

The Way of Truth

Vol. 77 “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” No. 6

June
2019

The Search for
TRUTH
See Page 4

Rightly Dividing the Truth
See Page 14

ACCEPTED BY GOD

“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”

—Acts 10:34, 35.

MODERN DAY religion emphasizes man “accepting Christ.” It is a fact that one must respond to conviction, believe the gospel and repent to be saved. But it should not be a difficult thing for someone to accept Christ as Savior. After all, He is the Son of God! A much more challenging concept is the fact that God would accept man under any circumstances. Almighty God accepting man with all his faults and frailties? Accepting his fellowship, his worship, his love? Yes, marvel at this—through the Lord’s plan of redemption, man can be brought into a state where he is acceptable to God.

Peter went to Caesarea not knowing what to expect. He had some preconceived ideas, which were not correct that the Lord wanted to change. When the Holy Spirit manifested Himself in Caesarea like He did at Pentecost, Peter got a revelation. “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” Man’s preconceived ideas concerning who is saved can get him into trouble. We are not the ones who decide who can be saved and who cannot. God alone accepts or rejects an individual according to His own criteria. Of course, that criteria is found in His holy Word with the qualification that God looks on the heart while man judges by outward appearance.

How can we become accepted by God? “... The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (II Corinthians 2:19). You see, when a person truly fears God and lives a righteous life, he is in a place upon which is God’s approval. This is backed up in the Old Testament, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

This principle emphasizes the fact that imputed sin is not acceptable with God—never was, never will be. When a person knowingly transgresses the law of God, he is separated from the Lord and spiritually dies. In this state a person is not accepted before God. In the very beginning, there in the Garden, our foreparents sinned and bore the consequences. The guilty sinner is not accepted with God. Something must happen to change the situation. God devised a way for the sinner to be transformed into an acceptable individual. That plan was salvation!

Isaiah 1:18 cries out, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” You are not accepted by God because you deserve to be, or because you have worked hard for Him; but because Jesus died for you.

But once an individual repents and is saved, he must continue to walk with Him as Lord and Savior to remain acceptable with God. The Hebrew writer says in 12:28, “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” Furthermore, the apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:6-10, “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.”

In Titus 3:1-7 Paul writes, “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

After being justified in the sight of God, it is acceptable to God to seek the infilling of the Holy Ghost (sanctification). Romans 12:1, 2, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

However we may set out on the path of pilgrimage, we spend a lifetime walking it. There are no rest stops, no plateaus at which we can flop down and say that we’ve gone far enough. At the beginning, God accepts us as we are. But this does not mean that He is content to have us remain in that state. We are all, in the New Testament’s terrifying phrase, “called to be saints.” Our Father knows our weaknesses even better than we do, and He does not expect us to overcome every weakness overnight. But He does demand that we keep moving in that direction, or as the good old phrase puts it, that we continue “groaning toward perfection.”

At each step of the journey, the question that really matters is not whether we are a little farther along than some of our friends and neighbors, but how far we have progressed since yesterday.—Selected.

We must maintain a willing mind if we are to retain our standing before

ABOUT THE COVER

The photo on our front shows a wild and rushing mountain river Rißbach at Rissbachklamm in the beautiful Karwendel Mountains, Tyrol, Austria. Truth is as refreshing as a mountain stream to the soul of man and should be sought after and pursued by all men!

THE WAY OF TRUTH

(Registered Trademark)

Vol. 77 June 2019 No. 6

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.

Published by the Church of God which assembles at 12819 Point Salem Road in Hagerstown, Maryland. Publishing office: 12811 Point Salem Road, Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S.A.

The Way of Truth is published without any given subscription price, and is supported by freewill offerings from our readers and funds supplied by the local congregation. It is sent out free to anyone who is interested enough to ask for it. We shall continue this policy as long as God sees fit to make it possible. FOREIGN READERS are requested to write us at least once a year if they wish to continue receiving the paper the following year. Address all correspondence to: The Way of Truth, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, Maryland 21741, U.S.A. Always when writing, give your name and address clearly, please.

—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

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OUT OF BOX 88

Dear Friends,

Greetings in Jesus' name. A little offering on receiving your wonderful paper. Such a blessing it is to me. Keep on in this old-fashioned way. God bless all.

—M. G., Pennsylvania

Greetings,

We are sending a check for the Lord's work. We have been receiving *The Way of Truth* magazine now for several years and enjoy reading it. May the Lord bless all who have a part in putting it together.

—J. & H. G., Missouri

Just a note to tell you about a message by Bro. Gregory E. Tyler entitled, "Living Godly in This Present World." After I read it, my family and church members were really impressed with it. I think it was in the October 2018 edition of *The Way of Truth*.

Thank you for this and every edition we read from cover to cover.

—D. M., Pennsylvania †

God. The Lord is the righteous Judge who will take all things into consideration. Paul said in II Corinthians 8:12, "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."

In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus explains that every one of us will be required to give an account of the our abilities and our stewardship of those things put under our care. If we act like the one who buried his talent, we lose our standing with God.

To be acceptable to our Creator, we must show patience in time of trial. I Peter 2:20 says, "For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God."

If we be born again and walk in the light of the gospel, we are accepted by God and ought to be accepted by the saints of God. Paul spoke of being "accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:6). Shame on any Christian who refuses a true child of God the right hand of fellowship! It is one thing to sing it, but it is another thing to practice it. I am not talking about putting one's approval on wrong or fellowshiping Babylon. I am talking about those who bear the fruit of holiness and those who claim to be Church of God and manifest the Spirit of God. If God accepts a brother or sister, who are we to refuse to accept him or her? After all, God only has one house or one church. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (I Peter 2:5).

Let us determine to live a life that is acceptable to God and fellowship those whom the Lord accepts. †

IN THIS ISSUE:

How God Cares for That

One Soul

Page 2

Radio message by James Arch

The Search for Truth

Page 4

Revival message by Doug Koerner

Bible Lesson of the Month

Page 8

"A New Life"

The Question Box

Page 10

Our monthly feature

A Tribute to Bro. Garry Jeffries

Page 11

A soldier of the cross is called home

Young People's Page

Page 11

Continuing "The Heavenly Footman"

Winning a Crown

Page 12

Part XI of the late C. W. Naylor's book

Rightly Dividing the Truth

Page 14

Article by Richard Lehman

The Children's Corner

Page 18

"Don't Believe It," by Rebecca Bland

The Poetry Page

Page 19

Tribute to fathers

The Divine Nature

Page 20

Radio message by the late A. A. Craig

HOW GOD CARES FOR THAT ONE SOUL

Radio Message by Bro. James Arch

WE ARE thankful for the privilege of coming into your homes today through this broadcast. I will be reading two passages of scripture: one from Old Testament book of Isaiah, and one from the New Testament book of Luke. Isaiah 53:6, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Luke 15:1-6, "Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost." May the Lord add a blessing to those two passages of scripture.



was sailing, the string broke, and the little boy lost his little boat. We know what it means as a little boy to have a boat or any other form of toy. The little boy was very hurt about the loss of his little boat, but some time after that, while browsing around town, he saw a little boat in the display window of a shop. It looked like his little boat. He thought it was. The little sails were all torn and tattered and the paint was all gone, but he could see it was the little boat that he had lost. I think there was a price tag of two or three dollars on that little boat. He found the money and he went inside and purchased the little boat. He hugged the little boat and said, "Now you are twice mine. I made you and I bought you." That is a true picture of us.

There's a part of a song which says—

There was One Who was willing to die in my stead,

That a soul so unworthy might live,

And the path to the Cross He was willing to tread,

All the sins of my life to forgive.

All of us have sinned. The Bible says, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." In fact, we were all born in sin, with the nature of sin (the inbred carnal nature) that has come down from the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden. When we reach the age of understanding, we more or less choose to go out into a life of sin. That's why we need to be born again and need to be purchased and redeemed by the blood of Christ. That's why, years before Jesus was even born, Isaiah said, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." You see, Christ became our substitute. "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Outside of Christ, there is no hope for us. The only hope we have of redemption is in Christ. That is where we come to be brought back to God. We come to God, through Christ, His Son. Sometimes so many of us drift very far away from God. Sometimes we even reach the point to where we wonder whether God could ever love or take us back into His fold; but you know, that love for us never leaves God. There is a way back. Regardless of how far away from God we may go, how deep in sin we may drift, there is a way back. Paul said, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Aparable is "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." There are a lot of parables in the Bible. In fact, Jesus spoke a lot of these parables. The Parable of the Lost Sheep that I read from Luke 15 is a true picture of the redeeming love of God.

