

The Way of Truth

Vol. 76

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

No. 7

“THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES”

Message begins on page 2.

July 2018

IS GOD GRIEVED WITH THIS GENERATION?

Text: "Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways."—Hebrews 3:10.

THROUGH the years, the Lord has been good to the United States of America and has blessed our nation. In part, I believe, because she was built on godly principles—liberty, pursuit of happiness while respecting the rights of others, religious freedom, and as Abraham Lincoln once said “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” While some are still grappling with the manifestation of that thought, the principle is nonetheless righteous.

I am made to wonder about the future of our great land. It seems with each passing generation the morals of Americans are declining. Things are accepted as “normal” today that a few years ago would have been taboo. These days, “anything goes.” If anyone dares lift his voice against anything, he is considered judgmental. There seems to be a new standard for good and bad in society: if a person allows others to do anything they please without offering a word of caution or concern, then he is a “good” person. But, if an individual questions the propriety of another’s actions or lifestyle, he is a “bad” person, a bigot, etc. There seems to be no standard of right and wrong in our present generation.

I, for one, believe there is a God in heaven. This God is not the figment of my imagination. He is our Creator. He is the One who ties us all together as one people—humanity, dwelling on one globe. There is not one God for the western hemisphere and another for the eastern hemisphere. There is not one God for America and another for Russia. As Paul says in Ephesians 4:4-6, “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” This God can be pleased and He can be grieved. I think it would be good to consider, “Is God grieved with this present generation?” I am not just speaking of America. Look at the world in which we live!

Let us look at God’s attitude towards past generations. First, the antediluvian world. That generation got so far from God that “the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” That generation grieved God. It caused the Lord to send a flood and destroy mankind. “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” God’s righteous nature would not allow Him to destroy the righteous with the wicked. So we see that even in the midst of a generation that turns its back on God, the Lord will be faithful to His faithful children. Lord willing, I want to come back to this thought later.

Then, we have the children of Israel, who rebelled against the authority of God time and again, of whom He says in Deuteronomy 32:5, “They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse and crooked generation.”

The Psalmist declared them to be “a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God” (Psalm 78:8).

How many times did the Lord deliver Israel from their enemies and they turned around and rejected Him? What a generation!

Now Beloved, this is more than a history lesson. Compare Noah’s world with our present world. Compare the rebellious Israelites to this present generation. Take, take, take from the hand of God all His wonderful blessings and reject His will and His sovereignty. Doesn’t Proverbs 30:11-14 remind you of the present generation? “There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.”

Then there is the generation alive during the life of Jesus Christ. What did He have to contend with? Matthew 3:7, “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” Generation of vipers?

Matthew 12:39, “But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.” Could not our present generation be classified as “an evil and adulterous generation”?

Matthew 12:45, “Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.” A wicked generation indeed!

Matthew 17:17, “Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.”

It was this generation which crucified our Lord!

But not all generations have been dark. Though Christ was crucified by one generation, there arose another that was filled with gospel light—the generation of the Apostles.

I Peter 2:9, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”

Then after the falling away came 1,260 years of darkness—the Dark Ages.

The earth then experienced the generation of Martin Luther—the light shines again, “the just shall live by faith.” What a breakthrough! What an exciting generation.

ABOUT THE COVER

The valley scene on our cover comes from Tenerife, the largest of seven islands in the Canary Island chain. Its mystique conjures up the imagination in highlighting the message, “The Valley of Dry Bones,” in which the biblical account is explained.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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Vol. 76 July 2018 No. 7

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

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—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

Our telephone number is 301-739-2980

Our fax number is 301-739-7173

Our e-mail address is truth@fred.net

Visit our website at www.wayoftruth.org

That was followed by the generation of the Wesleys.

The message of holiness was being brought back to light. There was a stir in thousands of souls. The truth concerning the second work of grace was restored.

Then came the generation of D. S. Warner with the light on the unity of all believers. His message was in part, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Corinthians 6:17, 18). Reading the old pioneer books sets the devotional heart aglow. What a glorious time to be alive!

The ensuing generations, however, have been marred by schisms and divisions. The oneness Christ prayed for in John 17 has been pummeled into near extinction. That brings us to our generation. Will we defend the status quo, or will we bravely return to John 17:21, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me"?

As I showed earlier in this editorial, God will not destroy the righteous with the wicked. Though the wickedness of our present generation is great, we must be determined not to grieve God individually or as congregations of the Church of God. If we will be true to God, He will be true to us.

What kind of generation will history record on our behalf? It is still to be written.

God grant that our epitaph will be: "This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob" (Psalm 24:6). †

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.

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- ___ CD #916 How the COG Is Different—Brian Richards
- ___ CD #917 Ten Results of Becoming a Christian—G. E. Tyler
- ___ CD #918 The God of the Mountain—Rebecca Bland

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The Valley of Dry Bones

Message by Bro. Doug Shenberger

Delivered 10/15/17 at Hagerstown, MD



THIS IS A good place to be this evening. I thought the songs were especially beautiful tonight. The Lord blessed them. The Spirit of God has been here from the very beginning. I certainly thank the Lord for the beautiful service that we had this morning. It's not very often that we have Bro. Terry with us. We appreciated having him with us.

I'd like to draw your attention to the book of Ezekiel. We trust that the Lord will be able to inspire us with some of the truths that are being taught here. Ezekiel, chapter 37, starting with verse 1: "The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry."

A STRANGE VISION

We see here that the Lord gave Ezekiel a vision. He carried him out in the Spirit of the Lord and set him down in the midst of the valley that was full of bones. The scripture went on to say that there were very many. We don't know how big the valley was, but obviously, it was of a decent size, because there were a lot of bones there. We don't know how or why the bones were there, but the Bible says that there were very many in this open valley. And it says, "Lo, they were very dry." Also, "And caused me [Ezekiel] to pass by them round about." So he went around and beheld them. The Lord wanted Ezekiel to get a good view of the situation: "Go around and look at them. Behold the situation."

Have you ever seen any dry bones? It takes some time for bones to thoroughly dry. Dry bones are like the essence of death. They've been gone a long time. This is history we're looking at. They've been dead. This didn't just happen. They were completely dead! Just dry bones. It's over.

In verse 3 of Ezekiel 37, the Lord asked Ezekiel a question: "Son of man, can these bones live?" What a question! The Lord had just shown Ezekiel how dead those bones were. Ezekiel answered, "O Lord God, thou knowest." If we'll look at that answer, we'll see that it's an interesting answer, because Ezekiel could have just said what came to his mind: *No, these bones aren't going to live; they're dead.* That would be the obvious first impression. From a natural standpoint, *no, those bones are never going to live. They're dead, dried up.*

Ezekiel could have said *yes* because the hand of the Lord was upon him. He took him out in the spirit of the Lord, set him down in the midst of the valley, and He was showing him something for a purpose. Ezekiel could have expressed faith in God. He could have said, *Lord, You can do anything. Yes, if You want those bones to live, they can live;* but he wasn't that confident. Basi-

cally, Ezekiel said, "I don't know." He said to the Lord, "Thou knowest. That's beyond me. I don't have any confidence from a human perspective that those bones are ever going to live, but You know. I'm not going to say that it can be done."

God said unto Ezekiel, "Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord." So God told him to prophesy to those dry bones: "Ezekiel, go out there and preach to those bones and tell them that they're going to live." That's what God told him to do. Think about that! "Ezekiel, you tell those dry bones there's hope and life for them."

The Bible tells us that Ezekiel did what he was told. Ezekiel 37:7, "So I prophesied as I was commanded." Ezekiel did what he was told. He didn't know whether those bones could live or not, but God had told him to prophesy to those dry bones. So he went and prophesied as he was commanded. What does the Bible say? "There was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone." They weren't just random bones, but they "came together, bone to his bone." They fit together. "And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them." So it wasn't just the bringing of bones together. There was something more that happened. The bones were there. They were dry, but they were there, and they came together; but then there was a restoration of something that wasn't there. The flesh came back upon those bones. They were formed back into a human being. That which had been gone had returned to the dust, but now was restored to life.

The Lord said unto Ezekiel, "Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the *breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.*" So the question, "Can these bones live?" was answered. No more did Ezekiel have to say, *Thou knowest.* He could say, "Yes, they can live. I can see the majesty of God. I can see God's ability to restore something that was totally dead and make it live." The Bible tells us that God is the Giver of life.

We see what the Lord did with His prophet here. The Lord inspired Ezekiel. Through this amazing vision, He inspired him. At the beginning, he said to the Lord, "Thou knowest," but at the end, he believed it. Ezekiel

believed it in a way that he hadn't believed before. He was inspired that the Lord was not only able to do miraculous things, but that He would, and that He was going to. Those bones could live. What an inspiring vision the Lord gave Ezekiel! He wanted to change Ezekiel's outlook. He wanted him to see a situation that looked hopeless. It looked like there was no way that those bones could live, and the Lord wanted to inspire Ezekiel to believe by seeing that something, as hopeless as a bunch of dry bones, could be restored to life and breath, and stand on their feet.

THE DRY BONES REPRESENTED ISRAEL

In verses 11-14 of Ezekiel 37, the Lord said unto him, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord." The Lord inspired Ezekiel with a message, with a belief in the possibility that those dry bones, which looked hopeless, could live, and that the people of Israel who were in sin and death could also live. "You're dead in sin. You have no hope, but I am God."

After Ezekiel had seen that vision, he was in a place to go and prophesy to the children of Israel with confidence, with assurance, with a belief in the power of God. It isn't that Ezekiel didn't believe in God. He was God's prophet, but he needed more confidence. He needed more belief in God's power. Ezekiel needed to really believe that when he preached, something would happen. He needed the kind of belief that when God said to "preach a message to a bunch of dry bones" that he would just go out and prophesy, because the Lord might decide to bring those bones to life. The Lord inspired him to go and preach the message of salvation to a bunch of people who were dead. Their bones were dried. They seemed hopeless. They had been disobedient to God's ways. "Go and tell them there is hope. Preach the message of salvation. Preach the message of new life in Christ. Preach that a soul that is dead can be made alive."

DRY BONES AROUND US TODAY

As we look at the people around us today—our loved ones, our friends, our associates, our neighbors—what do we see? We see a lot of dry bones, don't we? We see a lot of dead people. We see that some have been dead for a very long time, and they're dry. There's no spiritual life; there's no interest in spiritual things; there's no desire for spiritual things; there's no thirst. They are just dry bones; dead.

