used thousands of dollars to help people, and other congregations also have taken up special offerings for that purpose.

As far as you personally, you are free to use your offerings as the Lord leads you. As to your tithe, the Bible tells you where it is to go. If you are isolated with no true church to attend, seek the Lord to help you to know what true congregation He would have you send it to.

QUESTION: Is it considered a sin for one not to become a member of any church if he cannot find a Bible-based church to attend?—Flower Garden

ANSWER: The Bible teaches you NOT to join a church. You cannot join the Lord's church. Any church you can "join" is not God's church. You must be born into it.

QUESTION: Is dancing and the wearing of jewelry a sin for a Christian, and what scripture talks about those actions?—Flower Garden

ANSWER: You do not find any scripture in the New Testament that teaches saints to dance. You do find scriptures that teach all things are to be done decently and in order. You do find scriptures in the New Testament against wearing jewelry: "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, [with strands of gold, etc., in the hair] or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works" (I Timothy 2:9, 10). "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and wearing of gold, or of putting on of [immodest] apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (I Peter 3:3, 4).

QUESTION: Is listening to music other than gospel a sin for a Christian? I'm referring to music, such as old reggae or country songs that are not vulgar or disrespectful in their wording.—Flower Garden

ANSWER: I do not know what kind of music you refer to when you use the word *reggae*. However, there are types of music a Christian can listen to that would not be sin. Having said that, let me ask you a question: What does the spiritual man get out of the other kinds of music you speak of?

QUESTION: Is it considered a sin for a Christian to drink wine?—Flower Garden

ANSWER: First of all, let me point out that there are a number of words in the Hebrew Scriptures that are translated *wine*. Some of those refer to fermented wine and some do not refer to fermented wine.

In regard to fermented wine, we read: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1). Kings were not to drink fermented wine: "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: *Lest they drink, and forget the*

law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted" (Proverbs 31:4, 5).

Priests were forbidden to drink fermented wine when they entered into the tabernacle (Leviticus 10:9), and when they entered the inner court. "Neither shall any priest drink wine, when they enter into the inner court" (Ezekiel 44:21).

We read in Proverbs 23:31, 32, "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." Surely you would not put your approval on anyone drinking something that would be compared to a serpent's bite, or stings like an adder.

We read in the book of Daniel where he and his friends refused to drink the king's wine. Why? He would not "defile himself with the king's wine."

"Daniel believed in total abstinence—not in indulgence short of drunkenness. To drink the 'king's wine' (*yayin*) was considered defiling, even in small quantities."—Everett I. Carver, *Exploring God's Oracles*.

What we have written so far is based on the Hebrew Scriptures, or the Old Testament. This is not to say that people in Old Testament Israel did not drink fermented wine, for some did. However, it is my understanding that fermented wine was never used in the Passover service. We are living under the New Covenant, and I feel safe in saying we have a higher standard than Old Testament Israel had under the Law of Moses.

The New Testament informs us that Jesus drank wine, but not one verse proves that it was fermented wine. Fermented wine was never served at the Passover, so there is no proof in the Scriptures that Jesus ever drank any, or made any for anyone else to drink.

"Since Christ was prophet, priest, and king, and since these were especially admonished regarding the use of wine that is fermented, it can hardly be maintained that Christ indulged in drinking fermented wine without destroying the impeccability of his character. If he indulged in fermented wine, he could not have been the complete fulfillment of the law. Thus those who attribute to Jesus the use of fermented wine not only destroy the sinlessness of his life, but also remove the effectiveness of his ministry in relation to the law. ...

"Not only was Christ prohibited from drinking intoxicating beverages because he was a 'king,' but the same is true because he was a priest. Moses commanded, 'Do not drink wine (*yayin*) nor strong drink (*shekar*), thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die' " (Leviticus 10:9).—Carver

Paul lists drunkenness as one of the works of the flesh, and he says "they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21). "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a *drunkard*, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat" (I Corinthians 5:11).

The Bible teaches, and the Church of God teaches, total abstinence from all drinks that could make someone drunk. Studies show that many who are alcoholics today started out by being "social drinkers." †

# Christ's Legacy— Peace on Earth

Message delivered in Hagerstown, MD

By Bro. Greg Tyler

12/15/13

**I** TRUST THAT the Lord will help me as I try to bring the Word of God. Luke, chapter 2, will be our text. Of course, this tells of the coming of Christ to the world in fulfillment of prophecy, and I think it was a marvelous thing the way God fulfilled that prophecy in the humble birth of our Lord into this world. Beginning with verse 8: "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." That was the message from heaven at the coming of Christ. I'd like to entitle my thoughts, "Christ's Legacy—Peace on Earth."

Christ came for a purpose. This time of year millions of people are trying to celebrate the coming of Christ without recognizing or realizing the reality, the power, and the essence of the legacy Christ left behind as He came into this world. I'm so glad to know the truth of the Word of God. I'm so glad that Christ left the legacy of peace for the family of man. God wants mankind to get along with one another. God wants nations, families, married couples, workers, and the world to be at peace. God is the God of peace, and the message from the angels was, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The word *peace* is a five-letter word. It has great meaning. It's used over 400 times in the Bible, so I can only scratch the surface tonight on this wonderful subject. *Peace*, according to the dictionary is: "the state of tranquility, calm, repose; freedom from hostility; absence from strife; serenity."

Peace is essential for happiness. The whole world is seeking happiness. They seek it here, there, and the other place. Peace can only be found through Jesus Christ our Lord. I thank God for the coming of Christ. I thank Him for what it means to me. I thank God that He brought this message of peace into the world; not only the message of peace, but the reality of it. Peace is not something that is man-made or manufactured. Man has been able to accomplish a lot of things through inventions of one kind or another. I understand that



man can put millions of pieces of information on something as small as the head of a pin, but man cannot give peace. You cannot go to the store and buy it in a carton, open it up and receive it. Peace can only come from the Giver of peace. The Giver of peace is the One I'm speaking about tonight: Jesus Christ the Lord.