The enemies of Jesus criticized Him for receiving sinners. Did you hear what I said? The second verse of that text that I read said, "And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them." That's who Jesus came for. He came for us. The Bible says, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." He came to take us out of

I'm sure that after reading them, you have determined what I have on my mind to speak to you about today. I am very thankful to the Lord for His mercies toward me. It is a delight of mine to tell others about Jesus Christ and His ways. I was lost one time in sin and hopelessness, but God searched me out and found me. He gave me something to live for.

What I would like to speak to you about today from those two passages of scripture is: "How God Cares for That One Soul."

The Parable of the Lost Sheep was designed to show the care that God takes for the good of His people. Now, what we need to remember is, we're all God's. Whether we're unsaved or saved, we're all God's by the right of creation. We can be God's by the right of redemption. This parable teaches us how much pleasure God takes in the conversion of all who have strayed away from Him. I'll explain that a little bit later on.

Of course, there are three main thoughts expressed in the parable that I read in Luke 15:

- *the case of one who continues on in sin.* They are like sheep that have gone astray from God and astray from the flock. They are continually exposed to the enemy and are not under the Shepherd's care.

- *the care God takes to value just one soul out of so many.* He goes after that one until He finds it.

- *the joy when one wandering soul returns to God.* God sent His own Son to bring us back to Him. Those are the teachings of that parable contained in just those few thoughts that I just mentioned there.

There's a story told of a little boy who had made a little boat. He took the little boat into the water to sail. He held it with a little string, but while this little boat

sin, to make us Christians, and to give us what no one else could give us. He came to save us. Mankind cannot save themselves. We're only saved through the mercy of God. "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Good works are good, and when a person is saved, he will produce good works, but good works is not salvation. Good works cannot take us to heaven. We must be saved by the blood of Jesus.

Jesus emphasized the value of one strayed sheep. Listen to what He said: "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?" What a beautiful story! You see, He seeks after us. Many times mankind is visited by the Spirit of God because of some thing they heard, because of a message they may have heard a preacher preach, or because of reading the Scriptures. The Spirit of God speaks to them and seeks after them through that still small voice.

Do you know what Jesus told Zacchaeus? "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Zacchaeus ran after Jesus. He pursued Jesus, yes, for he wanted to see who Jesus was. Zacchaeus needed Jesus. He needed a touch from the Master. Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "This day is salvation come to this house." Jesus looked up into the tree and He said, "Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house." Zacchaeus put forth an effort though to find Jesus. That's what we need to do today. If we had more Zacchaeus' in the world, we would see more Christianity and more salvation.

Now, we see the glorious homecoming: "And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost." Jesus used sheep as an illustration for man's straying.

We understand sheep are apt to wander; and in most cases, they are unable to find their way back. Such is the case of us. Many times we don't know the way back, but God in His mercy sends someone to speak to us, or sends someone to say something that causes us to realize where we are, and that we need to come back into the fold.

We are charged with many transgressions until we are forgiven. When God forgives us, through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We are no longer transgressors. That's why Paul said, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."

It is appalling how the devil is binding people and causing them to doubt their salvation, to doubt their Christianity, and even causing them to believe they're not Christians. Let me tell you, Friends, when you come to God in repentance and give your heart to Him, you're born again. When you believe unto salvation, you belong to God. You are a Christian, and there is no devil in hell who can turn you back if you mean business with God.

I know we take the path that we choose. We are born with the power to choose and God leaves us alone. We are our own free moral agent. We do what we want. We're not tied with a chain or a rope. We see that

manifested so vividly in the world today, but let me tell you, Friends, we pay the price. We pay the price for the decisions we make in life. Many times if we could have seen into the future, there are a lot of decisions we would not have made.

God calls us from a life of sin. Sin leads us away from God. Do you know what Paul said when he was in sin? "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." It is an inward battle; it is a struggle. How many times have we heard people say, "Oh, if I had only listened to what my pastor said, if I had only listened to my Sunday school teacher, if I had only listened to my mother or father or to someone else, I would not be behind prison bars today"? Many are in their graves because of what they have done and because of the choices they made.

Sin always leads downward. Paul said, "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I." That is when we're under the power of sin and the power of the devil. Yes, sin always leads downward. "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."

Sin deceives. The wise man Solomon said, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." I think of Judas, one of the chosen, who walked with Jesus. Judas allowed himself to get into the mess that he did and sold the Master for thirty pieces of silver. Perhaps Judas thought he was on the right track, too. Judas died a suicide. How tragic!

Isaiah prophesied the birth of Jesus and also the sufferings of Jesus. He said, "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." He also gave a clear description of man's condition and the very reason for Jesus' coming: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

If you're outside the fold of God today, why not ask God to forgive you, to give you a new life and a new beginning? You'll never regret it. †

ENJOY 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. Wednesday is aired live.

2019 HAGERSTOWN SPRING REVIVAL REPORT

We certainly thank the Lord for a good Spring Revival that was held from April 2-7. Bro. Doug Koerner, Pastor of the Essex, Maryland, congregation was the speaker. His messages were very encouraging to the church and the outreach to the lost was part of our effort.

Bro. Doug preached outstanding messages, which were blessed with the Spirit of the Lord. There are many ways that are preached to the masses today, but there is only one way, as Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Thank the Lord for the help given to those who sought Him at the altar. We trust the church will ever remain steadfast until the end.

May the Lord continue to bless Bro. Doug as he faithfully proclaims the truth of the gospel.

Below is the list of messages that are available for purchase.

We have available CD's of our Spring Revival. These include singing and messages. Price \$3.00 each. Complete set \$15 postpaid. Please put a check mark in the blank by those you would like to purchase. Send check or money order to: The Way of Truth, CD Ministry, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088 U.S.A.

- ___ CD #1018 The Search for Truth
- ___ CD #1019 Keep Walking
- ___ CD #1020 I am the Lord, I Change Not
- ___ CD #1021 How Is Your Attitude Toward Receiving the Word of God?
- ___ CD #1022 The Voice of God
- ___ CD #1023 God Visits Every Individual
- ___ CD #1024 I Have Fought a Good Fight †

THE HIGH COST OF POSTAGE RATES

We seldom say anything about the cost of publishing this magazine. But postage rates continue to climb. Especially expensive are international rates. We have a vision to increase our readership, not cut back. It is important to hear from international readers once each year to remain on our mailing list.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

For many years, The Way of Truth publishing work has provided Church of God Sunday school literature for many congregations. If you would like a sample of Bible-based literature and a price list, please request it. We have a six-year series of lessons. Each quarter we print quarterlies for Adults and Young People, Intermediates and Juniors. We also print leaflets for younger children. Write or call and order your sample today.

The Search for Truth

2019 Hagerstown Spring Revival Message by Bro. Doug Koerner

WELL, IT HAS been mentioned already, 2019 Spring Revival is here. It seems like we just turned the page to January, but time continues to go on. We do thank the Lord that we find ourselves well thus far this year. We thank God for His goodness and mercy to us. It is good to be in the house of God. There is no greater place that a soul can be.



I thank God that one day He dealt with my heart, and I thank Him for the opportunity to be saved. It was during a fall revival when He talked to me and He gave me the opportunity to be a child of God. Often at home I mention, I wonder why. There have been so many people who have sat in the pews and heard the gospel. I know the Bible tells us that God will deal with every single soul upon the face of the earth. There will not be a soul that will stand before Him one day that didn't have any idea about this gospel. But I know God dealt with me one day and I know it was real. I could not deny it or could not shake it. I thank Him for His love and mercy to me.