If the Lord asks you, as you behold them, "Can these bones live?" what would you say? Would you say no? I don't think we would say no. We have enough faith in the Lord that we wouldn't say no. We would believe that while there's life, there's hope. We might think

about saying, *Thou knowest*, because it has been a long time. It doesn't seem very hopeful. They're very dead. Maybe they've said, "no," a lot of times to spiritual things. We don't know who will hear the message, and it's easy for us to get to the place where we don't really believe that those dry bones are going to live. We know there's not much hope for them, and that's the reality, to some degree, for a lot of people. There might not be much hope for them. There's not much hope for any of us, in some way. The Bible tells us, "Few there be that find it." But, the reality is that if the Lord asks us that question, "Can these bones live?" the answer is, "Yes, these bones can live." It's possible! It can be done. The Lord can save them. He wants to save them. He wants to use us to help save them. We need our faith inspired to believe that people are not too dead for the Lord to reach them.

OUR VISION AFFECTS OUR INTERACTION

There are a couple of reasons why we need to believe that they're not too dead for the Lord to reach them. To mention a few: *it affects how we interact with people*. If we believe because of past experience that these bones are so dead and dry that there's not much opportunity or chance for those bones to live, it's going to affect how we interact with them. We're going to portray hopelessness without even thinking about it. We're not going to believe that they might live and that we can help them live. We'd be less likely to invite them to come to our services. We'd be less likely to testify of the good things of God. It makes a difference in how we witness. If we believe that the world is all lost and hopeless, that they're dead and dry, then let's just be close amongst ourselves. Let's just try to help one another. "They're all dead. They're all dry bones." We have to believe that there's a point in prophesying, in preaching, and witnessing. It affects the example that we set. If we look at people as possible, if we look at those dry bones as something about to come to life, it affects the example that we endeavor to show to others, and how we endeavor to be an influence upon them.

We need to be able to really see the Lord as He is. I believe that is what He was doing with Ezekiel when He put him in that place and in that situation. He was helping Ezekiel to get a realistic view of the situation. It was a reality. They were dry bones. They were dead in sin. It did look hopeless, but the Lord was helping to inspire Ezekiel's belief and his faith in Him that He could bring those bones back together and give them life. Since the Lord could do that, then Ezekiel needed to go and prophesy to the lost children of Israel with his whole heart, with faith, with belief, with hope and expectation. We need to see the Lord as able. We need to not look at the dry bones and think that there's no hope. We need to see and look at the Lord's capability. The Spirit of the Lord can deal with the human heart in ways that we can't. He can do things that are beyond us. It's supernatural.

Do you know that salvation is a miracle? It's a miracle for anyone. The Lord's not just able, but He's willing. He wants to save people. He doesn't just want to do it, but He's actively working with people's hearts. He's actively working in people's lives to bring them to the place where they'll consider their souls. We can't

see that a lot of times. We don't know all the Lord is doing, but a lot of times He's working to bring people into a place where they can be touched. We need to be ready to touch them, because we truly believe that we look upon the world as a field white, ready to harvest. I'm talking to myself as much as anyone else, but we need to see it this way. We need to see the possible and truly believe in it, if we're going to be the proper tool for the Lord to use to reach others.

PEOPLE TODAY ARE HOPELESS

If a person here tonight is dead in sin, then the reality is that there's a hopelessness to that condition. There's a hopelessness to being in sin. You're very, very dead spiritually. Your soul is cut off from the very Source of life. You don't have any way to fix that. You can't make it right through your own works, your own strength, or your own effort to do better. The habits and the life that you're living may have gone on for a long time, and it just seems very hopeless. In the overall sense, being in sin is a hopeless condition. There doesn't seem to be any hope of making heaven your home. There's no hope of pleasing the Lord. There's no hope of having peace with Him. We're all going to face the Lord in judgment. If you're dead spiritually, then it's a hopeless feeling.

We need to have a testimony. A person who is dead spiritually needs to get a vision of what the Lord can do. That's why testimonies are so powerful and important. Whenever we testify of what the Lord has done for us, it takes it out of the realm of the theoretical. It takes it out of the realm of the instruction, and it makes it personal. "The Lord has done this for me. I was that, now I'm this. I've experienced the difference." The power of testimony is the power to help show someone who is hopeless, who is dead and dry spiritually that there is hope, that the Lord specializes in new beginnings, and that He specializes in life. Jesus came "that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." He didn't come to do a halfway work. We need to be able to inspire people with the possibilities of what the Lord can do. The reality of the miracle of salvation is a testimony to be shown, a light to be set on a hill. It needs to shed its light forth into the darkness, into the hopeless that some might see. It is the Lord's glory and plan and privilege to restore dead souls to life, to take away the guilt and the burden of sin, to clean, to make new, that their hopelessness of death may be replaced by life.

WE MUST PROPHECY TO DRY BONES TODAY

Those dry bones had no feeling. Whenever they came back to life, they could feel again. A soul that is brought back to life can feel the presence of the Lord. That soul can open up and rejoice in the presence of the Lord. Faith in the Lord has been greatly destroyed in this day and age. It's at a very low level. Most people don't even believe. Even most of the religious world don't believe that souls can be made alive. They don't believe that these bones could be brought back to life. They don't really believe in the Word of God. They believe in humanity. They believe in what humans can do. They believe that "my good works, my trying to do better" is spirituality. We need to believe in the Lord. "The hand

of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry." That is true of the world around us.

There is so much rejection and so many dead souls in the world today that it's easy to start believing that they can't live, but they can. They can live! "And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest." Yes, they can live. The Lord told Ezekiel, "I'll show you. You prophesy to those bones. I'll show you what can happen."

We need to allow the Lord to use us. We need to pray for Him to use us. We need, as a church, to allow the Lord to use us to witness to the dry bones that they can live. We need to look at them with faith and hope. We need to see the future. We need to see them in reality that the Lord can put them on their feet. He can breathe on them the breath of life that they can have something better. As long as we are alive on this earth, it's a time of opportunity. It's a time of hope and a time of possibility. May the Lord inspire us as He did Ezekiel.

CONCLUSION

Again, in Ezekiel 37:14, we read, "And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it." It's the Lord's work. We can't save a soul. We can't bring those dry bones back to life. That's the Lord's work, but we can help Him. We can allow Him to use us to be the ones to bring the light, to have the influence, to give the testimony that makes the difference in the world around us. It's not too late; it's not hopeless. "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2).

The Lord wants to bring back the vast army of dry bones to life. He is seeking those who are lost and in need. If there's anyone who has a need here tonight, we encourage you to seek the Lord to have that need met. †

REMINDER TO OUR READERS

We DO NOT publish, produce nor send out the following:

- The Holy Bible (Old and New Testaments)
 - Bible concordances, dictionaries, atlases, commentaries, pictures, calendars etc., nor offer correspondence courses
 - Hymnals nor other religious songs
 - Names of persons for pen pal correspondence
 - Cassettes or CD's unless paid for in advance in US currency
 - Videos, cassette tape and video recorders
 - Scholarships for the training of students in the U.S. or any other country
 - Financial support for individuals
 - Tracts to foreign countries due to high postage rates
- We want to hear from you but keep this in mind.*



Dear Young People,

Another month has passed. I trust you are holding on to your precious faith. If your faith is being tested and you feel the very ground you're walking on is being shaken, remember that the Lord told us to "Be still, and know that I am God." He has reassured

us in Isaiah 43:1-3, "Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Savior." When peace eludes you, when the pain seems overwhelming, when joy is hard to find, hold on! Wait and see what the Lord will do for you. He will bring you out again. And your love for Him will grow.

Remember: He knows what is in the darkness. Trust Him.

This month we have a testimony taken from E. E. Byrum's *Riches of Grace*. I hope it will be an encouragement to you.

With love,
Sis. Crystal Gossard

The Joy and Blessings of a Christian Life

THE PATHWAY of life has its shadows and sunshine, its pleasures and sorrows; and in the Christian life, I am convinced, many people live in the shadow more than in the sunshine, when they could very well have it otherwise.

When I was about thirteen years of age, I yielded myself to the Lord and made a decision to spend my life in His service. Since that time, like Christian in Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, I have met with many and varied experiences. But one beautiful encouraging thought has been that, no matter how hard my trials, how near my strength was gone, nor how little my courage lacked of failing, just at that time, when I was the most helpless, God was always present to help, either by His Spirit or by sending one of His servants to encourage and strengthen me.

I have, indeed, found the Christian life to be a warfare. Every individual who enlists in the service of the Lord will have the forces of evil to battle against, but God has made provision whereby every child of God can be an overcomer in every conflict. The one who has a firm decision to be true at any cost will receive such power and help that Satan cannot prevent him from serving the Lord. The enemy may try to hinder by causing trials, difficulties, and perplexities, and at times the way may seem dark, with no apparent hope of day; but our God, who is mighty, will turn all these seeming hindrances into real blessings and make them stepping-stones to glory.

In my youthful days I felt a deep desire to work for God and longed to fill some place in life where I could feel that I not only was living a life of salvation, but was really engaged in my Master's service. As I knelt in earnest prayer and consecrated myself fully to the Lord for Him to direct me as seemed best, a dark sorrow filled my heart; for Satan whispered, "You are too young. You cannot stand against the powers of evil that all young people must meet. Your covenant with the Lord is too great for you to keep." But with tears I cried unto the Lord to know if these suggestions were true. At that moment, the Lord gave me the assurance that if I decided to serve Him, He would teach me how to do so. He would give me grace in every time of need.

Some time after this I became very ill and knew unless God came to my aid I should soon have to leave this world. As I thought of my condition, a joy filled my soul that I might soon be with the Lord. With this joy came also a sadness, as I realized that I had done nothing in the vineyard of the Lord. It seemed that I could not bear to go empty-handed. I prayed God to spare my life that I might work for Him. He graciously and instantly touched my body with His healing power, and in a few days I was able to attend school. Once I was about to make a decision and take a step that would have hindered me from filling the place the Lord designed I should fill. At that moment the Lord made known to me by His Holy Spirit in such a way that I could not question His leadings that He had called me to His service, and also made known to me the place that I was chosen to fill. Immediately I was reminded of my covenant with the Lord, although I had to stand against the pleadings and earnest entreaties of some of my very dear friends.