I hope you have your Bibles, because we are going to go through a lot of verses of scripture, and I'd like for you to follow along. In the Old Testament, Christ was prophesied. Isaiah 9:6, 7, the prophecy of Christ: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful [Isn't that wonderful?], Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." So the news that Christ was born in Bethlehem was given and fulfilled that night when the angels came and revealed the message to the shepherds on the hills of Judea. This was the fulfillment of prophecy. Christ is the Prince of Peace. He alone has the power to give peace.

Do you remember the story in the Bible of the disciples and Jesus being on a little boat on the Sea of Galilee? Jesus was asleep, and suddenly a storm came up. The winds began to blow and the sea became rough. The disciples became fearful and afraid. They woke up the Master and said, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" They should have known that He cared. Does Jesus care? O yes, He cares; I know He cares! He shows He cares every day that we live, but in this situation He said, "Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?" Then He walked out on the deck of that boat and with three simple words He caused the sea to become calm: "Peace, be still," and there was a great calm. That was in the natural sense. He still has power over the elements.

Christ speaks "peace be still" to the souls of men. Men are in turmoil, in trouble. There is strife and adversity on every hand, but Christ came to bring peace to the world. He is the Prince of Peace. He purchased peace for mankind. Did you know our peace needed to be purchased? Sin causes destruction to the family of man, and where there is sin, there can be no peace. So peace had to be purchased. We read in the Scriptures from Isaiah, chapter 53, verse 5, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." We often hear the last part quoted "with his stripes we are healed," which is a very important part of the verse, but it also says "the chastisement of our peace was upon him." Those stripes that He bore, the pain He went through, and the agony that He suffered were to purchase for the family of man the experience of peace. I'm so glad for that peace, that deep peace which flows in our souls if we are children of the most high God.

Christ gave peace and gives peace to His followers, His disciples. This is what Jesus said in John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. [I'm so glad it's

that way. The peace that the world gives is temporary, fleeting, and shallow, but not the peace that Christ gives.] Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." The disciples had peace. The woman whom Jesus met in Samaria believed His teachings, received peace, and received the living water He offered. The woman caught in adultery received peace at the forgiveness of Christ's words. After the man in Mark 5, who was tormented by demons, met Jesus, and Jesus touched him, he was clothed and in his right mind. I believe it is safe to say that he had peace. All who have believed in Jesus Christ as their Savior have received peace for their troubled souls. I know that personally, because I received it myself. Many years ago, when I came to Christ and He saved my soul, I received joy and happiness and peace within. I've been rejoicing in the Lord ever since.

The Bible tells us that Christ would show us the way to peace. Zacharias, in speaking of the Messiah who was to come, said that He would come, "To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." We can't find peace by ourselves. We can't direct our own path and find peace. God is the Giver of peace, and He wants to share His peace with the entire world. Anyone who is serious about finding peace, and turns to Christ, will be led into the way of peace. It is a beautiful way; it is the highway of holiness; it is the way that leads to heaven. Those who travel on this highway of holiness have peace in their souls. They will have peace with God, peace with themselves, and peace with their fellow man. "Christ's Legacy—Peace on Earth." Oh, how different this earth would be if people would just accept Christ and believe on Him!

Let's look at some ways, according to the Scriptures, that peace can be gained: Jesus said in John 14:1, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." There's a peace that comes by believing in God; not just believing about God, or in His existence, but believing IN God. There is a peace that comes by giving God place in your life, having faith in Him, recognizing your place in God's ordained plan, and your place in the universe. It all begins to make sense and fit together when you believe in God. Faith and belief in God brings peace to the soul.

Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Isn't it wonderful to be justified by the blood of Christ so that we can have peace with God? What a miracle! Alienated from the family of God by sin, a transgressor, unworthy and undeserving, comes to Him, believes to the salvation of his soul, forsakes his wicked life, repents of his sins, and is justified by the blood of Christ, he immediately receives peace in his soul. The angels said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Verse 2 of Romans 5 goes on to say, "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." There is a second work of grace that brings us even to a deeper state of peace and contentment in the Lord.

Notice John, chapter 14, verses 26 and 27. Jesus speaks of the abiding Comforter: "But the Comforter,

which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." So there is an association made there in those two verses between the receiving of the Comforter and the peace that Christ gives.

I remember when I got sanctified. When I got saved, it was a glorious experience. You've heard my testimony before of the time I came to church and I said to myself, "I could never praise God like these people do," and I came to the altar and God gloriously wiped my sins away. I stood up at the altar, weeping, and I raised my hands in the air and shouted, "Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the Lord!" God showed me right from the beginning that I wasn't going to be in control. He was in control. But when I was sanctified, it wasn't that way. When I was sanctified, there was a depth of peace that came over me. I made that living sacrifice to God. The elders laid their hands on me and I received the Holy Spirit. I didn't shout, but I smiled because there was a deep peace that came as a result of receiving the Holy Spirit. Oh, that the people would know this peace that Christ came into the world to give! It's available for all of humanity. Every human being walking the face of the earth can know this wonderful peace. If you have this peace that Christ came into the world to give, you should shout *thank God!* Thank God for that peace!

How can we receive peace? Psalm 119:165, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them [cause them to turn aside]." There is something about loving the law of God that brings peace. There is something about loving the Word of God; not just hearing and reading it, but loving and appreciating it. When you love and appreciate the Word of God with all your soul, mind, and strength, then you'll receive peace. Did you notice the terminology that the Psalmist used? "Great peace"; not just peace. "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall [cause them to turn aside]."

We're talking about gaining peace, how peace can be acquired. Isaiah 48:18, "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." Harkening unto the Word of God brings peace. There's a satisfaction with walking in the light of the gospel. There's a peace that comes in lining up with the Word of God. Sometimes we might not understand. Sometimes we might not know or realize the details of it, but there's a peace that comes by submitting to God and His Word. "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." There's a song in our Hymnal called, "The River of Peace." It flows from the throne of God. You can taste of that river and have peace flowing in your soul. This comes by harkening to the Word of God.