If you're saved this evening, we also thank God for you. One day you did the same as I did. Maybe it was at a revival, at a camp meeting, or just during a regular service that God spoke to you and you surrendered. That is one of the blessings and the desires we see through revival time. I appreciate what the brother said about the definition of revival. I feel the same. We as saints of God have to be encouraged. We have to be uplifted and continue to press the battle on. One verse in the Bible tells us, "Let us not be weary in well doing." That is a battle I face. Maybe you do, too. We need to stay true and faithful until we hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

I thank God for the service thus far. I appreciated the songs. I thought it was interesting as we had the two congregational songs. The first one was, "Beautiful." This past Sunday night at home, I brought a message based on that song. I incorporated my whole message with that song. Last Wednesday night, I brought a message from the second song, "He Lifted Me Out." I used the entire song on the message. I just thought it was interesting as we started to sing those two songs.

We don't sing the song, "The Family of God," too much at home, but it's very familiar—

*I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!*

*Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family,
The Family of God.*

I thank God for the Family here, this congregation in Hagerstown. Often at home, we mention that we appreciate Bro. Greg in the many years he came to Essex and introduced himself to us and we to him. As time went on, we've gotten to know some of you, and the fellowship has been very sweet and blessed. We came to know many of you personally and we thank the Lord for that privilege. There is nothing like the Family of God. We all have one main agenda: we want to make heaven. That's our main agenda in life. We want to finish this course and make heaven our home. I know we can enjoy living this life, but sometimes it's difficult. The Bible says, "Strait is the gate," and the word *strait* means, "a difficult way"; but I thank God that He'll give us the strength and grace to go through. Our main agenda is to make heaven our home. If we're saved, that's our goal. We need to pray for one another to stay true and faithful. We want to hear that you're faithful. I want you to hear that I'm faithful, as well as the saints at home are faithful.

I appreciate the opportunity of being here this week. I do appreciate your confidence in asking me to come to hold this revival. It's a large responsibility. I trust that the Lord will help and anoint me through the week and that you'll also receive a blessing.

YOUR LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH

If you would, I'd like for you to open your Bibles to Ephesians, chapter 6. We'll start with verse 10. Paul says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." It is very interesting to me that the Word of God gives a series of verses to express something as is done here. You can keep your finger here as I make some relationships with other verses from the Bible.

In Philippians, chapter 4, verse 8, Paul said, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

In Matthew, chapter 5, we have what is called, "The Beatitudes." Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: ... Blessed are the meek: ... Blessed are they which do

hunger and thirst after righteousness," and He goes on with a series of verses to explain something.

We see that one time the disciples came to Jesus and said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." He started to give them a model prayer: "Our Father which art in heaven, ..." and He went on with the rest of the prayer. Now, Jesus did not mean for them to pray that way every time, but it was a model prayer in giving them a direction of how to pray and what to pray for.

TRUTH IS IMPORTANT

There are some things in our lives that are important. There are some things we live by from day to day that are the basis for our lives, which are important. If you're an electrician and you're going to work on a receptacle and someone tells you to take that receptacle out and change it, there is one thing that's important that you first need to do. You need to turn the power off. Before you start tinkering around with it, you must make sure there's no power to it. I'm a mechanic by trade. When work has to be done on a starter of a car, the first thing that needs disconnected is the battery. It's important; it's something that is vital. It has to be done or there will be consequences to it.

Most of you, no doubt, have raised children. If there's a snow, they want to go outside. I believe they would run outside with no shoes or socks on if you'd let them, because they're excited to go outside in the snow. Parents have to let them get their boots and coats on, etc., because they have to be prepared before they can go outside.

I want to look at what Paul said here in Ephesians 6. He spoke about putting on the whole armor. I know it's important that we do. Paul didn't just say to put on one or two pieces, but he said, "Put on the whole armor." I'll use this thought since I was once a little boy: if you have certain pieces of toys together, like a shield, a helmet, a sword, and different things, do you know what little boys are going to first go after? It's probably that sword or shield. They might go after something else, but it seems that the sword or the shield is what they want. Paul said that we need to put on the entire armor. If we're going to fight this good fight of faith, there's not anything we can leave off at any time. In verse 14, Paul said, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness." Again, "having your loins girt about with truth."

We can't leave off any pieces of the armor that Paul spoke about, but I want to emphasize the importance of truth. Sometimes I look at verses spoken by Jesus, such as "The Beatitudes" and other verses in the Bible, and I think about them. There are some things that are vital. One of the things Paul mentions in Ephesians 6 is truth. We need to have truth above all things. Before we start to put on the other pieces of the armor, it is important that we first have truth. If you're saved, you must desire to have truth in all aspects of your life, not just in hearing and living for God, but even in your private and public life as you deal with society. We all need to have a desire of wanting the truth. If we're willing to cut corners here and there with truth, it's no use of us working with the rest of the armor. We need to have the Spirit of Truth.

HIDING FROM THE TRUTH

I know it's difficult to believe, but some people run and hide from truth. The Bible says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." People run from truth. Even with ourselves, at times, we need to be careful. God is going to see if we love Him and if we love His gospel. If we're going to be true in our dealings out in the world, we need to have a love for truth, whether it be the Word of God, or whatever else it may be coming from. Many times people want to hide from truth.

No doubt some of us here probably have a scale at home that we stand on and weigh ourselves. I can't tell you how many times people have gone to the doctor and they came back and said, "The doctor's scale is wrong." We don't like to admit certain things, but I'm trying to get us to understand of how close this can get. "Well, I can just deviate a little bit here." We have to make sure our souls are right before God. We're going to stand before Him one day. The Bible says, "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." We need to make sure our souls are right first before God, rather than before men. Truth!

Truth is hard. Galatians 3:24 says, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." Before we got saved, we really didn't know the Word of God. We didn't know the laws of God, but somewhere someone told us that the Bible says all liars shall have their part in the lake of fire. If you lie, if you steal, if you use God's name in vain, etc., somewhere the Bible will show you that you are wrong. A decision has to be made. You're at a crossroad. "Am I going to go the way of the Word of God? Am I going to go the way that Christ wants me to go, or am I going to continue the way I've been walking?" Are you willing to walk in the light of truth?

I mentioned earlier in this message the pieces of the armor Paul spoke about. I think truth is important. Do you want to have truth? I don't know how the Lord will work or deal with you during the other nights of this revival, but I do know the Spirit of God will work. The Spirit of God helped me many years ago. When I first started to preach, it was a challenge to me, but God taught me to see some things. He said, "Your job is to study and bring the Word. As you present it, I will take it and deliver it to souls." My obligation is over once it's delivered and it's your obligation to listen. Listen to the Spirit of God. Many times I've been in services where the Word would be preached and preached and it wouldn't affect me. All of a sudden, something was preached and the Spirit of God would say, "There's something you need." Are we willing to walk in truth? We have to desire to walk in truth.

"WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE"

I read to you from Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true." That's the first thing mentioned, then it goes on until it says "think on these things." I trust you have your mind set on things that are truthful. We deal with people on our jobs. Let me tell you, we have been faced with situations on our jobs

to where we had to present the truth to someone, even though it may not have felt good to do so. Even though we may have gotten into trouble, we had to present truth. I build transmissions for a living. From time to time, one transmission wouldn't work. Sometimes it was my fault. I did something wrong in building that transmission. I've been around other builders of transmissions who would never say what they did wrong. But when you tell them what they did wrong, they'll say, "Yes, I did it wrong." It would have been better if they would have said they did it wrong instead of you having to tell them what you found they did wrong. That's telling them the truth. Do you know what it does? It brings condemnation on them. I believe the Bible says that the saints will judge the world. I think God's going to use us to judge the world. Do we have a mind-set for the things of truth?

Believe it or not, the world does dwell on things that are untrue and deceitful. We as a people are accustomed to lies. Every single day, we are trained to accept lies. Paper ads are geared to deceiving you into thinking you are getting a good deal. When you open up a newspaper, it can be a lie, a deceit, or a misrepresentation. "This is only for \$9.99." Why don't the ads just say \$10.00? Believe it or not, there is a mind-set behind that to try to get you to think you're getting a good deal. That's how it's done. You can go to a car dealership and they are going to give you \$10,000 off. "We're going to take \$10,000 off this sticker on this car. It's a Labor Day Sale. There's never going to be another sale like this one." We're taught and flooded with ads all the time. I'm telling you, we need to be careful, because it influences us sometimes.