Before this I had decided not to leave my mother, but to work near my home so that I could readily respond in case of sickness. After considerable meditation about the matter of leaving my father and mother, brothers and sisters, in order to take up my work for the Lord, the matter became very serious. Finally I went to the Lord one morning in earnest prayer. I shall never forget that season of prayer, when I seemed to be in the direct presence of the Lord. My consecration was put to a test as one question after another was presented, as to whether or not I should be willing to die, to really give my life, if God so designed, that my unsaved loved ones might be saved, or to do the same for lost souls who were not dear to me according to the ties of nature. And again, should I be willing to give my life for lost sinners and have them scoff and spurn me? These were hard questions, but my heart said, "Lord, Thy will be done. Where thou leadest I will follow." I was solemnly impressed with the thought: Jesus came to save a lost world, but they crucified Him; instead of accepting His love, they rejected it.

Within a short time I had the matter settled beyond a doubt that the time had come for me to enter upon the mission whereunto the Lord had called me. The way began to open before me, and as I bid loved ones farewell, a sweet assurance filled my soul that my decision and action was in accordance with His will. It gave me much sorrow to leave home, but God so blessed and directed me that I have never been sorry that I obeyed

His voice. Over and over I have proved that God's way is best. His way may cause pain and sorrow at times, which we may not be able to understand, but in the end we can know of a truth that God has caused all things to work together for our good and for His glory.

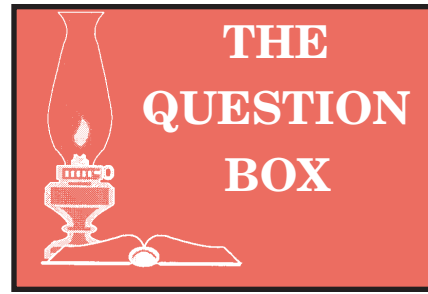
At one time I was very much tested, and discouragements presented themselves. I was trying hard to be an overcomer and to cast every burden upon the Lord. The enemy would suggest that it was of no use for me to try to stand against the things that were oppressing me and that it would be better to surrender, and even give place to discouragements, and that even though I should come out a conqueror later, no one would ever know anything about it. At first this suggestion seemed plausible, but upon further consideration I said: "No, I will not surrender. If no one else ever knows, I will know, God will know, and the devil will know, that I stood true and came out victorious." This experience has since that time often been a real encouragement to me.

At another time I had for weeks been passing through real testing times. Occasionally the trials would lift and God would bless my soul, but again the darkness of depressions would settle over me. I began to weary and to long for deliverance. The suggestion came that it would be better for me to cease serving God and never to try again. Over and over something whispered that there was no use to continue; that if others who were older and better qualified fell by the wayside and could not stand, there was positively no use in my trying. Finally the enemy insisted that there was nothing else for me to do than to give up, and that, after all, I was in a deplorable spiritual condition; that there was no hope for me. At this point I discerned that it was the enemy, and, kneeling before God, I promised Him that if He could get more glory out of my life by my being in such a trial all the rest of my days, I was willing to submit to the trial. When I came to this decision my trial vanished suddenly, and God poured the glory into my soul and the victory was far sweeter than the trial had been bitter.

Sometimes I have had trials in which I could see no good nor from which I could not perceive how any good could possibly result; but later I would be enabled to know that those very trials were worth more to me than any treasure this earth could afford.

As I look upon my past life and see how mercifully God has dealt with me, how He has guided and protected, and how He has shielded me from the power of the tempter, my heart cries out, "What a mighty God! What a great and loving Father!" Counting my blessings, I find they so far outnumber my trials that it brings me real courage to press on, knowing, as I do, that grace will be given me to meet whatever may yet lie in my pathway. For "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13). †

Write me this month!



Editor's Note: These questions and answers in this issue are taken from *The Way of Truth Question and Answer Book, 1946-2001*.



QUESTION: What is meant by "new wine in old bottles"?

ANSWER: The bottles were animal skins. When they were new, they would expand with the wines as it "worked." Old skins were dry and would burst if new wine were put in them. This was used to convey a spiritual truth. Christ will not enter the heart of one who is determined to remain a sinner. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." I might also add, Christ is not working in or through the old, dry, dead religions of our day. Christianity is alive, powerful, and it will do something for you! It will save you and keep you from sin.

QUESTION: What is meant by, "If thy hand or foot offend thee, cut it off"?

ANSWER: In this, Christ is teaching how very important it is that we allow nothing to stand in our way of making heaven our home. A person would be better off blind and go to heaven than to have eyes, if his being able to see would cause him to sin. A person would be better off without feet and go to heaven than to have feet if they would lead him away from the pathway of righteousness and truth. The lust of the eyes and the pride of life have damned many souls in hell.

Jesus was not teaching that one should literally cut off his hand or foot.

QUESTION: Who is the elder of the church? I thought it was the preacher.

ANSWER: The Reformation ministry and others used the term "elder" for ministers and a minister is an elder, but all elders are not ministers. The dictionary says for *elder*, "older; senior; prior in rank; an older person; one of the older and more influential men of a tribe or community; any of various important officers in certain churches."

James 5:14-16 says, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." So we see by those verses that it does not mean

that only a minister can be called to pray for the sick. One who is older in the faith, who is deep spiritually, who has much faith can be called.

QUESTION: Why is it that the early Christians were more filled with the Holy Spirit than the Christians today?

ANSWER: The church of the early morning time was a powerful church, but I don't know that we can make such a blanket statement. Doubtless, it is true of many, but not every Christian in the early morning period was a Paul or a Peter. For example, read of the problems the congregation in Corinth had. On the other hand, not everyone is a Christian today who says they are. I believe, in all ages, we will have to say there have been some who were more dedicated than others and thus were more useful in the hands of God. God's standard of full surrender is still in force today.

QUESTION: If God is a righteous and loving Being, why then is there so much wickedness, suffering, and sorrow?

ANSWER: Because there is an evil spirit in the world called the devil who is the very opposite of God, and he has been successful in getting millions upon millions of people to disobey the laws of this righteous God. You see, we have the responsibility of choosing whom we will serve, God or Satan. The results of disobedience to God is the wickedness, suffering, and sorrow that you speak of.

QUESTION: What does "Abba, Father" mean?

ANSWER: Adam Clarke says: "This Syriac word, which intimates filial affection and respect and parental tenderness, used by our blessed Lord, ... shows his complete submission to his Father's will, and the tender affection which he was conscious his Father had for him."

It is safe to assume that "the sons of God" referred to in Galatians 4:4-6 felt this same love and tenderness—from the Father to them and from their hearts to Him—thus the expression, "Abba, Father."

QUESTION: Acts 9:7 says, "And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man." But, Acts 22:9 says, "And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me." Which is the correct one?

ANSWER: Both are right. It is simply a matter of understanding how the word *hear* is used. We use the word *hear* in different ways. If someone spoke to you and you did not understand what he said, you might say, "I didn't hear you," but you did "hear"; you did not UNDERSTAND what you heard. These men "heard" but they did not understand. Saul was the only one that understood what the Lord was saying to him.

QUESTION: Who is Alpha and Omega?

ANSWER: Jesus Christ said He was—see Revelation 1:11. "Alpha" is the first letter of the Greek alpha-
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bet; "Omega" is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. So, we should understand from this expression that Christ had no beginning, and shall have no ending. He is from eternity to eternity. Or He has always been and always will be.

QUESTION: Could you possibly tell me what is the main purpose of all men coming to earth?

ANSWER: God created this world and put man upon it for His glory. To understand what all is to His glory would entail a lot. Briefly stated: to have fellowship with God; to prove to Satan that people would of their own choice serve God and do right; to increase the family of God; to have subjects that would worship Him; that would take His creation and "subdue" it. There are many other reasons. †

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

SIN, MAN'S GREATEST ENEMY THE SIN OF DISOBEDIENCE

Scriptures: Genesis 19:15-26.

Genesis 19:15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

18 And Lot said unto them, Oh not so, my Lord:

19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

20 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

24 Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven;

25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Memory Verse: But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.—Genesis 19:26.

Aim: To show the results of disobedience to God's commands.

INTRODUCTION

THE LOVE of the world with its gossip, pride, and lust has appealed to many eternity-bound souls; and often, when awakened to their lost condition, some people will be found turning for a time to the charming voice of the Master, but so soon again they are enticed by the love of the lust of the flesh, which is gratified by the things the world has to offer. Lot's wife, though headed in the right direction for a time, sought to gratify her flesh by one more look at the moral filth and depravity that she was escaping, and it proved to be fatal. We have only one soul to save; therefore, we cannot be too diligent in our effort to keep ourselves clean from the world. Remember Lot's wife. Our time requires more diligence than in times past, since the world has so many more attractions to offer. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world."

MEDITATIONS

WAGES OF SIN—DEATH—Genesis 19:15—Consumed in the iniquity—The sin of this city had become so great that God could see no good in letting Sodom continue; therefore, He must destroy it. However, before He destroyed it, He sought to provide escape for all who would take it.

URGENCY REQUIRED—Genesis 19:16—Brought him forth—There did not seem to be great conviction here that God was going to do as He said. But the prayers of Abraham followed his nephew, Lot, into the wicked city, and God honored his prayers by expelling Lot from the doomed place.

DIVINE DIRECTION ALWAYS BEST—Genesis 19:17—Escape for thy life—It is always wise to escape as far as possible from the awful leprosy of sin. He who lingers close will soon be found caught in its snare.

LOT REMONSTRATES—Genesis 19:18—Not so—It was Lot's own decision and choice that got him into the trouble that he was now in. Even so, he again sought to dictate the course he should take. God does sometimes listen to our plea, but always God's way is the best way, and we should learn early to satisfy ourselves with His way.

FAITH WEAK—Genesis 19:19—Some evil take me—It was only by divine providence that he was escaping with his life, and it seems that since God had gone so far as to send an angel to deliver him from the impending danger, that he would have been inspired to trust the providence of God for protection in the mountains.

SEEKING HUMAN PROTECTION—Genesis 19:20—It is a little one—We generally think of the great demonstrations of wickedness being in places of great population; so in this little city there would be less wickedness, and it could be preserved. Here he would have the advantage of the protection afforded by a settlement.