Isaiah 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." By having our minds stayed on God, brings us

peace. The world is crumbling around us, Dear Ones. The world is going down, down, down in a spiral. Sin is abounding on every hand. Life is crumbling around us, but in the midst of it all, we can have peace like a river. In the midst of it all, we can have peace, perfect peace. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee." Where are our minds tonight? Are they stayed upon God? Are they focused on the things of God, or are they cluttered up with unimportant matters? I know we can't be thinking about God every moment of every day because we have responsibilities in life, but I think this should be an anchor to us all: to keep our minds stayed upon God. Even when we're driving our car, or when we get a moment from our work, we should let our minds think about God and the things of God, because there's a perfect peace that comes when our minds are stayed on Him. Doesn't that sound inviting? Perfect peace that passeth all understanding.

Romans 8:6, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." What does *spiritually-minded* mean? "Being focused on spiritual things." We're interested in spiritual things. We love to talk and meditate on spiritual things; we love to be in the services; we love to have devotions; we love to meditate on the things of God. "For to be carnally minded is death." If our minds are full of the world and sin, it causes spiritual death; but when we're spiritually-minded, there's a peace that comes with that. How is your mind tonight? It should be spiritually-minded.

How do we arrive at the place of being spiritually-minded? This is one way: Philippians 4:6, "Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing [that's a lot] by prayer and supplication [not just repeating words, or going through a form] with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." And if you do this, verse 7 says, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." We need our hearts kept, don't we? There is something about prayer that brings peace. We can be troubled or upset by the situations of life, but when we take our needs to the Lord in prayer, something happens, doesn't it? There's a peace that comes, there's a joy that comes by knowing that we have contact with our heavenly Father, with knowing not only that we have contact with Him, but that His eyes are over His children, and His ears are opened unto their prayers. He understands and cares. He knows all about us. There's a comfort and peace that comes by taking things to the Lord in prayer.

Verse 8 of Philippians 4: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." You'll be spiritually-minded. By being spiritually-minded, you'll have life and peace.

Christ came to give us peace, but peace is gained by going after it. It doesn't come naturally necessarily. It doesn't come easily. There's a devil in the world that wants to rob us of our peace. He wants to cause us trouble and difficulty. The Psalmist said, "Depart from



evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." Go after it! Reach for it! Peter puts it this way: "ensue it"; basically means the same as pursue. "Christ's Legacy—Peace on Earth."

Peter said in I Peter 3:8, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." Do you know Christians are to be courteous? Christians are to have manners. Verses 9-11: "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing [There's no peace that comes when you rail on someone, or even when you're responding to their railing on you.]; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life [Do you love life? I love life. Life has been a struggle in some ways for me in the last few years, but I still love life. I want to live as long as God wants me to live. I enjoy life. I want the saints to know that I'm not just barely making it. I'm happy in the service of the King. I have a wonderful wife, a wonderful job, a wonderful calling, and a wonderful congregation to be part of. God gives me just enough strength each day for what I need. What a wonderful God we serve!], and see good days [I want to see some good days.], let him refrain his tongue from evil [God help me!], and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew [hate] evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it." Have peace on your mind. Don't forfeit your peace for anything. Don't give the devil one iota of space. If you give him an inch, he'll take a mile. To "seek peace, and ensue it" takes effort. Hebrews 12:14, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

Let's turn to Colossians, chapter 3. God's will is that we have peace with Him and with our fellow man. Beginning with verse 12: "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. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

There are a couple of thoughts in these verses of Colossians, chapter 3, I want to speak on:

We need to *let the peace of God rule in your hearts*: There's competition for our hearts. There's competition for our attention, and it's up to us to let the peace of God rule in our hearts. Make sure that the Lord has priority.

*Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another*: When was the last time you forgave someone? When was the last time you forbore someone?

*If any man have a quarrel*: Have you had a quarrel? I think it is interesting to know that the Bible deals with that. The Bible is practical. It's right down where we live, and God knows that through the series of events of life that there are going to be conflicts, disagreements, and quarrels that arise from time to time. What do we do with them? Do we let them consume us? Do we take the wrong attitude? Do we lose our peace?

I had a talk with a brother quite a few years ago. We were talking about the marriage relationship. I said,

"You know, Ellen and I never had a really big fight." The brother said, "I have confidence in you, Bro. Greg, but you just told a lie." I said, "Well, you have to understand what I'm talking about. I've seen fights: pans flying, dishes flying, yelling of words, but we never did anything like that." Disagreements, yes; quarrels, yes; but if one has a quarrel, there's a solution to it. Do you know what the solution is? Forgive, forgive! Do you want peace, contentment, and have all that God has for you? Then forgive. Let it go! Don't hold on to it. Don't keep reminding the person of it. We all make mistakes. Quarrels are going to happen, but don't let a quarrel take away your peace. If you'll forgive the individual, you'll have peace. Sometimes we have to eat our words; sometimes we have to bite our tongue. There's a way to handle problems and quarrels. The Bible tells us what to do.

*Even as Christ forgave you*: Hallelujah! Christ forgave me of all my iniquities, all my misgivings, and all my misdeeds. He didn't hold one against me. Not one! He wiped the slate clean, so who are we to do otherwise? When someone asks for our forgiveness, don't punish or belittle him or her. Be glad that you can forgive. Don't forgive grudgingly or because you have to. Forgive because Christ has allowed you to forgive him or her. When you think of how Christ forgave you, then we are to forgive others the same way. There's nothing that a person can do to you that would be a greater offense than what we did to God, and He forgave us all. If there's a problem with an individual, don't let it be on our part.