Saints, we need to have the Spirit of God and a desire to want and know truth. I say at times, "Lord, help our country." Sometimes I wonder if our political leaders spend more time trying to find lies on someone than they do the truth.

There are those who deal with statistics. In statistics, I can just about prove to you anything. I'm always interested when I hear that a car dealership has won this and that award. Then I heard that another car dealership won the same award. I say to myself, "How did they both win the same award in the same category?" There is a deceptive way that they do things to try to appeal to us.

JESUS SAID, "I AM THE TRUTH"

Thomas asked Jesus, "How can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus Christ is the way, the only way, and the only truth. We are living in a country today where people are trying to influence the world that Jesus Christ is not the way. "Even now are there many antichrists [false teachers]" (I John 2:18).

There are people telling you that you can make heaven this way or that way. You don't have to be born again by the blood of Christ. All you have to do is to sign a decision card or just say that you're a child of God. Do you know that it affects us? It affects me. Why? Because, as a pastor, when I talk to people it sometimes opens up a door for a conversation. They may say, "Oh, I'm a Christian. I've been in the church for a long time."

But “Have you been born again? Do you live a life free from sin? Do you live holy?” People will try to influence you with other things.

There’s a song we have at home. It was written for our congregation for our anniversary many years ago by Sis. Ann and some others. It’s called, “The Torch of Truth.” The chorus says—

*Torch of Truth, my heritage,
May I bear it faithfully,
So that I can pass it on
To the ones who follow me.*

There’s also another chorus for it. This one says—
*Church of God, our heritage,
True and faithful we must be;
May we hear Him say, “Well done,”
When our Savior’s face we see.*

I thank God for those who were before us that held faithful. They held to the Word of God. They preached it. We’re here today because of their faithfulness. I often say at home that our congregation has been here for almost 90 years. Sis. Hawk is 98, but she wasn’t there when the church was built. Sis. Bush was the only one who was there. As a little girl, she remembered when it was built. Many have passed away, but they stayed true and kept preaching the Word. We still want the Word today—that Torch of Truth. Part of one of the verses of that song says, “Truth will stand when all else fails.”

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. I am still the same today.” When we start walking with Christ, He wants to see if we truly love Him. If you’re saved for any length of time, Jesus is going to see if you really love truth.

MEASURING TO THE TRUTH

One time there was a rich young ruler who came all excited to Jesus. He came running to Jesus and said, “Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” He asked Jesus that question. He wanted to know the truth so he could make heaven his home. He was excited to hear it. Jesus started to tell him some things. He said to Jesus, “All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?” But then Jesus had to tell him something else he didn’t want to hear. In preaching the Word of God, we sometimes hear things we may not want to hear. In preaching and in listening to the Word of God, we hear things. Christ will point out some things.

I’ve been saved for a while. I love walking in this way. I enjoy serving the Lord. As I started to grow and continue my walk with God, every once in a while He shone a spotlight on me, because He needed me to measure up to something. You look at it sometimes and think, “Lord, I didn’t know you were going to ask that of me.” I thank God for His kindness and patience. He will never ever, ever, show you something that you’re not able to take care of. “Oh, Lord, that’s too much for me to bear.” He won’t give you more than you are able to bear.

Jesus told the rich young ruler something. He said, “Go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.” He went away sor-

rowful. He was not expecting to hear those words from Jesus.

During a service, God may point out something to you. I remember many years ago when God pointed out something to me that was very troubling. It kept me awake that night. I lost my sleep. I was a young man then. I usually sleep very well. I lay in my bed and I could almost feel the sweat, because it wasn’t something that I had remembered hearing or knew anything about. It was just something, but God had mercy and was patient with me until I came to the understanding. Then I walked in the truth. What a wonderful blessing that was! It was difficult for me because it wasn’t something that I was seeing or understanding, but God helped me to see and understand. What a tremendous blessing it was to my soul!

COMING TO A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH

Let’s go to Psalm 139. David said in verses 23 and 24, “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Again, “Search me [That’s why we come to the services. ‘Try me, run your spotlight through me. Allow your Spirit to deal with me.], ... know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me.” Let me tell you, there may not be a particular wicked thing going on, but the enemy is trying his very best to plant a small seed. I’ve done a little bit of gardening at home. I like spring onions, so I said to myself, “I’m going to grow some spring onions.” When I got a pack of spring onion seeds, I said, “You have to be kidding me.” They were tiny, but spring onions come from those seeds.

Do you know the enemy of the soul does the same thing? He doesn’t have to give you a huge plant, so to speak, but it can be a small seed that he will lay in your soul. “See if there be [anything working or any untruth] in me.” We have to have a desire for truth. If we say, “Lord, I’m just walking my way,” God is going see what we’re made of. Let Him lead us in the way everlasting.

I Timothy 2:4 says, “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” Everyone of us grow in different levels, spiritually. As I mentioned, I thank God for His patience with me. You can say the same. Some of us grow quickly. Some of us learn quicker than others.

We talk about Peter in the Bible. He was very forward. He got into trouble a lot of times because he spoke too quickly. At the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter said, “Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.” But a voice came and spoke, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.” Moses had his time, but listen to Christ.

God is patient with us, but we need to be patient with ourselves. I say that sincerely. I sometimes get impatient with myself. I’ve prayed, “Lord, you’ve been more patient with me than maybe I’ve been with myself. I might have given up on myself a long time ago, but you didn’t.” We need not give up on ourselves. We need to be patient with ourselves and with one another.

My favorite verse of “He Lifted Me Out,” is—
*I was building my home on the dry shifting sand,
Casting my lot in a cold barren land;*

*“You’re doomed [I’ve heard Satan say that to me
before.] now for aye,” I heard Satan shout;*

*But [That word changed the whole world.] Jesus
reached down and lifted me out.*

I Peter 2:2 says, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.” As a newborn babe in Christ, you should desire the simple things of God. You should have a longing for what God has for you. I have a little grandson now. He has a mouth full of teeth. He’s not two yet. Before he was given some real easy things to digest, but now he has some choppers. He wants to eat real food now. He’s able to deal with it. It’s the same way, spiritually. We need to take care of the babes in Christ by giving them sincere milk that’s easy to digest and accept. As they continue to love those things, eventually, God’s going to say, “I have a little bit more for you, a little more strength for you, something that’s going to be a little more difficult to handle, but you can handle it.” But you must have a desire. If you can’t enjoy the sincere milk, the little things God has for you, you won’t enjoy the other things.

II Timothy 3:7 says, “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” Are you willing to receive truth? There are two types of people here tonight: saved and unsaved. Jesus said, “You’re either with me or against me. You’re either gathering or scattering.” We don’t like to think about that, but if we’re not living to all the Word that God shows us on our pathway, then we’re scattering. We’re making a hindrance to the Church of God. Are we willing to receive the truth? If we’re not, there’s no use of putting on the rest of the armor if we’re not willing to have truth. God is going to see if we are willing to accept it. He’s going to see if we still love truth.

Proverbs 23:23 says, “Buy the truth, and sell it not.” Truth will cost us something. It will cost us our family sometimes. Truth will cost us friends. It will cost us a lot of things in life. The merchant man in the Bible found the Pearl of great price and sold everything he had to obtain that one pearl. Do you see that being a child of God is having that Pearl of great price, which is above anything else in this world?

CONCLUSION

If you’re saved tonight, I encourage you to stay true and faithful and love the truth. Stay in the truth. If you’re not saved, one day you’re going to stand before God at the judgment bar and truth is going to be revealed. Nothing will be hid. “Help us, Lord, to love the truth with all our soul, mind, and strength.” Remember, David said, “Search me, try me; find out if there’s something that’s not true that’s working in my soul, and reveal it to me, so when I stand before you one day, I can hear, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.’”

Do you have a desire for truth? Do you have a longing for truth, or are there some things you may have kept hidden?

May the Lord bless you as we have a song. †

JUSTIFICATION

A NEW LIFE

Scriptures: Mark 5:1-10; I Timothy 1:12, 13, 15; Galatians 1:23; Ephesians 4:24.

Mark 5:1 And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.

2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

3 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

4 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.

5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

7 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.

8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

10 And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.

I Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Galatians 1:23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.

Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Memory Verse: 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.

Aim: To teach that those who have been justified live a new life.