REQUEST GRANTED—Genesis 19:21—I have accepted—God listens to the prayers of His people, and whenever He can without inflicting harm, He grants the desires.

DIVINE JUDGMENT—Genesis 19:24—Fire from the Lord—This was a terrible visitation of divine wrath. No person or thing was spared. Those who declare that God is only a God of love and not a God of wrath will do well to ponder this act of divine visitation.

THE POWER OF GOD—Genesis 19:25—He overthrew—Who is it who can stand when the wrath of God is aroused? At His command are all the forces of nature and the limitless powers of heaven. Only he who has the holiness of God shall escape the great wrath of God in the last day. There was nothing left of the city but barren waste.

THE REWARD OF DISOBEDIENCE—Genesis 19:26—Looked back—Here is demonstrated the power of sin. The visitation of angels to the household of Lot, it seems, would have created awe in the hearts of all and a deep desire to obey every command. But sin overruled and Lot's wife looked back. Anyone who questions this miracle knows little of the power of God. He, being the Creator of all things, can do whatever His judgment tells Him to, and we need not be surprised at anything. If we would escape His wrath and enjoy His favor, we must be found obedient to His will.

CONCLUSION

Life is dear to all, and everyone seeks to live well. In this lesson we see the manifestation of the wrath of God and its effect upon life. It is of the greatest importance that we stress the fact that the most serious loss to this disobedient woman, Lot's wife, was not being cut off from this earth, but the eternal separation from God. Just as sin can eternally separate us from the life that is in Christ Jesus, so can righteousness unite us with Him eternally. Therefore, let us draw nigh unto God! Let us make real, in our hearts, the first and great commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart."

Before we close the comments on this lesson, we would like to point out that salvation is conditional, that is, there are certain conditions to be met if we are to be forgiven of our sins. In like manner, there are conditions for us to meet to keep saved. Do not be deceived by the false doctrine of "once saved, always saved." The sin of known disobedience will bring death, just as it brought death to Adam and Eve. The prophet Isaiah tells us: "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isaiah 1:19, 20).

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Name some of the things in the world that capture the affections of men.
2. Why do men return to the things of the world when once delivered?
3. What are the wages of sin?
4. Why did Lot desire to name his place of refuge?
5. What effect does sin have on life?
6. How does God look upon sin?
7. Why did Lot's wife look back?
8. What was her sin? †

POETRY PAGE



THIS LAND

Becky Jennings

I love this land, my country,
Proud of the heritage we share.
The north, south, east and west ...
There is beauty everywhere.

I love its rushing rivers
That journey to the sea;
Its fields in shades of green and gold
In perfect symmetry.

I love its rugged mountains
That wear a snowy crown;
Its lush and fertile valleys,
Each city, hamlet, town.

I love its mighty forests
Whose quiet splendor stand
Reflected in the crystal lakes
That dot this lovely land.

I love this land, my country,
Where impossible dreams come true ...
And the symbol of our liberty
Is a flag, red, white and blue.

THE PEOPLE'S PRAYER

Amos R. Wells

God bless our dear United States,
Preserve the land from evil fates,
Lift high her banner fair and free,
And guard her bounds from sea to sea.

From foe without and foe within,
From open shame and hidden sin,
From boastful pride and greedy store,
God keep our nation evermore.

Forever may her friendly hands
Receive the poor of other lands
In kindness of sisterhood,
And fill their arms with ample good.

Assailed by battle hosts of wrong,
God help our country to be strong.
Assailed by falsehood's crafty crew,
God help our country to be true.

God hold the nation's aim sincere,
God save her heart from coward fear.
God prosper her in true success,
And crown her head with worthiness.

God bless our dear United States,
Preserve the land from evil fates,
Lift high her banner fair and free,
And ever guard her liberty.

AMERICA

Anonymous

Be thankful for America ...
For all the beauties of the land,
For every state where freedom rings,
The blessings found on every hand.

Be thankful for America ...
The flag that waves so proudly, too,
The country that means so much to us,
Protecting us in all we do.

Be thankful for America ...
In humbleness we pray,
Please God, watch over our dear land
And keep it safe from day to day.

THE PRIDE OF OUR COUNTRY

Roger Robicheau

Today as before, our brave do fight
For a land they love, a flag so right.

The pride of our country, yes, they are
The strength of our nation, best by far.

Just as our brace from each war gone by,
They march for us proudly, flag held high.

From all over this land they come to serve,
They're taught by the best, this they deserve.

When troops give their all, the world does see
Whether serving on land, in the air, or at sea.

The pride from this country, march through war
With home drawn strength, held deep in their core.

Our best are so awesome, their loved ones well know,
May God guide their journey where they—for us—go.

What these brave must have is support from their own,
The love from their people, firm thankfulness shown.

Our greatest achievement is that we're still free,
Please take time and ponder who caused this to be. †

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

THE KINGDOM OF GOD, NO

2017 Cayman Convention M

I AM THANKFUL to be here. I appreciate that introduction by Bro. Duane. The last time we had the opportunity to labor together, the roles were reversed. I was moderator and he was the speaker, but we all want to do our part. I want to do my part. I want to live for God, and I'm thankful for the Christian way. It is the best way that I've ever known. If I didn't truly believe that with all of my heart, how could I ask you to embrace such a thing? But, I'm a witness of what the gospel did for me in my life, and I'm thankful I'm not alone this evening. There are many witnesses here of a transformed life through Christ. We are blessed.

I think if I didn't start by taking an opportunity to express my appreciation for the way that the Caymanian saints have taken care of my family and myself, I would be remiss, because you've provided us a home away from home. You've provided everything that we needed to be more than comfortable. I trust one day that we will be able to return that favor to you.

I appreciate your pastor, Bro. James. I appreciate him very much. He's a man, I believe, who stands for the Word of God and the truth. He's a man who is easy to love, as are all the saints in general.

Well, I said that I am an ambassador of the gospel. I believe that with all my heart. I love God. I hadn't planned on this, but I just feel that I want to start in expressing what God has done for me. He's done so much for me. I was lost. Every Christian was lost. I was lost but Jesus found me. He found the sheep that went astray, but I didn't just stray a little. Now, lost is lost, so don't get me wrong. I was in the dregs of sin. I was down low, about as low as a person could go. I'm not exaggerating when I tell you that I contemplated taking my own life. I really did, but because I understood what the consequences of that action would bring to me, I was a coward. That's the truth. I didn't want to face God with that behind me, but He was faithful to me. He dealt with me. He forgave and saved me. I told Him that if He would forgive me, I would do whatever He would ask of me to do. Likely, that is why I'm standing before you this evening, because I owe Him so much. I just want to say, thank You, God, for what You've done.

Romans 1:16 says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." It's power through salvation from God that transforms a life. That's what He's done for every Christian who is here tonight. We have been changed from what we once were. Our hearts have been cleansed by the blood. Our spirit has been renewed in us. That carnal nature has been taken out and that holy nature put in. We're blessed, aren't we, Saints? To have a relationship with God Almighty, aren't we blessed? Listen to me: There are many people in this world who are calling themselves "Christians," calling upon the name of God, but they don't have that real

relationship with God. I believe that. I think their actions back up my words. We see that in the world today. I'm just thankful for the power of God. I'm thankful for the power of God in our lives.

WE NEED THE POWER OF GOD

This brings me to our Scripture text. It's a very familiar one that I'd like to start with: "For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power" (I Corinthians 4:20). It's not in word, but in power. The work of the kingdom must be accomplished through divine power. The work of God in your life must be accomplished by divine power. There are things that human beings cannot do for themselves. That's just the way it is. In the physical and in the material, there are things we cannot do for ourselves. We have to call upon God to help us. Some things are too heavy. We can't lift them up. Some things we cannot manage by ourselves. We have to call for help. Why would we think it unusual that we need to call upon God for spiritual help when we have spiritual needs? Those needs are supplied through His power, through His strength, and what He does for mankind.

This salvation work that I'm going to be talking about is not something that can just be done through mere persuasion or words. What I'm talking about is not something that you can get in a self-help group. No, it's not something that you can get in a self-help group. You can determine that you want to do some things better with your life (changes that you want to make), but if there are spiritual changes to be made in regard to your status with God, you can't do that by yourself.

What I'm talking about tonight, you can't get in therapy. You can't go to the doctor and get a prescription for what I'm talking about. You can't get it. There's no remedy in the medical world for what I'm talking about. There is a remedy! Don't get me wrong. We'll come to that later by the grace of God. You can't get it through counseling. It's not something we can do of our own strength and power. We need divine help. We need God's help; we need God's salvation. We need to be washed in the blood of Christ. We need our sins forgiven. That is something we can't do for ourselves.

As I said earlier, there are many people in this world who are calling themselves "Christians," calling upon the name of God, but their actions are not really backing up what they're professing. They are professing in word, but not in the power of the gospel. I think I understand why the unsaved here tonight may be disillusioned or disenchanted with Christianity in general. This is on every hand. People are professing, but their actions are not really backing up what they're professing. I understand why the unsaved are confused, disenfranchised, and have no interest in the things of God, if they're basing their understanding on nominal Christianity.

NOT IN WORD, BUT IN POWER

Message by Bro. Mick Akers



We see nominal Christianity displayed all the time. Let me explain what I mean: We see groups of people who say that they have the power of God in their services. "We speak in tongues." We have them at home. I'm not talking about it happening here. I'm talking about what I've seen at home. They profess that they have the power of God in their services, but as soon as their services are finished, they make a B line outside to smoke a cigarette. Did you hear me? They say that they have the power of God, but they have to have those cigarettes. I don't know if you know what "snuff tobacco" is. They open up a tin and pinch out some and chew on it. I don't know if you have snuff tobacco here or not, but they have it in the United States. Many professing Christians are smoking cigarettes and chewing tobacco.

The same music that these professing Christians are listening to on Saturday nights at the dance hall, they'll change the words on Sunday morning and play them in their services. This is not right, Brethren. It's not real. It's a form of godliness, but it is not godliness. That's what I'm talking about. I'm talking about people who are professing to be Christians, professing to know Christ, and professing to have partaken of the power of Christ and His kingdom, but their actions are not backing up true Christianity. They are still at enmity with their fellow man; they are still using ungodly words; they are still dressing in an ungodly manner; they are still partaking in ungodly actions. They are looking at things they shouldn't be looking at. The men are looking at the women in a way that they shouldn't be looking, and the women are looking at the men in a way that they shouldn't be looking. That's what I'm talking about. It's real! Is it happening here in Cayman? It's happening in the United States. Many famous preachers in the United States have worldly fame. They have infamy in heaven, but have worldly fame. They have fallen because there was no power in what they professed.