There's a scripture in the Bible which says, "If it be possible [I take from that, that sometimes it's not possible.], as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Some people are incorrigible. Some people just won't let you be at peace with them, but don't let it be on your part. You do everything you can to restore relationships. The rest is in their hands.

God is able to even bring us to the place of peace with our enemies. Proverbs 16:7, "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." Do you believe the Bible? I want to please God that much that even my enemies would be at peace with me.

Christ came into the world to bring peace. His legacy is peace on earth, and He wants us to get along with one another. He wants husbands and wives, parents and children, congregations, nations, and workers to get along. He wants the family of man to get along with one another. Listen to this verse—Mark 9:50—Jesus said, "Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltiness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another." We need to have salt within ourselves to be at peace with one another. "Who are you talking to, Bro. Greg?" I'm not talking to anyone in particular. I'm bringing you a Bible message.

It might be reasonable to understand why there is so much conflict and problems among people in the world who don't have salvation, but if you have salvation, and you're a member of the Church of God, the proper thing is that you should get along with the saints. Romans 14:17-19: "For the kingdom of God is

not meat and drink [not literal]; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.” We need to have a desire to edify one another, to build up one another, and to build relationships of peace with one another.

I appreciate this congregation. I appreciate the peace we have. We’re human. We have problems from time to time, but God has blessed our congregation. We have great love one toward another. I’ve experienced it myself by the love and care of the saints in my illness. I appreciate that, but there’s a devil in the world. He will try to bring in wedges. He’ll try to separate brethren from one another, so we need to be on guard.

Let’s look at some manifestations of peace. Peace is part of the fruit of the Spirit, which means it can be seen. It is not just a feeling. Peace is not something we can hide within ourselves. Peace is part of the fruit of the Spirit. Fruit is seen. How does it make itself manifest?

Number 1: *by having assurance and trust*. People see and sense it. This means that we are to leave things to God and let Him work them out. It means that we don’t fret and worry all the time. Peace can be seen. All of us face worries and concerns at times, but if we have the peace that passeth all understanding, and have trust and faith in God, we should not be constantly wringing our hands in worrying about this and that, and the other thing. God will take care of His own. Peace will be seen. There will be a calmness in times of storm and struggle. There will be a peace that is evident and seen by others.

Number 2: *Peace can be seen through kindness and understanding*. If you have the peace of God, you’re not going to be rude to individuals. You’re not going to be short-tempered. You’re not going to have a chip on your shoulder. With some people, you have to be so careful what you say and what you do, because you’re afraid they’ll get offended. Where’s the peace that passeth all understanding? Remember this: “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”

Number 3: *satisfaction and contentment*. Are you contented? Are you reaching out for this and that, and the other thing? Are you all the time trying to get more and more, or are you satisfied and contented? I’m contented in Christ. The Bible says, “Godliness with contentment is great gain.” If you’re contented, you’re not looking at the dark side of things all the time. If a glass has water up to the half-way point, some people always look at it as half-empty rather than half-full. I believe those who have peace have a positive attitude. Put the positive spin on life, a positive spin on the condition. I have to be careful when people ask me how I’m doing because I don’t want to tell a falsehood, but I always try to put a positive spin on it. “I’m doing okay; I’m not doing bad.” When you have peace and satisfaction, you’re not with a frown all the time. Again, I say, peace can be seen. It can be evidenced in your life. A person who has peace is not always assuming the worst of every situation.

Number 4: If you have the peace that Christ gave, *you’re able to accept criticism*. It is not everybody that has a right to do the criticizing. It’s not our business to criticize everybody; but if you have the peace that passes understanding, you’re not going to fly off the handle if someone brings a shortcoming to your attention. You’re not going to lash back or accuse him or her. Am I off base, or am I on the Word of God? I believe I’m on the Word of God.

Number 5: *easy to be entreated*. Let’s turn to James 3:13-18: “Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.” Don’t let self get in the way. Self can destroy your peace. Keep self under control. Be a peacemaker. “Blessed are the peacemakers.” Here again is the evidence of having the peace of God. You’re able to intervene and bring peace and calmness into a situation.

Number 6: *by being unselfish and giving*. “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). If you have peace, you’re going to be unselfish. We don’t have to have everything our way to be happy. If we have peace with God, ourselves, and with our fellow man, we don’t have to have everything going our way. You’ve heard about the little child who brought his ball to the schoolyard and wanted to make the rules, and if they didn’t want to play by his rules, he said, “Well, I’m going to take my ball and go home.” We need to be selfless individuals because we have that blessed peace from God.

Number 7: If you have peace, it is going to be evidenced that you’re *rooted and ground in the faith*. Peace will enable you to do that. Peace is good soil for your roots to go down into. You’ll be able to help others rather than to be tossed to and fro yourselves. You will be on the giving end rather than the receiving end all the time.

Isaiah said, “There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.” There is none! Sin brings destruction. Sin brings heartache. You can’t have peace in sin. The wicked have no peace, according to the Scriptures, not in this world, nor in the world to come. But notice this verse of scripture. Isaiah 57:19: “I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him.”

If you’re without peace tonight, let me point you to “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” He has promised to give you a deep settled peace in your soul, peace that will carry you through the trials of life, peace that will bring happiness and contentment into your life. Wherever you are, kneel down by your chair and ask God to come into your heart. Christ came that all men might have peace.