INTRODUCTION

PETER was referring to the new life when he said that his old associates thought it strange that he did not run to the same excess of riot that he had before he was converted. So in everyone’s life there is a marked change when he has really been born again. The man who has felt the need of “religion” and in trying to satisfy that need has joined some church will have a very difficult time in trying to present to the world a change in living. He will still be plagued by a desire for the old companionship of the world and the same old desires for the pleasures of the world. Eventually, though he may succeed for a time in suppressing it, the flesh will win out, and he will be found indulging in the old sins as freely as before. This is because he is still alive to sin, and the new life of holiness has not been formed in him by the indwelling of the Lord Jesus Christ. So, a religion that does not produce the new life

springing from within is worth less than nothing to the human family, and should be banished from the earth. All such religions are founded and empowered by the devil himself, and millions are the inhabitants of the earth who have been deceived by them. We trust that this lesson shall awaken in the student a deep desire for the pure waters that are drawn from the wells of salvation in Jesus Christ.

MEDITATIONS

THE OLD LIFE—Mark 5:2—An unclean spirit—This is the lowest state of the unregenerated life. Everyone does not fall to this level, but there are many who do. But the blood of Jesus Christ is just as sufficient for this as any case that might be less vile. In our age, most men are not able to discern the working of Satan, and usually a soul-sick man is considered physically sick, and the devil hides, successfully covered. However, a God-called, Spirit-filled man walking in all the light of the gospel knows the situation and is the only man who can get the suffering individual to the only source of help, the Lord Jesus Christ.

EXCEEDINGLY VIOLENT—Mark 5:3—No man could bind him—The devil in control of a human compels him to do just the opposite of what God intended he should do. In this case, he drove the man away from home and compelled him to live alone in the wilderness of the tombs. This man was in great need of help, and there was none but Jesus who could give it. Much effort had been put forth to help him, as the next verse indicates, but every effort was futile.

MENTAL AGONY—Mark 5:5—Crying and cutting himself—The devil preyed upon this man's mind; this was torture indeed. He was so much beside himself that he sought relief in afflicting his own body. He could not rest, but day and night he could be found wandering from tomb to mountain and mountain to tomb, seeking to escape the torture of an evil life. In many countries today, they have means whereby such people can be handled, in padded cells, and with strait jackets, and such people are not left out in the public, but are confined; thus the public sees little or nothing of such cases, and knows nothing of the horror of such things.

DELIVERANCE—Mark 5:6—Saw Jesus—This was a miraculous happening, for it is very doubtful if this man had ever heard of the Lord Jesus. But be sure the demons within him knew who Jesus was. Jesus knew the state of the man, and He who can control the waves and the wind can with as much ease control demons, and at His unspoken command He brought the man to His feet. **Verse 7—With a loud voice**—This was not the man speaking of himself, but the devil using his voice. What a blessing to know that there is nothing that is not subject to the Lord Jesus Christ, and the man who trusts Him has nothing to fear. The demons could do nothing other than obey His voice. They were very fearful, because they did not know what Jesus would do to them, for they were subject to His power.

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS—Mark 5:8—Come out—All the spirits of Satan, of which there are many, are unclean, causing people to do things that are

contrary to righteousness and truth. The devil revels in sin and uncleanness, ruining any life that he can influence: but the purpose of the Lord is to lead men in lives of holiness and purity. If He cannot lead a man in cleanness, He will not lead him at all. Oh, how the world does need the pure gospel message today that saves men from all ungodliness and filth! **Verse 9—We are many**—Many unclean spirits can occupy one soul. Each spirit has a character of his own, thus there are lying spirits, deaf and dumb spirits, etc. One soul may be dominated by many of these spirits and his life be correspondingly wicked. **Verse 10—Besought him much**—The devil finds pleasure in ruling and dominating human beings who were made to worship God, and he would rather be permitted to dwell in beasts than to be sent to the fires of eternal hell.

A HIGH CALLING—I Timothy 1:12—Into the ministry—The true ministers of Jesus Christ are called by the Lord Himself and qualified; they are not called by a school or religious body of group of men. So great is the calling that the greatest of humility is needed to properly fill the office. No man can fill this office, even to the slightest degree, who is still held in the power of the old life dominated by Satan. Only in the newness of life with the Spirit of God dwelling within is any man qualified to enter the ministry of Jesus Christ.

EVIDENCES OF THE OLD LIFE—I Timothy 1:13—A blasphemer—These evil things that Paul did while living the old life were done as a member of the best religion the world had in that day. We need not be surprised then if today the true saint of God meets persecution at the hand of cold, formal, Christless religion, of which there is much. Paul's blindness was caused by the improper teaching of his religious associates, he himself being very sincere in the things that he was doing. In the seventh chapter of Romans he speaks of himself as being a wretched man while in such a state, and wretched indeed he was. This is the state of many today, and we need to lift high the blazoned standards of pure, holy truth.

JESUS SAVES FROM THE OLD LIFE—I Timothy 1:15—To save sinners—Some try to teach that after Paul accepted Christ, he was still the chief of sinners; but this is doing violence to the Scriptures, for Jesus never came to save us IN our sins, but to save FROM them. As a Pharisee, Paul had lived a very sinful life and did it in the name of religion. Jesus came to deliver from the old life and to impart the new, for He came that we might have life and that we might have it more abundantly. **Galatians 1:23—Faith he once destroyed**—After being saved, Paul lived a new life. The faith he had tried so hard to destroy, he now put all his energy and his whole heart into preaching to others.

THE NEW MAN DESCRIBED—Ephesians 4:24—Put on the new man—Some teach that salvation is a process by which we grow into the grace of God, adding a little each day until finally we arrive at the state of redemption, but this is wrong. Redemption is an instantaneous act performed by believing on the power of the blood of Jesus Christ to save. It does not take a man a year to put on his coat, neither does it

take a year or even two minutes to put on the new man.

CONCLUSION

This lesson is not intended for the few, but should be the study of every man on the entire earth, for the new life is the first need of every man who walks the sands of time. It is the devil's business to keep the true information hidden from the people of the earth so that he may be successful in damning their souls for all of long eternity. The pitiful part of it is that once the devil has been able to get man started in the wrong direction, it is very difficult for that man to turn about in his course and take the right road. He will, in most cases, play right into the hands of the devil. Let us impress your heart that the new life is a life of peace and joy; the old is a life of sorrow and regret. He who is wise will choose Christ (regardless of the cost) and live.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why do the old associates shun a man when he has received the new life?
2. What is one of the strong factors in keeping men from embracing the new life?
3. Describe Paul's condition as a Pharisee.
4. What was the great difficulty with the man who could not be tamed?
5. With whom does the old man originate? The new?
6. What is the only remedy that can be used in getting free from the old man?
7. Why did the man come bowing before Jesus, since it is evident that he knew Him not? †



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

QUESTION: Is there any place in the Bible that teaches about reincarnation? Is it true or not?

ANSWER: The Bible does not teach reincarnation as many in Africa and Asia believe it. The Bible does teach that our bodies shall be resurrected and changed at the end of time. Nowhere does it teach that the "spirit" of bugs or animals or human beings re-enter some other "body" on this earth at a later date.

QUESTION: Can sin enter into a Christian's life?

ANSWER: Known sin cannot enter a Christian's life as LONG as he remains a Christian. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God" (I John 3:9). But that is not to say a Christian cannot backslide, for he can! "When I shall say to the righteous,

that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it" (Ezekiel 33:13).

QUESTION: Will you please give me some explanation concerning the "one and two works of grace"?

ANSWER: In the Bible we do not find the term "one and two works of grace." These are terms that men have used to describe the operations of the Spirit of God. Usually, as accepted, the one or first work of grace is the coming of the sinner to God for the forgiveness of sins. As a sinner, he is in no condition to be a servant of the most high God. He is condemned in his soul, and he feels a heavy burden or weight upon him, and his heart's cry is that he might be delivered and made free. So he comes to Christ and asks forgiveness for sins. This he readily receives and thus he is in a position to become a servant of the most high God. Whereas, in his first trip to the altar [or wherever he sought the Lord], he sought forgiveness.