PERILOUS TIMES SHALL COME

This brings me to one of the verses of the theme of our convention. In II Timothy 3, Paul warned Timothy about this. This is not new. This has been happening down through the ages. This is how the devil has worked to fight against the Church of God, against the truth of the gospel. He has worked to confuse people. He has worked to get them to accept a false idea. That's what he's done. Anything that the devil can do to get them away from the truth of the Word of God, he has endeavored to do. He's done that by creating systems of religion that are not based on the Word of God. They'll use the Word of God, but they're not accurately based on the Word of God. Paul warned Timothy, saying, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."

Verses 2-5: "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." Let me stop right there. I read off all those descriptions of people, and you say, "Yes, I see those in the world." Paul is not talking about the world of sinners. He's talking about people who were professing to know God. They loved pleasures more than they loved God. How can that be so? It shouldn't be that way. They have a form of godliness, but what did they do? They denied the power. All they wanted was to claim it in word. They wanted everyone to think everything was well with them. They wanted to be well-accepted and well-thought of, but they didn't want the power. They didn't want what the power would do in their lives. They didn't want the change that came with the power of Christ and what it does to the human heart.

I'll continue with II Timothy 3:6, 7: "For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with *divers lusts*." What does that really mean? I thought about relationships between men and women. In some cases, you see instances of a woman (and this could go the other way; don't get me wrong), who sees what a man has to offer, and the man recognizes that the woman is interested, and so he whispers words that she wants to hear. He doesn't have any good intentions at all, but he's content to tell her what she wants to hear to get what he wants. I don't think she's foolish, but she's content to be lied to, to get what she wants. Paul was comparing that to nominal Christianity today. Preachers are happy to preach false doctrine, because it lines their pockets, and they get well-thought of in the community. That's what happens. "I like to be called Reverend, Doctor, Bishop" and the people want to hear what they want to hear. They are still happy to be in false religion, because they still want their pleasures. One is happy to tell a lie, and the other one is happy to hear a lie, because they both are getting what they want. That's what Paul is comparing it to. "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

RESISTING THE TRUTH

II Timothy 3:8, 9: "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." If you try to tell these people how they should live, they stand against you. "What I have is good enough." You can preach the gospel to them, but they love their pleasures so much that they will not turn to God. "But they shall proceed no further." There are things going on in nominal Christianity today that show that they have

some power. They do have some power, but we don't have to be a partaker of such. Don't let anyone lay their hands on you. That power is nothing like the power of God, because the power of God on the human heart transforms it. You don't want those pleasures. You'll want a relationship with God. You'll want what God wants in your life. The power of the gospel transforms. "For their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was." Yes, it is made manifest. When a true child of God is living a Christian life, it is a shining light. When it's compared with those forms of religion, the truth is made manifest for the world to see. They'll recognize your right attitude, your pure heart, your pure intention. They'll see it!

WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER

No tenant is true, no principles are sound, no motives are pure, no conduct is correct, no hope is well-founded, no precepts are binding, no ordinances or rights or ceremonies becoming, and no worship is acceptable, except such are found in harmony with the Word of God. I believe that. The way we live must be in line with the Word of God. So I do understand the skepticism of the unsaved here, but what we're offering you has nothing to do with nominal Christianity. It is as far as the east is from the west; it is as far as light is from darkness. There's no comparison to what we're offering tonight. We're offering a Christian experience that has power in it. God gives power to live a holy life, thank God!

The power of God transforms a human condition. Bro. Shaw touched in his message today on the devil-possessed man that lived in the tombs. I'm going to touch on it as well. When Jesus crossed into the country of the Gadarenes, there came out a man from amongst the tombs. He came and fell at Jesus' feet and worshiped him. Let's turn to Mark 5:1-8: "And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit." The devil did come out him. I want to skip down to verses 14 and 15: "And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid."

People could only do so much for that man in Mark 5. They tried to tame him. They tried to bind him with strong cords to keep him from hurting himself. That didn't work. They tried fetters and chains, binding him

to keep him from hurting himself. Maybe they tried to put some clothes on him. Can't you see the condition of this man in your mind's eye? Wild in his eyes and in his conduct. Have you ever seen someone like that? Sometimes we see them at home when they're affected by drugs. Wild and crazy. People were trying to help this man, so they did have a concern for him. Those chains really only represented the best that they could do.

There was a greater need present. It required a greater power. I tell you, the devil had no power when Christ spoke the word. He had no power whatsoever! That was the power of a transformation we're talking about—the power of the gospel—the power of Christ on mankind. What an opportunity that man had after his deliverance! What a life after he was freed from the chains, from the yoke of the devil! What a change that was wrought in his life! They were able to dress him. He was cleaned up and in his right mind. He was talking with Jesus. He loved Jesus at that point, didn't he? You know, he went from a captive to a messenger, because he wanted to go with Jesus. Jesus said to him, "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee." We go from a captive to a messenger when we get saved. Our life is a message. You might not be a deaconess or a deacon, but you're a messenger. Everyone of us are epistles and ambassadors. Every Christian is a light in this dark world.

WHAT THE POWER OF GOD CAN DO

The power of the gospel is an amazing thing. What can it do for mankind? "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). Are you a new creature? Ask yourself. You might have a profession. You may have gone to the altar and gotten up the same person. You might still spread gossip. You might have the same ability to talk bad about your neighbor, to run him down. You're just as good as you were before you went to the altar. That's not what we're talking about tonight. We're talking about a real experience, for those things don't happen any more. We're talking about a change of heart, where a heart of stone is taken out and a heart of flesh is put in its place. There's a change in your life that's easily recognizable, just as easy as it was in that dear man's life who was possessed of the devil. That's the change I'm talking about. It's just as real. It takes the same power of God to do that. You can have it. I have it. All Christians have it. We want you to have it if you don't.

The power of God on the human life, when exemplified, cannot be denied. I think about Peter and John when they were going up to the temple. It was about the ninth hour when they were going to pray. There was a lame man at the gate of the temple. He was calling out for alms. So he got Peter and John's attention, and they looked on him. They said to him, "Look on us." He thought he was going to get a coin or something from them. He would have been satisfied with just a crumb. He was hungry and lame; but Peter gave him something else. Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

Peter lifted the lame man up. Immediately, his ankle bones received strength. Do you know what he did? He

started walking and leaping and praising God. There was a change in his life. He wasn't the same lame man any more. He was jumping up and down. I can see him in my mind's eye, walking with Peter and John into the temple and thanking God. "I was lame, but now I can walk." The praise began to echo throughout the temple complex, and people began to come out to see who was causing such an uproar. There they found a change in this man. It was a wonderful thing.

We read in Acts, chapter 4, where the priests and others didn't like what took place, so they got ahold of Peter and John, and they set them up for what we call a trial, I guess. "And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it" (Acts 4:7-14). Let me read verse 14 again: "And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it." Verses 15 and 16: "But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it." That was the power of God. They couldn't deny it. A miracle took place.

When God gets into your heart, there is a change that cannot be denied. It's real. It's not just in word. You come to the altar as a sinner with a heart full of sin, but when you ask God to forgive you, you are renewed. You're different. The power of God is there. It's real! The power of God is not just real at that moment, but it continues with you every day as long as you stay true to Him.

WE HAVE A LIGHT FOR ALL TO SEE

Saints, we have to be a light for all to see. We're not to put ourselves on display, but let a gospel life tell the gospel story. That's what we have to do. So it is not having just a knowledge of divine things or talking about them or even professing them. It's seeing the divine power in action on the human life. True godliness is powerful; true love is powerful; true faith is powerful; true heartfelt prayer is powerful; true preaching is powerful. I've seen the power, Saints. I know you've seen some things in your life. The restored power of salvation on the human heart is an amazing event to see. It's a beautiful thing to see a sin-sick soul kneel down at an altar and get a fresh start in life.

People are bound by sin and by the consequences of sin. They're bound by them. They are looking for a way of escape. There are many people who want out of the situations that they've gotten themselves into in life. We're living in a world where people are looking for something better, and the truth of the gospel is missing from too many lives.

Let me tell you something that happened recently. It was a dark event near our home. I still struggle to understand how dark and how low this young child must have been. There was a twelve-year-old child. He was so disillusioned with life, and he felt there was no hope. At twelve, he thought it would never get any better, so he left his parents' house. He went to an overpass over a busy freeway and jumped. When he jumped, he landed on the windshield of a car that was traveling underneath. The driver, a twenty-one-year-old teacher, who had just graduated from college, died, and so did the twelve-year-old. I don't understand that, but I do understand that the light of God was missing out of his heart, and he didn't realize the full consequences of what his actions would cause. That's a dark place. I'm not making this up, but that child was not alone. There are many people who are in dark places, and they need the delivering power of the gospel.

There are people who are in different types of bondage: alcohol, drugs, gambling, financial situations. They've gotten themselves into trouble through adultery or fornication. They've had children by women that they didn't have any intention of spending the rest of their lives with. They get bound by those things. They struggle to understand how they can deal with them, and it becomes heavy. Instead of turning to God and the truth of the gospel, they just go down. Sometimes people who have financial and marital problems turn to alcohol to get some relief, but instead of making things better, they become worse. This is what sin does, but I'm telling you, God has the power to deliver from all of these things. There is real power available through salvation and the gospel.

APPLYING CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES

There is delivering power from sin, from principles of carnal living to Christian principles. There is power in the Christian principles of life. Do you know the Word of God has something to say about everything in your life?—how to manage your money, how to find a wife and keep her, how to find a husband and keep him, how to live together for the rest of your lives, how to draw close to God, how to take care of every problem. If you apply Christian principles to your life, and you remain true to God and share your problems with Him, over the course of time, those problems will one by one be solved. I believe that with all my heart. That's the power of gospel living; that's the power of Christian living. I've seen it! Sometimes I still have to deal with a few things—old habits—temptations, but there is power available to me. This power is freely available to all. The Bible says "to whomsoever will."