“Christ’s Legacy—Peace on Earth.” The angel, with the multitude of the heavenly host, praised God and



said on that notable night, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." †

## EXCLUSIVENESS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

By the late D. S. Warner

**T**HE USE of this term conveys the idea that all who are not in the church that Jesus is building are excluded from salvation and the Christian's hope. If any person is not disposed to comply with the conditions of membership in God's church, he cannot turn aside and join some other church that presents a wider door; for there is no other. There is but one Savior for all men: "There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." But all who are saved by him are "baptized [or inducted] by one Spirit into one body"; so all who are outside of this one body are excluded from the grace of God. Christ is an exclusive Christ; there is none other beside him. The faith that he gave us is an exclusive faith; no other saves the soul. The truth of God is exclusive in its nature; everything contrary to it is false. The kingdom of Christ is exclusive. It is a stone that breaks everything else to pieces. The one church that Jesus founded and named, and which is his own body, is also exclusive, for there is only "one body in Christ." During the reign of pagan persecution the rulers offered to stop the bloody martyrdom and allow the Christians to worship God in freedom, if they would confess that the pagan idols were also real Gods. This they could not do, but chose rather to die. And on this very point of exclusiveness is the present offense of the cross. People would not seriously object to God's ministers setting forth the church as contained in the Scriptures, if we would recognize their earth-born institutions as being also God's churches. But this we cannot do and be honest before God, and faithful to his Word. There is but one household of faith. Christ does not have a plurality of wives. He has but one bride, and she has no sisters. Thus saith the husband, "My dove, my undefiled is *but one*; she is the *only one of her mother*" (Song of Solomon 6:9).

It is true there is in these last days a large sisterhood of Protestant bodies calling themselves churches, but the Lamb's wife owns no kin to them. They are of an entirely different family. Their mother is "Mystery, Babylon, the mother of harlots." As "God is not the author of confusion," his church cannot be a split up and confused lot of rival institutions. He recognizes no sisterhood of churches. If, therefore, there is but one church that emanated from God, whence come the rest? Martin Luther would answer, "Whatever is not of God

is of the devil." Men come to us and say just what the devil besought of Christ: "Let us alone." "Go on and preach what you believe, but let everybody else alone." This is great blindness. If the true God would reign, Dagon, and all other gods must fall down, and have their heads broken off. If Christ be lifted up, antichrist must be demolished. The kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness cannot jointly flourish, nor even coexist in the same heart. No man can preach the truth without knocking down error, any more than darkness can yet hold sway after light has come. So likewise, the church of the living God, which is the pillar and ground of the truth, must utterly exclude and antagonize every counterfeit church. Hence, in the present evening light, which reveals the true fold, "every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them. They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish" (Jeremiah 10:14, 15). That time has now come; for the preaching of the "pillar and ground of the truth" demolishes "the work of error."

God's church is exclusive, like himself. And he who is not willing to commit himself exclusively to God and to the church that Jesus purchased with his own blood, but for the friendship of the world and the masses of sectarians, yet endorses the great wicked babel of isms, and by so doing avoids persecution—he is not fit for the kingdom. While men have held a place both in God's church, and man's creeds, through ignorance, yet when the true light comes they have no cloak for their ignorance and must cut loose from the one or the other. If they then refuse to walk in the light, "It shall be taken away from them that which they have." Or if they only have a form, only "seem to be religious," "that which they seem to have shall be taken away." The spirit of this age is to place Christ and Belial on an equality; to call everything that has a name to be religious, God's church; and thus try to palm off upon the Almighty the corrupt works of the devil and insult his holiness by classifying with his heaven-born seed, all the hypocrites, and abominable characters that have been taken into the various branches of Babylon. But, "The Lord knoweth them that are his."

The great congress of all religions held in Chicago at the world's fair, A.D. 1893, was a perfect selling out of Christ. They claimed to meet in one great brotherhood, forcing fellowship between light and darkness, Christ and Belial, God and idols, heaven and hell. Heathen, idolaters, Shintoists, and worshipers of all the ridiculous gods that hell has invented, met on one common level, as one great family, which virtually denied the exclusiveness of the God of the Bible and placed Christ on a level with heathen idols. This, we say, was an abominable slander on the name of Christ, and wicked blasphemy in the sight of God. It virtually proves the whole business of Roman and Protestant babel have left Christ and gone over to the gods of Baal. For surely Christ is separate from all such, and the God of the Bible, he only is God, and his church the one and only true and saving fold, and the faith of Christ is alone from heaven. †

—Taken from, *The Cleansing of the Sanctuary*, first printed in 1903.

## MISSIONARY PAGE

“WHAT SHALL I RENDER UNTO THE LORD  
FOR ALL HIS BENEFITS TOWARD ME?”

(Psalm 116:12)

By S. O. Alade, Nigeria

**G**OD Almighty, the Father of our Lord and Divine Master, Christ Jesus, is a merciful God who daily loads us with benefits (Psalm 68:19). He even blesses us with all the blessings that accompany salvation (Hebrews 6:9), for He is the God of our salvation (Psalm 68:20). All these made King David to ask himself the question: What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?

This same question comes to our mind as individuals who benefit greatly from the goodness of God.

In order to answer the question himself, David, in Psalm 103:1-5 and 92:1, was of the opinion that it is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to His holy name! In other words, returning all glory to God, giving Him thanks, praise, adoration, and blessing His name.

### THINGS EXPECTED OF US AS CHILDREN OF GOD TO RENDER TO HIM

1. *Praise, giving of thanks, and adoration to Him each day that we live.* This is the will of God for all His children (I Thessalonians 5:18.) When we diligently praise God and return all glory to His holy name, we have stolen His heart. This David did constantly and he became a man after the heart of God. David said: “Seven times a day do I praise thee” (Psalm 119:164).

Don’t you know that God dwells in the praises of His children? “But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel” (Psalm 22:3). Therefore, one of the things expected of us is to render praise to God.

2. *Allow the joy of the Lord to fill your heart at all times.* Do not murmur against God. In fact, stop murmuring against God concerning all your unanswered prayers. God is still in the business of answering prayer. He actually answers prayer. Waiting for His time is not wasted. He is good to those who wait on Him and seek Him in prayer: “The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him” (Lamentations 3:25). Therefore, no matter the situation or challenge you are passing through, do not murmur against God. Remember all His goodness toward you and then rejoice in the Lord. Praise Him continually and believe that all shall be well.