In his second trip to the altar, he now offers himself according to Romans 12:1 as a "living sacrifice." This, God readily accepts and cleanses from his life a natural tendency toward sin. This is sanctification, or the second work of grace. At the same time that he presents himself, God cleanses. There are two parts to sanctification: that which the human performs, being the offering of himself; and the second part is that which is done by God, or the cleansing of the natural tendency toward sin. These are both works of grace.

However, I would want to add that anything that God does for the human family is a "work of grace." *Grace* is the unmerited favor of God, and everything that we receive is unmerited and comes from the Lord, a gift from Him. Divine healing comes in as, of course, a work of grace; but by usage, the first and second works of grace have become to be known as 1. justification; 2. sanctification.

QUESTION: Revelation 2:15, "So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate." Who are the Nicolaitanes, and what is their work?

ANSWER: The Nicolaitanes were a religious sect. Adam Clarke says some of their doctrines were "the community of wives, that adultery and fornication were things indifferent, that eating meats offered to idols was quite lawful, and mixed several pagan rites with the Christian ceremonies." So it is no wonder that Christ hated their false doctrines.

QUESTION: Will you give me a little more enlightenment on these two verses of Scripture: Matthew 7:24; Jeremiah 15:19?

ANSWER: In Matthew 7:24, Jesus says the person who hears His sayings and DOES them will be like a wise man who built his house on a rock. Of course, the house that was built on a rock stood the storms of life (see verse 25). So the person who builds upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, will be able to stand the storms of life, be

able to resist and overcome the temptations of the devil, and in the end hear Christ say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

As you read from the first part of Jeremiah 15, it is made clear that the people had forsaken God and He was determined to punish them for their evil ways. However, in verse 19, He gives them the promise that if they would return unto Him (after being driven out and punished) then He would bring them again to their land, and they would be able to stand before Him, having His favor and blessings. They were to separate the "precious from the vile," truth from error, right from wrong, holy from the unholy, and not return to evil. Then He goes on in verse 20 and tells how He would care for them and what else He would do for them if they would do as He said. †

TRIBUTE TO:

PASTOR GARRY HARTWELL JEFFRIES, SR.

March 29, 1935-April 11, 2019

On behalf of the Hagerstown congregation of the Church of God, I would like to extend our deepest condolences and empathy to the family of Bro. Garry and to all the congregations of the Church of God (Universal) in Honduras for the passing from this life of our beloved, Bro. Garry Jeffries. We will all miss him dearly.

Bro. Garry was a special man of God who received a vision of the church many years ago and dedicated his life to the furtherance of the gospel on Roatan Island and wherever he went. He was responsible to a great extent for the progress of the work of God in Roatan. He sacrificed much for the advancement of the gospel. His delight was seeing souls saved. He was warm and friendly to those with whom he came in contact. He developed a special bond with me personally. I will miss him so much—as we all will.

Bro. Garry was especially loved by the saints in Hagerstown as he came to our annual convention many times through the years. He endeared himself to us by his love and enthusiasm for the truth. The song, "Too Much to Gain to Lose," will forever be associated with his singing it. It was always requested and was blessed as he sang it.

Bro. Garry has gained the ultimate prize. He, like the apostle Paul, fought a good fight, finished his course, and kept the faith. He is now joined with all the saints who have gone on before, rejoicing around the throne of his Lord.

May God bless the new generation of leaders in Honduras to be dedicated to Christ as this man of God was for some 50 years of service. We will never forget you, Bro. Garry.

Sincerely,
Pastor Greg Tyler,
Church of God
Hagerstown, Maryland



Dear Young People,

Here, in Hagerstown, we are preparing for our annual convention. I am reminded of how important it is that we have a support system. The Bible says, "Two are better than one" (Ecclesiastes 4:9), "and a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

I encourage you to build and invest in relationships with other Christians. The enemy would like nothing more than to isolate God's people from one another. When we are going through a trial, it can sometimes be difficult to recognize the lies of the devil. Sometimes we need someone to remind us of his tactics.

We are continuing with our printing of *The Heavenly Footman*. Lord willing, next month will be the conclusion of this series.

With Christian love,
Sis. Crystal Gossard

The Heavenly Footman

Thus you see I have here spoken something, though but little. Now I shall come to make some use and application of what hath been said, and so conclude.

The First Use

You see here, that he that will go to heaven, he must run for it; yea, and not only run, but so run, that is, as I have said, to run earnestly, to run continually, to strip off everything that would hinder in his race with the rest. Well then, do you so run? And now let us examine a little.

1. Art thou got into the right way? Art thou in Christ's righteousness? Do not say yes in thy heart, when in truth there is no such matter. It is a dangerous thing, you know, for a man to think he is in the right way, when he is in the wrong. It is the next way for him to lose his way, and not only so, but if he run for heaven, as thou sayest thou dost, even to lose that too. O this is the misery of most men, to persuade themselves that they run right, when they never had one foot in the way! The Lord give thee understanding here, or else thou art undone forever. Prithee, soul, search when was it thou turned out of thy sins and righteousness into the righteousness of Jesus Christ. I say, dost thou see thyself in Him? and is He more precious to thee than the whole world? Is thy mind always musing on Him? Dost thou love to be talking of Him and also to be walking with Him? Dost thou count His company more precious than the whole world? Dost thou count all things but poor, lifeless, empty, vain things, without communion with Him? Doth His company sweeten all things and His absence embitter all things? Soul, I beseech thee, be serious, and lay it to heart, and do not take things of such weighty concernment as the salvation or damnation of thy soul, without good ground.

2. Art thou unladen of the things of this world, as pride, pleasures, profits, lusts, vanities? What! dost thou think to run fast enough with the world, thy sins

and lusts in thy heart? I tell thee, soul, they that have laid all aside, every weight, every sin, and are got into the nimblest posture, they find work enough to run; so to run as to hold out. To run through all that opposition, all these jostles, all these rubs, over all these stumbling blocks, over all the snares from all these entanglements, that the devil, sin, the world, and their own hearts, lay before them; I tell thee, if thou art agoing heavenward, thou wilt find it no small or easy matter. Art thou therefore discharged and unladen of these things? Never talk of going to heaven if thou art not. It is to be feared thou wilt be found among the many that will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

The Second Use

If so, then, in the next place, what will become of them that are grown weary before they are got half way thither? Why, man, it is he that holdeth out to the end that must be saved; it is he that overcometh that shall inherit all things; it is not every one that begins. Agrippa gave a fair step for a sudden, he steps almost into the bosom of Christ in less than half an hour. "Thou," saith he to Paul, "hast almost persuaded me to be a Christian." Ah! but it was but almost; and so he had as good have been never a whit; he stept fair indeed, but yet he stept short; he was hot while he was at it, but he was quickly out of wind. O this but almost! I tell you, this but almost, it lost his soul. Methinks I have seen sometimes how these poor wretches that get but almost to heaven, how fearfully their almost, and their but almost, will torment them in hell; when they shall cry out in the bitterness of their souls, saying, "I was *almost* a Christian. I was *almost* got into the kingdom, *almost* out of the hands of the devil, *almost* out of my sins, *almost* from under the curse of God; *almost*, and that was all; *almost*, but not altogether. O that I should be *almost* at heaven, and should not go quite through!" Friend, it is a sad thing to sit down before we are in heaven, and to grow weary before we come to the place of rest; and if it should be thy case, I am sure thou dost not so run as to obtain. But again,

The Third Use

In the next place, What then will become of them that some time since were running posthaste to heaven, insomuch that they seemed to outstrip many, but now are running as fast back again? Do you think those will ever come thither? What, to run back again, back again to sin, to the world, to the devil, back again to the lusts of the flesh? O! It had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after they have known *it*, to turn, to turn back again, from the holy commandment. Those men shall not only be damned for sin, but for professing to all the world that sin is better than Christ; for the man that runs back again, he doth as good as say, "I have tried Christ, and I have tried sin, and I do not find so much profit in Christ as in sin." I say, this man declareth this, even by his running back again. O sad! what a doom they will have, who were almost at heaven-gates, and then run back again. "If *any* draw back," saith Christ [by His apostle], "my soul shall have no pleasure in him." Again, no man having put his hand to the plough, that is, set forward, in the ways of God, and looking back, turning back again, is fit for the kingdom of God. And if not fit for

the kingdom of heaven, then for certain he must needs be fit for the fire of hell. "And therefore", saith the apostle, "those that bring forth these apostatizing fruits, as briars and thorns, are rejected, and nigh unto cursing, whose end is to be burned." O there is never another Christ to save them by bleeding and dying for them! And if they shall not escape that neglect, then how shall they escape that reject and turn their back upon so great a salvation? And if the righteous, that is, they that run for it, will find work enough to get to heaven, then where will the ungodly backsliding sinner appear? or if Judas the traitor, or Francis Spira the backslider, were but now alive in the world to whisper these men in the ear a little, and tell them what it hath cost their souls for backsliding, surely it would stick by them and make them afraid of running back again, so long as they had one day to live in this world.