Christian principles and the gospel of Christ renew us outwardly and inwardly. It subdues selfish actions. It certainly does! It causes us to put others first. The power of the gospel causes us to understand our true

place in the world. It causes us to understand where we are in relationship to one another and to God Almighty. I've seen unsaved siblings who haven't spoken to each other in years have their problems resolved through the power of salvation. They are close as if nothing had happened. The gospel is real and powerful. This power is visible once it has been applied to a human life.

CONCLUSION

God gives power to live holy, which is so opposite to nominal Christianity. He gives power to live a holy life. This life I'm now living, I couldn't do it by myself, for there's an evil one who is stronger than me. I have God and the power of salvation in my heart. I have access to the throne of grace, and I'm able to resolve problems by calling upon God. He cares for me; He cares for you. He sent His Son to redeem you, thank God! You can have the power to rebuke the enemy.

How many times have you heard the sinner say, "I'm quitting cigarettes and drinking"? He or she tries so often. I have a dear loved one who has quit so many times, but is bound by it. Yet, I've seen others come and give their hearts to the Lord, and they gave up those habits through the power of God. He gives power over the enemy. His intention is for you to live above sin.

The power to live the Christian life is not of man but of God. To say that men can't live the way that we've described is denying the power of God. It's denying the very Word of God. "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: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12, 13). You need this power in your life if you don't have it. I know you do need it. You must be a partaker of this power to live a Christian life and go to heaven. The power of God is available if you'll just take it.

God bless each one of you. †

OUT OF BOX 88

Dear Christians,

Greetings in Jesus' name. Just a few lines to send an offering for your wonderful paper. Thank you for your stand for holiness. Also, for the encouragement I receive.

—M. G., Pennsylvania

I really enjoy reading your magazines. They're such a blessing to me.

—C. L., Texas

Dear Sir,

I wish to subscribe for *The Way of Truth* magazine. I got to know about you through the magazine on one of my journeys from Akure to Ibadan. A passenger who sat beside me was holding the magazine and I borrowed it from her and read it through. I was fascinated with all the things I read. Since then, I think I want more and want to learn more about God's Word. In fact, the magazine made my day the day I read it.

—E. O., Nigeria †

THE CHURCH COMING INTO MATURITY



By the late M. H. Craig

Text: Ephesians 4:11-13: "*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*"

MANY TIMES we look at the blueprint and preach a finished product; the church in many respects is in a stage of development and has constantly passed through various changes since her New Testament beginning.

Christ said He would build His church and fully set it in order on the day of Pentecost. The church grew and flourished under the leadership of the apostles, but not without difficulty. Trouble arose here and there in different congregations. Traditional teachers of the law brought trouble in the church. Those teachers said that you could not be saved except you be circumcised after the manner of Moses. A meeting was called at Jerusalem, and it was agreed that circumcising was made void and was not essential to being saved under the New Covenant.

The church at Corinth was divided over preachers, and Paul rebuked them sharply for their division. Paul pointed out to them that Christ was not divided, and that he and the others were just ministers of Christ. The lack of maturity on the part of the church was partly to blame for the cause.

When one has been taught from childhood, or for many years that a thing is right, it is hard to give it up as worthless. This is proven by the apostle Peter. The Lord had to give him a vision in order to prepare him to go to teach the Gentiles.

Our text says that the Lord has given apostles, prophets, and teachers for the perfecting of the saints, till we all come into the unity of the faith to a perfect man. Traditional teachers and division makers are two of the greatest handicaps the church has today; and whatever may be the cause of those teachers and division makers, one of the main factors is the lack of spiritual maturity of a knowledge of the Word of God. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." A real knowledge of the Word of God will make people free from tradition and division.

If God's children who are scattered in the divisions of men were to suddenly receive a knowledge of the true church, division walls would not be strong enough to hold them, but they have been taught that denominationalism is essential, and it is hard for them to see those things are worthless. This is a difficult task of the true ministers, but if the real truth is held up, honest souls will see it. They must be brought together to make the perfect man of which Paul speaks. The morn-

ing church had hardly passed out of the hands of the apostles till it began to fall prey to false teachers. Paul predicted this. He said, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29, 30).

In time, the church went into darkness. For about twelve hundred years, her light was dimmed by the hand of Rome. Millions of God's saints were slain. Slowly, time moved on and the church began to reappear. The light that had been extinguished by Rome began to shine once more; but no sooner than the church escaped the hand of Rome, she was harnessed by Protestantism, and division began to separate the people. Now she is recovering from the divisions of men. She is on her way to maturity. Much depends on her leaders as to how soon she shall reach maturity and come into the state of the perfect man. This is the goal of the saints in light; this is God's ideal.

The church must reach this state of maturity in order to come up to the blueprint laid down in the Word of God. She must be a church without spot or blemish. "My dove, my undefiled is but one" (Song of Solomon 6:9).

The unity of the faith to a perfect man leaves no room for division. The cause of the divisions must come to an end when she reaches the fulness of Christ to a perfect man. How long it may be till the church reaches this fulness, I cannot tell; how long she will remain on Earth after she reaches it is unknown, but she must reach it to be ready to meet her Lord when He comes, for this is the kind of a church the Lord is coming after. She must be without spot or wrinkle. She must be in unity—in the unity of the Spirit—in the unity of the faith to the fulness of Christ when He comes. †

—[Ed. Note: This was written 50 to 60 years ago].

OVERCOMING WORRY

Hazel G. Neal

WORRY inflicts the whole human race. It is difficult for us to let loose of our problems and difficulties, and we go on carrying them throughout life. Worry is a poison. It often puts men in premature graves.

If only we human beings, especially Christian people, could realize the fruitlessness of worry, how much better off we would be! Anxiety, perplexity, and tension cause disease, mental breakdown, premature aging, unhappiness to loved ones, and the loss of joyous living.

E. Stanley Jones says worry is a kind of atheism. It is a feeling that God is too busy to care about our troubles or doesn't care and is too far away to look down on individual needs. But the fact is, God does care for each of His children. He says, "Let not your heart be troubled" (John 14:1). "Do not be anxious about anything" (Philippians 4:6, *Twentieth Century New Testament*).

Is it possible to live without worry as the Bible encourages us to do? If so, how may this be done?

If we are to overcome worry, we must do as Jesus said: "Believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1). We must believe that God cares for us, whether our worries are large or small. We must seek first the kingdom of God. Then the needs of our lives will be met and our problems solved (Matthew 6:25-34). We must resort to prayer so that our burdens and anxieties may be easily borne.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but by prayer and earnest pleading together with thanksgiving let your requests be unreservedly made known before God. So will the peace of God, which surpasses all power of thought, be a garrison to guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6, 7, *Weymouth*).

One day a friend said to me, "I never worry." For a moment I doubted her. Then when I looked upon her peaceful countenance as I had for years, I could not help accepting her testimony.

After all, what does worry accomplish? Nothing! King David had his share of family troubles. Absalom, his son, tried to steal his kingdom, causing David to flee from home. David cried to the Lord for help and peace of mind. "He heard me out of his holy hill," said David. "I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me" (Psalm 3:4, 5). Prayer relieves the strain of life, cures our anxious souls.

Peter exhorts Christians to cast their anxieties upon the Lord (1 Peter 5:7). We try to work out life's problems alone and fail. But when we trust and hope and pray, we find that God undertakes for us, and the life of trust becomes easier. We learn to relax and lay our burdens at the Savior's feet.

It is said that French soldiers of World War I carried with them this little recipe for peace of mind:

Of two things, one is certain. Either you are at the front or you are behind the lines. If you are at the front, of two things, one is certain; either you are exposed to danger or you are in a safe place. If you are exposed to danger, of two things, one is certain. Either you are wounded or you are not wounded. If you are wounded, of two things, one is certain. Either you recover or you die. If you recover, there is no need to worry. If you die, you can't worry. So why worry?

In Isaiah 26:3, 4, we have a great promise: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength."

Said the Robin to the Sparrow:

*"I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so."*

Said the Sparrow to the Robin:

*"Friend, I think that it must be
They have no heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me."*

The Word of God assures us it is possible to overcome worry.

*Let me live from day to day
With the future in God's hand;
Knowing He will lead me on
Till I reach that better land. †*

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



THE MAN WITH THE BICYCLE

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"Boys, you need to sit down and remove your hands from the window!" said the school bus driver. I looked up from the book I was reading. I could see the bus driver's stern face in the large rear view mirror as he looked down the aisle of the bus.

The seat squeaked behind me as two boys quickly sat down. One of the boys giggled. "Look!" he said to his seatmate. "He's still shaking his fist at us." He giggled again. "All we did was wave at him and call his name." I wondered who the boys were talking about.

I looked out the school bus window. There, plodding slowly along the side of the road was a shabbily dressed man pushing an old bicycle. The basket of the bicycle was filled with "found" objects most people would have considered junk. But as I watched, the man stopped and carefully rearranged the items in the basket. Obviously, the junky items had value to him.

I had seen the man before. He often wheeled his bicycle through the back roads of the countryside, and even up and down some of the streets on the edge of town. Most people called him "Bicycle Charley." Once or twice, I had seen the man's face as he looked up with faded blue eyes and stared vacantly at the passing traffic.

"He's off in the head," said one of the boys behind me. "All he ever does is ride around on that old bicycle and pick up junk."

"He gets upset if you even look at him," said the other boy. "Sometimes he shakes his fist at you."

"What does he do that for?"

"I don't know. Maybe he doesn't like kids. Some boys I know grabbed his bicycle the other day. They threw it in the creek."

"What did Bicycle Charley do?" asked the first boy.

"He got mad. He shook his fist at them. And then he waded into the creek and got his bike out. He picked up all the junk that was floating on the water and put it back in his bicycle basket."

No wonder Bicycle Charley shakes his fist, I thought to myself. He probably thinks that all children are mean.

That evening, I told my father about seeing Bicycle Charley. I repeated the conversation that I had overheard between the two boys. My father looked up at me sharply. His blue eyes that often shone with gentle understanding suddenly glinted like icy steel.

"What did you say to the boys?" he asked me.

"Nothing!" I answered in surprise. "They weren't talking to me."

"Well, when you have the chance," said my father, "I hope you stand up for Bicycle Charley. And I hope you never laugh at him or join in any persecution of him!"