3. *Winning of souls for Christ Jesus.* God takes delight in our winning souls for Him. Doing this depopulates the slave market of sin being operated by Satan and all his agents. To emphasize the importance of soul winning, Christ gave us the Great Commission: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 28:19); “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every

creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15, 16). Even from the beginning of creation, soul-winning provokes God to bless His children.

4. *Love for God and your neighbor.* God first loved us: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Consequently, we must love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls, and with all our strength. Not only this, we must love our neighbor as ourselves: “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Matthew 22:39). It is mandatory that we love one another, because he who does not love, does not know God, and he or she is not rendering to God after being blessed by Him. On the other hand, love for God and human beings provokes God to show mercy and to bless. When you love God, you also fear Him, and He reveals His plans for you.

5. *Support the Word of God and the poor with your substance.* God has given the Word of God. Great was the company of those who published and proclaimed the Word. Giving to support the gospel of Christ Jesus provokes God to grant more blessings to His children: “The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it” (Psalm 68:11). Not only this, giving generally to the glory of God is very important. It is a means of enriching our heavenly treasure. Besides, giving to the poor is mandated by God: “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38).

What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? Go, and render all that has been stated to the God of our salvation. The more you render them, the more goodness and benefits you will obtain from God.

Do not grow tired of rendering to God, thanksgiving, praise, and adoration each day that you live. Winning souls for Christ is a delight to God. Children of God can boldly render thanks and praise, and return all glory to God if they have the mind of Christ in them: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). Obtaining this mind is available only to those who have received Christ as their Lord and Savior: “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12). †

### OFFERINGS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

The Postal Service has raised their rates several times in recent years. Hit particularly hard were international rates. We have a vision to increase our readership, not cut back. But expenses continue to rise. It is important to hear from international readers once each year to remain on our mailing list.

Though there is no subscription price to our magazine, we would like our readers to know that your offerings to help defray expenses are gratefully received!





*As I shared with my readers last month, I will be turning the reins of this page, starting in 2018, over to someone younger. I promised to introduce our new Young People's Page Editor in this issue. She is a precious sister in our local congregation who expressed her burden for this effort. I will actually*

*let her introduce herself. Again, I appreciate the opportunity I have had of communicating with young people throughout the world these many years. I know that this page will continue to be a blessing to many.*

*—Bro. Greg Tyler*

Greetings, Dear Young People! Let me introduce myself. My name is Crystal Gossard. I am 35 years old. I have been married to my husband for seventeen years and have been blessed with seven wonderful children. The Lord saved me five years ago during our annual International Convention.

I remember well the burden of sin I felt before I came to the Lord. I had searched for something, anything, to bring me happiness. I thought I could find happiness if I searched hard enough ... maybe if I went back to college, maybe if I got a job, maybe if I had more time for myself or for hobbies, maybe if I bought this, maybe if I did home improvements, maybe this, maybe that. Many times I would turn to alcohol. I would smoke cigarettes to relieve stress. I racked up credit card bills buying things I didn't really need. And there are things I will not even mention for shame's sake. When I think of the person I was, I can't help but think of Proverbs 14:1, "Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands." I was the foolish woman.

But, as I said earlier, five years ago I came to an altar and asked the Lord to have mercy upon me. I knew my sins were great and many. But the Lord is a merciful God. He forgave me, took me in, and has been teaching me how to walk in His way. Let me tell you, Dear One, I have never been happier or more fulfilled. There is nothing in this world that can be bought or experienced that will bring true happiness. But when the Lord saves you, there comes a great satisfaction and a deep peace in living your life according to His plan.

I have had a burden to help our dear Bro. Greg Tyler with this Young People's page. I know that he has been, and continues to be a tremendous support and source of inspiration to so many. But he has many responsibilities, and my hope is to be a help to him.

I don't want you to think, however, that my only purpose is to help Bro. Greg. My burden is to be of some encouragement to those dear souls who read this column. I believe our congregation has been blessed to have a decent sized young people's group, and I would

like our group to use this column as a way to reach out to those who may feel more isolated. I would like for those who read this column, if you have been born again, to feel that you can be considered a part of our group because I believe there is strength in numbers. And I want you to succeed! I want you to conquer!

I want you to know you are not alone. Be strong. Be encouraged. Let us be one in Him.

If you are willing, write to me through The Way of Truth. I would enjoy reading letters and testimonies from fellow soldiers.

I will leave you with an excerpt written by J. R. Miller that I found online. It has been an inspiration to me as I endeavor to no longer be the "foolish woman" but the wise.

Humbly yours,  
Crystal Gossard

"Home is the true wife's kingdom. There, first of all places, she must be strong and beautiful. She may touch life outside in many ways, if she can do it without slighting the duties that are hers within her own doors. But if any calls for her service must be declined, they should not be the duties of her home. These are hers, and no other one's. Very largely does the wife hold in her hands, as a sacred trust, the happiness and the highest good of the hearts that nestle there. The best husband—the truest, the noblest, the gentlest, the richest-hearted—cannot make his home happy if his wife be not, in every reasonable sense, a helpmate to him.

"In the last analysis, home happiness depends on the wife. Her spirit gives the home its atmosphere. Her hands fashion its beauty. Her heart makes its love. And the end is so worthy, so noble, so divine, that no woman who has been called to be a wife, and has listened to the call, should consider any price too great to pay, to be the light, the joy, the blessing, the inspiration of a home.

"Men with fine gifts think it worth while to live to paint a few great pictures which shall be looked at and admired for generations; or to write a few songs which shall sing themselves into the ears and hearts of men. But the woman who makes a sweet, beautiful home, filling it with love and prayer and purity, is doing something better than anything else her hands could find to do beneath the skies." †

### OUR SERVICES ON CD'S

CD's of our services are available for purchase. These are \$3.00 each; however, orders of 10 or more are only \$2.50 each, postage paid. Please write in the blank how many you would like to receive. Send check or money order to: The Way of Truth CD Ministry, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088 U.S.A.