The Fourth Use

So again, fourthly, how unlike to these men's passions will those be that have all this while sat still, and have not so much as set one foot forward to the kingdom of heaven. Surely he that backslideth, and he that sitteth still in sin, they are both of one mind; the one he will not stir, because he loveth his sins, and the things of this world; the other he runs back again, because he loveth his sins, and the things of this world: is it not one and the same thing? They are all one here, and shall not one and the same hell hold them hereafter! He is an ungodly one that never looked after Christ, and he is an ungodly one that did once look after Him and then ran quite back again; and therefore that word must certainly drop out of the mouth of Christ against them both, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." †

WINNING A CROWN

By the late C. W. Naylor



Part XI

Christian Perfection

THE SUBJECT of Christian perfection is often greatly misunderstood. This is true not only of those who give the subject little attention, but also of those who study it and sometimes of those who are even teachers of it. Texts bearing on different phases of it or not touching the subject at all are often jumbled together into a hopeless confusion, from which there can come no clear knowledge of the doctrine. It is highly necessary, therefore, to "rightly divide the word of truth," applying to each phase of the question those scriptures which belong to that phase. The connection in which they are used determines their meaning. To class the word always under one definition is to involve ourselves in endless difficulty. We can arrive at the truth only when we carefully study each text in its proper connection.

There are two kinds of perfection—absolute and relative. Absolute perfection means perfection in every

attribute, that is, lacking in nothing and having no imperfection whatever. This sort of perfection can be attributed only to an infinite being, and as God is the only infinite being, He alone can be perfect in this absolute sense. He is perfect in this sense. He is a perfectly infinite being, imperfect in not a single attribute. Such a perfection is unattainable by man either in this world or in the world to come, or by any other beings of God's creation. It is just as unattainable by the angels as by man. In the consideration of Christian perfection, therefore, we must needs lay aside this definition. We must find another sense in which the word may be applicable to man. If man is perfect, he can be so only in a relative sense. He is finite and imperfect in all his attributes, and he will never be otherwise. For this reason, his perfection must be judged from an entirely different standard from that of absolute perfection.

God is perfect in His nature; therefore the acts that flow from His nature are perfect acts and reflect nothing of imperfection. He always chooses and wills and does that which is just and right and holy. He will ever be what He is now, and His actions will ever be as they are now, so far as their quality is concerned. As already stated, we shall always remain finite, so always more or less imperfect, and we cannot therefore apply the word "perfection" in its absolute sense to ourselves.

Relative perfection means a coming up to or fulfilling of some particular standard. This standard requires certain things, whatever they may be. That which possesses those things or qualities is perfect judged by that standard. There are degrees of perfection, strange as that may seem, but only as they relate to the relative nature of this perfection. To illustrate: You walk out into the field and pluck a blade of grass. You look it over. You see no imperfections in it, and you say, "Here is a perfect blade of grass." But look at that insect crawling yonder. It is a higher type of life. It possesses a higher organization. It has higher and greater powers. It need not stay in one place as does the blade of grass, simply waving in the wind, but it moves about from place to place at will. You may take it up and look it all over, or examine it with a microscope, and possibly you will find in it no defect of any character. If so, you may say that it is perfect. But that animal which stands yonder under the shade of that tree is a still higher type of life. If it possesses no defect, you may say that it also is perfect. Man is a still higher type of life, and if he is without defect, he may also be said to be perfect.

These objects, when compared one with the other, are very different. One may be said to be a much more perfect type of life than another. When the grass, the insect, or the animal is compared with man, it is found much inferior. There is, however, a sense in which each may be perfect, that is, as a type of the life of which it is a specimen. The grass may be perfect as grass, the insect as an insect, the animal as an animal, and man as a man; but none of them are perfect in the absolute sense. It is in this same relative sense that man may be perfect as a Christian. He cannot be perfect as a God, nor perfect as an angel; but he can be perfect as a Christian man. To be perfect in a spiritual sense

means to fill up the measure of God's requirements in that particular field.

What the Scriptures Say

Jesus recognized the possibility of man's being perfect. To the rich young man He said, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor" (Matthew 19:21). In the Sermon on the Mount, He said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). Paul believed that men could reach a perfect state. "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect" (I Corinthians 2:6). He not only believed that they could be, but commanded that they should be. To the Corinthians he said, "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect" (II Corinthians 13:11). Not only did he teach and command perfection, but he professed to be perfect. "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded" (Philippians 3:15). He also taught that provision had been made for the attainment of that state. He said that the Scriptures are given "that the man of God may be perfect" (II Timothy 3:17). In Ephesians 4:11, 12, he says, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints." James speaks on the subject thus: "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:4).

From these scriptures we are forced to conclude that there must be some definite New Testament standard of perfection to which man can attain in this life. Otherwise these scriptures would be meaningless. This perfection is not something held up to be merely aimed at and never realized. It is something to be attained, and that attainment is to be reached in this life. It is something capable of present and actual realization. It is not an idealism; it is a practical reality. Throughout the whole New Testament, it is so viewed and taught.

The Nature of Christian Perfection

This perfection is not a perfection in knowledge, wisdom, power, foresight, judgment, or other such quality. In this world our knowledge is and will be imperfect; our wisdom is often inadequate; our power will often come short of our needs; our foresight will often fail to pierce the future; our judgment will often be mistaken. Christian perfection does not imply perfection in any of these qualities or attributes.

The word has different applications in different places; not all texts where the word is used apply to the same thing. We need to distinguish carefully between its various uses; unless we do so, we cannot have clear views upon the subject. In our study, therefore, we should give each text a critical examination. Let us first notice the application of the term to moral perfection. In this sense it means the purification of our natures so that they no longer contain any moral corruption. This idea is expressed in Hebrews 13:20, 21, as follows: "Now the God of peace ... through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will." The blood of Christ was shed solely for purification; it has no other office. Therefore, this text must refer to a moral cleansing, and that cleansing reaches through to the state which is here called perfection. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in

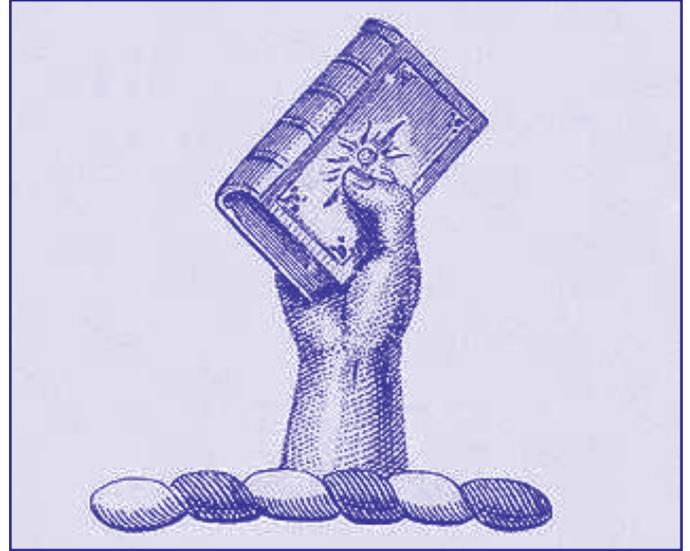
heart: for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8). John said, “The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (I John 1:7).