"I won't," I promised. I sat quietly for a moment, thinking hard. "Dad," I asked, "what makes Bicycle Charley like that? Why does he ride around all the time on his bicycle, picking up junk?"

"I don't know," said my father, "and it doesn't really matter why he does it. He's not hurting anyone, and it seems to make him happy." He paused, and then continued, "What's really important is for people to realize is that Bicycle Charley is a human being. God made him, and God loves him as much as He loves all the other people He created."

The next time I saw Bicycle Charley, I smiled out of the window at him. Although he did not smile back, I knew that I had done the right thing by showing him a friendly face.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 14:31, which says, *He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.* From this verse we learn that we honor God when we show mercy to the poor.

"Poor" can mean many different things. Some people are poor because they have few earthly goods to call their own. Some people have poor health. Still others lack the ability to think and to reason. Perhaps old age, accident, or disease has robbed them of the mental health they once enjoyed. God expects us to show mercy to all of these "poor" people. He wants us to demonstrate His love to them by our words and actions.

We, too, may find ourselves "poor" one day. How would we like others to treat us? Jesus Himself said, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." This statement made by Jesus is often called the "Golden Rule." What is "golden" about that rule? Gold is a valuable commodity. It is worth more than gold to God when we treat others with respect—even those who are very different from us. To treat others as we would like to be treated will help us live a "golden" life—a life blessed by God, the Creator of all mankind.

Activity

In which two Gospels do we read the "Golden Rule" given to us by Jesus?

Answer to Last Month's Activity

Hebrews 2:1, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." †

"He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor."—Proverbs 14:31.

WINNING A CROWN

By the late C. W. Naylor



Part I

WHAT IS MAN?

WE ARE surrounded by mysteries, and not the least of these is the mystery of our own being. "Whence did I come?" "Where am I going?" and—greatest mystery of all—"What am I?" are questions that have arisen again and again in the minds of many persons. If we try to solve the question, What am I? by our own understanding and reason, it remains but a question. There are within us the stirrings of strange emotions, a reaching out after things not seen, unutterable things that we cannot interpret. Is man only a material being? Is he a beast of the field? Was he created only to eat and drink and to enjoy material things? or is he something more and something higher, with relationships more profound and far-reaching than those of the mere material?

The Psalmist viewed this question and exclaimed: "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet" (Psalm 8:4-6). To him, man was something more than an animal; he stood only a little lower than that celestial host that surrounds God's throne. And man is something more, something higher, indeed, than those creatures which are his servants in this time-world. When the Psalmist speaks of their death, he says, "Thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust" (Psalm 104:29). Of man it is said, "If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; ... man shall turn again unto dust" (Job 34:14, 15). Man is a trinity, possessing the spiritual, the mental, and the physical. He has a body like the animal in its functions and desires. He has reason and intelligence, and, above and beyond all these, he has a moral nature. This he alone of all the inhabitants of earth possesses. And it is with this moral nature that man is most concerned. His life in this world is of few days and full of trouble, and all the races of man look forward confidently to another and higher and better life when this life has come to an end.

Animals are creatures of instinct. They have implanted in them certain primary elements of knowledge or consciousness that guide them where their intelligence does not reach. And man also has instincts, higher than those of the beast, but no less significant. He feels intuitively that there is a power above him which is greater than his own power. It takes no argument to convince him of this, unless he has destroyed this primary intuition through the subtleties of his reasoning. He is also conscious that he is responsible

to this higher power; that in some way he has some relation with that power that gives moral value to his actions; and that these actions are worthy of the praise of this higher power or else merit retribution as being evil. He instinctively places a moral value upon his conduct, and feels that somehow, somewhere he must give an account. He feels within him the stirrings of a life that is not merely animal life. He feels capabilities and powers which are undeveloped here and now, and to which he finds himself incapable of giving more than partial expression; and this consciousness speaks to him of a future life full of greatest possibilities.

All these instincts have a substantial basis of reality. The squirrel that has never seen a winter is led by instinct to hoard a store of nuts for the days to come. The bird that knows nothing of climate save the summer, wings its way in the autumn to a more genial climate, led by unerring instinct. The bird which has been reared in captivity in an artificial nest, if given its liberty will build a nest like those of its kind, though it has never been taught. These instincts do not mislead the unreasoning creatures. They are safe guides.

Man's instinct is no less true, and if followed will guide him in the fundamentals of his life as it guides the lower creatures. Only man disregards these instincts. He deifies his reason, and it leads him in devious paths. He sets it up as the guide of his life and bows down and worships it, but alas! how often it causes him to disregard that which the truest wisdom would lead him to value most highly! How many people live as though they were only animals! "Eat, drink, and be merry," say they. They neglect that higher and better self. They silence the voice of conscience. They shut their ears to God. They close their eyes to their own knowledge. They live as though they were no better than the brute. They are concerned only with this world. They may recognize that there is a life beyond, but how little do they consider it!

Reader, you are more than a horse. There is in you that which is higher and better and nobler; and there is something better for you than to give your attention, your time, and your powers for this world alone. As you consider yourself higher than the beast, so should your life be higher than his. I beg of you, consider. How much higher is it? Are you living for eternity, or does your life-plan reach only to the satisfying of your own temporary and temporal desires? †

VIEW OUR WORSHIP SERVICES LIVE!

As many of our readers know, we can be found on the internet at

www.wayoftruth.org

where in addition to reading past issues and other information, you can view our general services every Sunday LIVE at 10:40 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. E.S.T. Enjoy Spirit-filled singing and preaching. Also, our mid-week service at 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays is aired live.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT SINNING?

Radio Message by Bro. James Arch

I WILL BE speaking today on, "What Does the Bible Teach About Sinning?" I'll be reading from Romans, chapter 6, verses 1 and 2: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

The apostle Paul, before leaving this world, wrote to the young man Timothy. He said to him, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." I believe those times are not coming, but they are here. I said that to say this: I've never preached my own opinion. I've been preaching for over 40 years, and I endeavor to preach nothing but the Bible.

Many have written different views on the text that I have read, and it seems quite clear that the apostle Paul, having previously dealt with the doctrine of justification by faith, is simply saying that those who have taken on a new life in Christ, and are dead to sin, must then stay out of sin. In other words, Why take advantage of free grace? Why would one who has been delivered from a life of sin have to continue in it? That's not the kind of God we serve. God has equipped His people to live for Him, to wave the blood-stained banner high to the world, and to make sure others are seeing that one has been delivered. The Bible teaches, "Whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

The Bible teaches that God created man pure and sinless and holy; upright, in fact. Man knew no sin, but because of disobedience to God's command, it brought sin into the world. Man lost that holy estate that he had, and it has continued through the corridors of time. We see it so evident in the world today. There is no decrease in sin around us. I've said on this broadcast and over the pulpit many times since I've been preaching: The coming of Jesus Christ into the world did not eliminate sin, but what it did was, it provided us a way out, a bridge that we could reach God through Jesus Christ, His Son.

God provided a way that we could be forgiven of sin. The Bible teaches that very clearly. Through faith in the shed blood of Jesus, and also to stay out of sin. This message was confirmed to Joseph in a dream by an angel of the Lord. You'll find that in Matthew 1:20: "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." What a miracle! Verse 21: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

What kind of system would God have if we had to continue living in sin all the time? The Bible doesn't

teach it. The Bible says that God delivers and saves people from a life of sin. The writer of the text (Romans 6:1, 2) used the word *we*, meaning those who were freed from sin; or in other words, the Christian. "Shall we continue sinning?" is what he asked. Paul himself was once bound by a life of sin. This was written by the apostle Paul who was earlier called Saul. The Bible has a lot to say about this man, even before he was converted to Christ.

If you will look into the 7th chapter of Romans, verses 19 and 20, you will see Paul's own words: "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." Let me say here: All of us since Adam, of course, have been born in sin and shapen in iniquity. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." I'm not trying to teach that today. All of us sinned, including the writer here; but when Jesus comes into the life of a person, it makes a difference. That's the way it should be; that's the way it is designed to be.

The Bible is true, and you can follow it as a guideline and a path to travel on. It's a wonderful guideline. The Bible itself tells us, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Paul referred to himself as wretched. If you'll look into Romans 7:24, you'll see where Paul ended that off by saying, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Now, we are not responsible, we are not guilty of the nature of sin, for we were born with that nature. We are responsible for the sins we knowingly and willfully commit. What we do not know as wrong is not imputed unto us as sin.

Acts 9 records Paul's miraculous conversion. Acts 9:21, 22: "But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ." They couldn't understand that it was the same person. It was the same little man, but God had gotten ahold of him. You see, Saul was a religious man, and he was doing the things he thought were right, but when God got ahold of him, He converted him and changed his life around. The things that he hated, he loved; the things he worked against, those things he worked for.

Can you imagine the transformation that God made in Paul's life? It was quick. Paul never resisted. What God called him to do, he went out and did it, and he put his whole life into what God called him to do. That's the only way you really can enjoy a life of salvation, a life of service to the Lord. Our hearts must be in it. The world must see that we have something that we didn't have before; the world must see that we're interested in what God has done for us, and we're glad. In fact, the Bible says, "Serve the Lord with gladness."

We find Paul in a new state. We find him writing in Romans 8, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Could anything be more clearer? God does something for us that no one else can

do. God forgives us. The Bible tells us, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." That doesn't mean that Christians are angels. They're still human beings. People make mistakes, but we must live for the Lord without committing the sins we committed when we were in sin. God cleans up a life and turns it around.

Paul assured the Philippian church that he was a new man. He wrote a warm little letter to the little church in Philippi. He said in Philippians 1:20, 21, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." In verse 23, Paul was in a strait between going or staying, but he found out that it would be better to stay a little longer for the benefit of the church. God needed him to continue his work in the church. So he said, "For me now, to live is Christ."

The book of Philippians is a beautiful book. Paul said a lot in that book. He said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. I follow after." He wanted to know all there was to know about serving God. He wasn't proud or elevated. He was humble.

Paul also assured Timothy of the assurances he had in his own heart. He wasn't wondering. If you'll look into the second book of Timothy, chapter 1, you'll see in verses 8 and 9, "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." Verse 12: "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." Could anything be clearer?