- \_\_\_ CD #834 The Passion of Jesus—G. E. Tyler
- \_\_\_ CD #835 He is Faithful that Promised—Paul Wilson
- \_\_\_ CD #836 The Work of Christ—A. A. Craig
- \_\_\_ CD #837 Fitting In—Rebecca Bland
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- \_\_\_ CD #839 The Valley of Dry Bones—Doug Shenberger
- \_\_\_ CD #840 Yea and Amen—G. E. Tyler
- \_\_\_ CD #841 God's Plan of Mercy—Brian Richards
- \_\_\_ CD #842 What Kind of Heart Do You Have?—G. E. Tyler
- \_\_\_ CD #843 Patient Continuance—Thomas Harris

# WATER BAPTISM

By the late M. H. Craig

**B**APTISM is a very important ordinance. The command of the Lord cannot be carried out in its completeness without Christian baptism. Christ said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Four general modes of supposed baptism are being practiced today by the religious world. They are: sprinkling, pouring, immersion, and immersion three times. Baptism is an essential part of the great commission, as is shown in the above text, and must be carried out to fulfill the Lord's command. But who should be baptized?

*Four Prerequisites:* There are at least four things that are necessary in the experience of a convert to Christianity before he becomes a proper candidate for baptism. Jesus, in Matthew sets forth the first of these: "teach." Teaching comes before baptism. No person is a subject for baptism until he has been taught the truth of the gospel. In Mark's statement of the gospel commission, the second is set forth: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Not only is the convert to be taught the gospel, but he is to believe it. The third thing is set forth by Peter when asked by the inquirers on the day of Pentecost: "What shall we do?" Peter answered and said unto them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). Repentance then is necessary before an individual is a proper candidate for baptism. Repentance will be followed by confession, which is the fourth. When these four things are done then the new convert should be baptized.

*Infant Baptism Is Not Scriptural:* The four things given above forever settle the question of infant baptism. An infant cannot be taught the gospel, cannot believe the gospel, cannot repent of its sins, for it has no committed sins to repent of, and has no sins to confess. An infant is not and cannot be a proper candidate for baptism. So infant baptism is not taught in the Bible. It was brought into practice by a false religious system. It should be discarded by all Christians who want to follow the Bible.

*Immersion, the True Mode of Baptism:* The true mode of baptism is made very clear in the Bible. This, too, has been counterfeited and perverted, and a substitute put in its place by systems of religion who do not esteem the teachings of the Bible as essential. These counterfeit baptisms have been accepted by many honest souls as being proper. The time has come when the true and full light of the gospel is being preached, and we must walk in the light or else we will go into darkness. I exhort any who have not yet been baptized in the true Bible mode of baptism, to do so, and not run any risk of losing your soul by following some creed that does not practice the whole Word of God.

*Much Water Was There:* "John was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized" (John 3:23). This text kills all the arguments that one can be advanced to support sprinkling or pouring for baptism. There certainly would be no need of much water to sprinkle or pour. This verse surely points to immersion as the proper and correct mode of baptism.

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:16, 17). This points also to immersing as the mode of Christ's baptism, as He came up out of the water (Mark 1:10). This is also shown in Acts when Philip baptized the eunuch: "As they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:36-38).

*An Outward Testimony to an Inward Experience:* The true mode of baptism is shown by not only the verses above, but upon the spiritual significance of baptism. Baptism is the outward testimony to an inward experience. What is this inward experience? Paul explains it as a death to sin, thus a burial follows: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death" (Romans 6:3, 4a). No man is a Christian until this inward experience has become his [truly saved, born again].

*A Burial and Resurrection:* A minister, when he baptizes a new convert, does not leave him down in the water but brings him back up—a type of the spiritual resurrection. "You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). Having been resurrected from the dead state of sin, we are to walk in newness of life. We are not to continue a life of sin.

When I accepted Christ, I died to sin. Christ was buried, I am buried, too. Christ was raised, I am raised with Him. This is conversion in reality, and immersion in baptism shows it in a symbolical way. Nothing in the world will show it but this. All who have died to sin indeed should be buried, but baptism does not save from sin. Only the blood of Christ is the remedy for sin, but baptism is to show that we have died to sin, and that Christ is living in our hearts. †

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## BE AN EXAMPLE OF THE BELIEVERS

(Continued from page 1)

acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few" (Ecclesiastes 5:2).



“But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil” (Matthew 5:37).

“For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” (Matthew 12:37).

“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Colossians 4:6).

The tongue will betray a man quickly if the heart of that man is not fully set on being an example of the believers in word.

Those who are examples of the believers will be careful to lift up the Bible standard in their appearance. The principle of modest adornment existed long before man was created or the earth was formed. God saw that the fig leaves that Adam and Eve used to adorn the body did not meet the principle of modesty that was set before the foundation of the earth. To correct this lack, God took the skins of animals and clothed the first couple. The principle of modesty will exist from eternity till time is swallowed up by eternity. Both Paul and Peter exhorted all to adorn themselves in modest apparel. The love of the world becomes apparent when the pride of life accompanies one's appearance.

The apostle John exhorted that the believer set a proper example as far as their relation to the things of the world: “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (I John 2:15, 16).

Those who are endeavoring to let their light so shine that others will see their good works and glorify the God of heaven, will carefully choose that form of entertainment that will exalt the example of the believer. Those who exhibit a godly example will protect their Christian testimony by avoiding any type of entertainment that is born out of a love for the world. Many houses of worship have become nothing more than social entertainment centers that will do nothing toward teaching their members how to become examples of the believers. †

## Radio Log

### The Way of Truth Broadcast

Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

*Check the following listing to find a station near you that airs the truth and then tune in!*

(Aired on Sundays unless otherwise noted.)

**Alabama**, Mobile, WIJD 1270, AM & 97.9 FM 6:00 A.M.

5,000 Watts—Heard in part of AL, and MS

**Arkansas**, No. Little Rock, KMTL 760, 10:30 A.M.

10,000 Watts—Heard in part of AR, MO, TN, MS and LA

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**Georgia**, Augusta, WFAM 1050, 8:00 P.M. Wednesday & 11:30 A.M. Sun.

5,000 Watts—Heard in part of GA and SC

**Illinois**, Carmi, WROY 1460, 9:00 A.M.

1,000 Watts—Heard in part of IL and IN

December 2017

**Kentucky**, Prestonsburg, WDOC 1310, 7:30 A.M.

5,000 Watts—Heard in part of KY, WV and VA

**Louisiana**, Ball, KWDF 840 & 99.7 FM, 9:00 A.M.

10,000 Watts—Heard in part of TX, AR, MS and LA

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**Oklahoma**, Marlow, KFXI-FM 92.1, 7:00 A.M.

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**Oklahoma**, Sulphur, KIXO-FM 106.1, 8:30 A.M.

2,650 Watts—Heard in part of OK

**Pennsylvania**, Altoona, WFBG 1290, 9:00 A.M.

5,000 Watts—Heard in part of PA and MD

**Pennsylvania**, Martinsburg, WJSM 1110, 11:03 A.M.

1,000 Watts—Heard in part of PA *Listen live—Go to [www.wjsm.com](http://www.wjsm.com)*

**Pennsylvania**, Martinsburg, WJSM-FM 92.7, 11:03 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.

1,460 Watts—Heard in part of PA *Listen live—Go to [www.wjsm.com](http://www.wjsm.com)*

**Tennessee**, Chattanooga, WLMR 1450, 3:00 P.M.

1,000 Watts—Heard in part of TN, GA and AL

**Tennessee**, Chattanooga, WLMR-FM 103.3, 3:00 P.M.

Heard in part of TN, GA and AL

**Virginia**, Narrows, WZFM-FM 101.3, 8:00 A.M.

3,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA

**Virginia**, Lynchburg, WKPA 1390, 1:30 P.M. Fri., 5:30 P.M. Sat. & 6:00 A.M. Sun.

4,700 Watts—Heard in part of VA

**Virginia**, Lynchburg, WKPA-FM 106.7, 1:30 P.M. Fri., 5:30 P.M. Sat. & 6:00 A.M. Sun.

250 Watts—Heard in part of VA

**Virginia**, Roanoke, WKBA 1550, 1:30 P.M. Fri., 5:30 P.M. Sat. & 6:00 A.M. Sun.

10,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA and WV

*Listen live—Go to [www.wkbaradio.com](http://www.wkbaradio.com)*

**Virginia**, Smithfield, WKGm 940, 6:30 A.M.

10,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA and NC

**West Virginia**, Summersville, WCWV 92.9, 8:30 A.M.

50,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA and WV

### INTERNATIONAL

**PHILIPPINES**, Malaybalay, Valencia, Bukidnon, Mindanao

DXWS-105.3 FM, Saturdays at 1:30 P.M. & Sundays at 2:30 P.M.

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

Heard throughout Jamaica; *Listen live—Go to [www.mellofmjamaica.com](http://www.mellofmjamaica.com)*

### SHORTWAVE

**WWCR**, Nashville, Tennessee 4.840 on SW band

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

*Listen live—Go to [www.wwcr.com](http://www.wwcr.com)*

**WINB**, Red Lion, Pennsylvania 9.320 on SW band

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

*Listen live—Go to [www.winb.com](http://www.winb.com)*

### THE BIBLE STANDARD BROADCAST

Church of God (Universal)

James Arch, Pastor

Radio Cayman

1:30 P.M. Sun.

Grand Cayman

*\*Listen to The Bible Standard Broadcast from anywhere in the world via the internet. Go to [www.radiocayman.gov.ky](http://www.radiocayman.gov.ky) and then click on Listen live 89.9. (Since it airs live you have to log on at the appropriate time.)*

**Church of God (Universal), Inc.**  
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## COMING MEETINGS

### 2017 PHILIPPINE CONVENTION

Lacayanga Subdivision

Paniqui, Tarlac, Philippines

December 26-30, 2017, Lord willing

Bro. Rey Fabian, Host Pastor



### 2018 JAMAICA CONVENTION

Lapland, Catadupa, St. James

February 13-18, 2018, Lord willing

Bro. Hezekiah Lamey, Host Pastor



### 2018 HONDURAS CONVENTION

Coxen Hole, Roatan

April 3-8, 2018, Lord willing

Sis. Ethlyn Soto, Host Pastor



### 2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

12819 Point Salem Rd.

Hagerstown, Maryland U.S.A.

July 3-8, 2018, Lord willing

Bro. Alvin A. Craig, Host Pastor

## THE CHURCH OF GOD STANDS FOR

An eternal God	Psalms 90:2
A divine Christ	John 1:1, 14
An infallibly inspired Bible	II Timothy 3:16
Salvation from sin	Matthew 1:21
The new birth	John 3:1-7
Entire Sanctification	Ephesians 5:25, 26
A holy life	Titus 2:11, 12
	Hebrews 12:10-14
Unity of God's people	John 17:21
	I Corinthians 12:13
Divine Healing	James 5:14, 15
The ordinances	Matthew 28:19, 20
Eternal life	Matthew 25:46
	John 3:15; 6:54; 10:28
Eternal punishment	Mark 9:43-46
	Revelation 20:15

## YOU SHOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CHURCH OF GOD, THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus bought it with His own blood	Acts 20:28
It has a good foundation	Ephesians 2:20
	I Corinthians 3:11
Christ is the Head	Ephesians 1:22; 5:23
	Isaiah 9:6
Christ is the Door	John 10:9
	John 10:1
	Acts 2:47
Only the saved are members	John 15:2-6
	I John 3:8, 9
Membership is offered to all	II Peter 3:9
	Revelation 22:17
Membership is rewarded	John 14:2, 3