I've tried to dovetail these scriptures together to show us a little bit about sinning. If you'll look into I John 5:18, you'll see what John said: "We know [He wasn't thinking. He said, 'We know.'] that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." This is between us and God. With the power of God in our lives, we can make it with Him. That's why we need the power of the Holy Spirit. That's why every Christian needs to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. It will give the power to say *no* to evil and sin and to magnify Christ.

Paul wrote of the saving and keeping power of God. There is no question at all. The Bible clearly teaches that. I will conclude with this: Romans 5:1, 2, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." The new birth cleans up our lives and forgives us of our sins. Justification is an acquittal. The older people of the church called it *standing grace*. You see, justification puts one in the church; sanctification gives one the power to stay in it.

July 2018

I trust the Lord will help us to stand true and be firm in our convictions and beliefs. Hold the blood-stained banner high to the world around us. Do not be ashamed to tell the world that you are a Christian. †

MISSIONARY PAGE

HONDURAS CONVENTION REPORT

(From notes taken by Sis. Siggie James)

April 3-8, 2018

Theme: "The Universal Call—Salvation Free"

Theme Scriptures:

Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 22:17



OUR THANKS to God for a Spirit-filled convention. Truly, heaven came down and glory filled our souls. We thank the Lord for those who were in attendance, especially the visiting saints from the U.S.A., the Cayman Islands, and Jamaica.

Each day began with a 6:00 A.M. prayer meeting in asking the Lord to have His way in all of the services. We praise the Lord for answering our prayers.

*Here are the highlights of the services held in
Coxen Hole:*

Tuesday—Sis. Ethlyn Soto, Host Pastor, brought us the first morning devotional. Topic: "God Wants to Set Us Free." Text: Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 22:17. She mentioned that God wants to give us rest; He wants to set us free. The Bible says that whom the Son sets free is free indeed.

10:30 A.M.—Bro. Duane Jefferies from the Cayman Islands brought us a beautiful message. Topic: "The Universal Call—Salvation Made Free." Text: Matthew 11:28; Revelation 22:17. The Spirit of God was working as we listened to the man of God. Our mission in this world is to go and preach the gospel to every creature.

2:30 P.M.—Bro. Hezekiah Lamey from Jamaica brought the message. Topic: "Jesus Came to Give Life." Text: Matthew 11:28, 29. While speaking, he said that only Jesus can set us free. There are many people that are in bondage, but God sent His only begotten Son so that we can be free.

7:00 P.M.—Bro. Harley McClung brought the message. Topic: "The World Turned Upside Down." Text: Acts 17:6. He mentioned that the powerful preaching of Paul turned the city upside down. Jesus wants to turn our world right side up.

Wednesday—In the morning devotional, I (Sis. Siggie) spoke. Topic: "Watch and Pray." Text: Mark 13:33-37. I mentioned that this is a time when the saints of God need to be praying and watching, for the Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

10:30 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. Liston Mann. Topic: "The Weaker Link." Text: I Corinthians 10:12. He told us that we need to take heed how we stand, lest we fall. We should think of ourselves as a long chain, for every child of God is a link in that chain. We all have a place to fill in the kingdom of God.

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2:30 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. Donovan Darby from Jamaica brought the message. Topic: “Freedom, a Universal Call—Salvation Is Free.” Text: Galatians 5:1. Bro. Donovan said while speaking that freedom is a wonderful thing. We should appreciate the freedom that we enjoy in Jesus Christ. If we are not saved, we are not free, for sin is bondage. We can’t be free and in bondage at the same time. Serving Christ is freedom.

7:00 P.M.—Before the message, Sis. Britney Smith, blessed our hearts with the song, “Four Days Late.” God has blessed this young woman with the voice of an angel. Speaker: Bro. Paul Wilson. Topic: “It’s Not Too Late, There’s Still Hope.” Text: John 11:1-6, 11. He mentioned to us that Jesus is never late. He is always on time. Martha said unto Jesus, “Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.” There’s always in hope Jesus Christ.

Thursday—In the morning devotional, Bro. Mike Bodden spoke. Topic: “Soul-searching on our Lives.” Text: Isaiah 53:4, 5. He told us that it’s important for Christian people to do soul-searching on their own lives. Normally, we are more focused on fixing the big problems in life, but there are small things that also require fixing. There are many who specialize in seeing the faults of others, but can’t see their own faults.

10:30 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. Anguimar Soto. Topic: “The Approval of Freedom in the Church of God.” Text: John 10:9. While speaking, he mentioned that the Bible tells us that whom the Son sets free is free indeed. This freedom that we enjoy only comes from Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

2:30 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Hezekiah Lamey. Topic: “Great Is our God.” Text: Psalm 19. Bro. Hezekiah said that God has proven Himself down through the years. He is a wonderful God. He is our help and strength. In Him we move and have our being. What a great God we serve! He knows all things. Jesus is our refuge and our strength. He is the Light of our salvation. God can deliver your soul today, just like He delivered the children of Israel. Just put your trust in Him; lean on Him. God’s eyes are in every place, beholding the good and the evil.

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. David Shaw. Topic: “What Would Your Answer Be?” Text: Matthew 11:28, 29.

Friday—Morning devotional led by Bro. Lee Jeffries. Topic: “God Can Do More Than We Can Imagine.” Text: Ephesians 3:20. He mentioned that we need to keep our faith in God, for He “is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”

10:30 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. Donovan Darby. Topic: “The Mission of the Church.” Text: Mark 16:15. While speaking, he said that the Church of God is in the earth with a mission. The mission is to take the gospel to the ends of the world. God is counting on us to take the gospel to the lost world.

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Ray Hydes. Topic: “The Most Important Issue You Will Face, You Will Face Tonight.” Text: John 3:16-20. He mentioned to us that if you are not walking in the light, you’re walking in

darkness. There’s no light on the dark avenue of sin. Living a Christian life is able in Christ Jesus. If you would only come to Jesus, He will help you. The Bible teaches us that we must be born again. There is only one way. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” What will you do with Jesus tonight?

Saturday—Morning devotional speaker was Sis. Nonalee Smith. Topic: “The Power of Prayer.” Text: Acts 12:5-12. She reminded us that Peter was kept in person, but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. There’s power in prayer. When we pray in faith believing, God will hear and answer our prayer.

10:30 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. David Shaw. Topic: “He Is Able.” Text: Mark 1:21-25. This was our Divine Healing Service. Bro. Shaw brought a wonderful message, reminding us that God “is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us”; for even the unclean spirits have to hold their peace at the command of Jesus Christ.

There were many souls that came forward for prayer. We thank God for the testimonies of those who were touched by the healing hand of God.

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Harley McClung. Topic: “Question of Eternal Importance.” Text: Matthew 22:35-40. He said that in our text there was a man. He was a lawyer who was supposed to know the law, but he asked Jesus what was the greatest commandment. He asked Jesus this question for a reason. He was trying to tempt Him. The question for you tonight is: Why are you here? I pray you’re here to hear the Word of God. The greatest discovery to mankind is to know God. We are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to have an appetite for the things of God.

Sunday—10:30 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. Paul Wilson. Topic: “What Do You Do at Midnight?” Text: Acts 16:25, 26—“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God” (Acts 16:25). Bro. Paul said that when Paul and Silas were beaten and put in the inner prison, they didn’t question God, but they sang praises unto Him. What do you do in your midnight hour? Job lost everything in one day, but in his midnight hour, he worshiped God. Following this service, there were five souls baptized. Praise God!

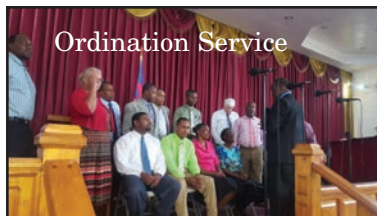
2:30 P.M.—During this service, we had an ordination of four saints: Bro. Anguimar Soto was ordained as a minister. Sis. Artina Forbes, Sis. Agatha McLaughlin, and Bro. Andy Martinez were ordained as deacons. Then the young people blessed us with two wonderful skits; one in honor of the late Bro. Alvin Craig, and the other in honor of the late Bro. Martel Watler. We thank the Lord for these two saints of God who gave so much of themselves to the work of God. “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (II Timothy 4:7).

7:00 P.M.—Bro. Harley McClung and Bro. Mike Bodden sang the heartfelt song, “Blessed Assurance.” Speaker: Bro. Harley McClung. Topic: “Peaceful Assurance.” Text: Isaiah 32:16-18. Bro. Harley mentioned that assurance produces peace. Peace is a wonderful

thing. There's so much fighting in the world today. Why don't people want peace? God put Adam and Eve in a garden of peace. He wants His people to be at peace. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you." If you're in sin tonight, He wants to give you peace. Give your life to Him.

We thank the Lord that over thirteen souls gave their hearts to Him during the convention. †

Honduras Convention Memories



Ordination Service



RADIO LOG

The Way of Truth Broadcast

Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

(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

Listen live—Go to www.kmtl760am.com

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

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

North Carolina, Mooresville, WHIP 1350, 6:30 A.M. Sat.

1,000 Watts—Heard in part of NC

Listen live—tunein.com/radio/whip-1350-s29320/

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

100,000 Watts—Heard in part of OK and TX

Listen live—Go to www.kfxi.com

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*

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*

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, Blacksburg, WKEX 1430, 8:00 A.M.

3,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA

Virginia, Christiansburg, WKEX-FM 105.9, 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

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

SHORTWAVE

WWCR, Nashville, Tennessee 4.840 on SW band

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

Listen live—Go to www.wwcr.com

WINB, Red Lion, Pennsylvania 9.320 on SW band

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

Listen live—Go to www.winb.com

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COMING MEETINGS

2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

12819 Point Salem Rd.
Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S.A.
July 3-8, 2018, Lord willing
Bro. Gregory E. Tyler, Host Pastor
For more information call: 301-739-2980



2018 PHILIPPINE CONVENTION

Lacayanga Subdivision
Paniqui, Tarlac, Philippines
December 26-30, 2018, Lord willing
Bro. Reynaldo Fabian, Host Pastor



REVIVAL SERVICES

Miami, Florida
July 11-15, 2018, Lord Willing
Sis. Margerie Allen, Pastor



Jamaica Youth Revival
Axe-and-Adze, Hanover
July 24-29, 2018
Bro. Rupert Shippy, Pastor

**THE CHURCH OF GOD
STANDS FOR**

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| An eternal God | Psalm 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 |

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