Paul thus expresses the purpose of God’s commandment: “Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned” (I Timothy 1:5). That men could be so perfected in their moral natures as to be truly pure in heart is expressed by Paul in II Timothy 2:22—“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” This shows not only the condition of the heart to which man may attain, but also the life which flows forth from such a heart. The nature and extent of this perfection is thus set forth: “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (II Corinthians 7:1). According to this text, it is holiness in which we are to be perfected, and Paul defines that as being the result of a cleansing from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, that is, a making pure in heart so that there remains no moral corruption. The apostle John says, “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (I John 3:3).

Attention has already been called to the fact that there is both a divine and a human side to this purification, this perfecting of our moral natures. We are now noticing only the final effects, the perfected result. Paul says, “Unto the pure, all things are pure” (Titus 1:15). By this he recognizes the fact that men are pure, and we are made pure only by the blood of Christ.

(to be continued)

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE TRUTH



(Understanding the difference between the unchangeable principles of the gospel in the context of an ever changing world)

By Bro. Richard Lehman,
Carmichael, California

I HAVE OBSERVED a common fear and misunderstanding within the Church of God regarding scriptural text, the differences in local ministerial guidance, and then the actual principles that the Scriptures teach. Many do not understand the differences between these. And because of these misunderstandings, some have unknowingly created confusion, and even worse, some have divided true Christians.

First, let’s define what the word *principle* means: “a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief, or behaviors, or for a chain of reasoning. Example: the basic principles of Christianity.”

It is interesting and absolutely proper that the example the dictionary would give would be the basic or foundational principles of Christianity, because true Christianity is based upon a foundation of unchangeable principles.

For those who may have a fear of the word *changeable*, or not always the same, in reference to the gospel, let me make this statement right away to help assure you—the principles of the gospel have never changed, and never will! Some of these unchangeable gospel principles are:

1. God is love, and He loves everyone so much that He gave His very best, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins.

2. God is true righteousness, and so through Jesus Christ’s delivering power, He enables whom He saves from sin, to continue to live free from sin.

3. God is almighty and sovereign over the whole world, and especially to His church. He chooses what

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- Virginia**, Smithfield, WKGM 940, 6:30 A.M.
- West Virginia**, Summersville, WCWV 92.9, 8:30 A.M.

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- 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.

gifts to give to whom. He chooses what responsibility each one of us has. And He chooses how to minister through us locally and collectively.

These are principles that never change, because God does not change. And these principles of the gospel come directly from God's very being or existence.

"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."—Malachi 3:6.

This scripture above is particularly speaking of the principle of God's great mercy. The principle of mercy is part of who "He is." And there are other principles of the gospel that never change, because they are ordained by God for the benefit of mankind; principles like modesty, faith, hope, and Christian leadership.

Here is one example of some of these principles in the scripture: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."—Galatians 5:22, 23.

In other words, no rule, nor law, nor local ministration by the leadership of the church should ever negate any of these unchangeable principles from God. Neither should any capability or office given by God be used to negate any of these principles given by God.

These principles cannot be touched without serious consequence.

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

—Hebrews 13:7, 8.

A minister must first respect these unchangeable principles by incorporating them into "the end of their conversation." They must completely govern behavior and life. These principles came directly from Jesus Christ. They are given to us by the Holy Spirit working with us, and even more so when He sanctifies us and reigns within us. And yet, the Holy Spirit will choose to work differently in different situations and because of different needs, according to His own unchangeable principles.

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."—I Corinthians 12:4-7.

Thayer's definition of the original word *administration* as is used in the scripture above includes "service, ministering, especially of those who execute the commands of others; of those who by the command of God proclaim and promote religion among men."

Thayer's definition of the original word *operation* as is used in the scripture above includes "thing wrought; effect."

We know that all the above is to be directed by the Holy Spirit through those who minister in some capacity. They often pray for and provide guidance and help to the members of the body of Christ. Every age, culture, congregation, and individual situation can be very different, requiring different guidance and help. So the question is: Are we able to allow God to work through

each situation and minister differently as God would choose?

The apostle Paul was keenly aware of the different needs of different cultures. Therefore, in the same epistle he also wrote, "And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law" (I Corinthians 9:20, 21).

How Paul approached and ministered to the Jews was drastically different from how he approached and ministered to the Gentiles. He did not require circumcision of the Gentiles, but when he took Timothy with him where there were many Jews, he had Timothy circumcised so that they could reach both Jews and Gentiles in that place (see Acts 16:3).

Let us not find fault when God chooses to work in different ways according to the needs. Any individual or group of ministers who feel that God can only work in one way (for all time, cultures, congregations and individual situation), is violating a foundational principle of God, God's perfect choice. Church headquarters is still located in heaven!

When the local ministerial guidance becomes rigid and unchangeable, it may become something used elsewhere. Ministers proclaim that the "other part of the body of Christ is accursed." And, of course, they are woefully out of order when they do it. One may feel that others are less in the kingdom of God because they are not as "spiritual," but God does not think that way. If they are saved, they are His, and He expects everyone to treat them as if they were Jesus Himself.

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."—Matthew 25:40.

No minister is exempt from personally offending Jesus Christ when he puts down another part of the body for local ministerial differences. I'm not talking about differences because of sin. Sin in the life separates the individual from Christ so that they are no longer part of the body.

There is a trap that too many ministers have fallen into. Because of past compromises, many are desiring to create a "safe place" in their gospel where nothing changes. But this has proven to be a mistake for four reasons:

1. The Holy Spirit is precluded from ministering to the needs of individuals and congregations;
2. New souls of a different culture may not be reached with the gospel;
3. We are blind to further illumination from God;
4. God's people are divided into these so-called "safe places."

The reality is that we, the Church of God, have already been warned of these dangers by those who have gone before us over 100 years ago.

The following is taken from a message titled, "The True Standard," preached by H. M. Riggles at a camp meeting in 1913:

“Any creed larger than the Bible is too large, just as any creed smaller than the Bible is too small. We have positively no right to enact any rules or regulations or to enjoin upon our fellow ministers and the church of God any past traditions or new observances not clearly based on Bible principles. To do so is to fall into the rut of creedism, and to depart from what is a fundamental truth; namely, that *the written Word of God is our only standard*. Past reformations wrecked upon the rock of traditionalism, and we shall do well to steer clear of this. In the New Testament will be found the true standard of life and experience. To go outside of this is to resort to man-made rules and traditions. Traditional law once imbibed and fully established in the mind and conscience, becomes as sacred to the one practicing it as divine law, and is no easy thing to shake off.

“In the revealed Word, God said what He meant, and meant all He said. In the New Testament will be found God’s standard of repentance, justification, sanctification, and unity, and the everyday life and practice of a Christian—just what God requires. Even those who adhere to creeds admit this. They say that ‘everything that is essential to life and godliness will be found in the Word of God.’ I ask, then, What is the use of anything else? Why add to the Bible, or take from it? Why not take it as it is? We believe this to be true and right. Then, let us stick to this truth and declare it to the world.”

So do we still believe and practice this? And do we still have the love of God working in us? If so, the scripture instructs us, “Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away” (I Corinthians 13:8-10). Charity, or the divine love of God, is a principle that never changes. That is why “Charity never faileth.” But no minister has a perfect understanding in the gospel. If this offends you, reread the scripture above again, and also consider the words of the apostle Paul below.

“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.”—Philippians 3:12.

Imperfect understanding does not create unsolvable problems. It is the attitude of people towards imperfect understanding that creates the problem. We need to learn the difference between a perfect heart of love towards God and imperfect understanding. The love will enable us to be corrected of any need, and enable us to suffer long with imperfect understandings of another who is truly saved and sincere.

The principles of the gospel that never change have to do with the heart. These principles become the law of the New Testament written in our hearts. “Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart” (II Corinthians 3:3).

When the apostle Paul started out establishing new congregations among the Gentiles, he had the Old Testament scriptures, the instruction of the Holy Spirit, and the words of Christ as he had received them from the apostles and disciples. He did not teach the Old Testament Law but rather the principles behind the Law.

“But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”—Romans 7:6.

The Spirit of God is God. He can only administer by His unchangeable self through unchangeable principles. And this is the principle part of Himself He places within our hearts, especially when He sanctifies us and fills us with Himself through His Holy Spirit.

You will find that in all of the apostle Paul’s epistles, in the directives he writes, he almost always explains the principle behind it. It is the principle that endures unchanged forever. But the text of the directive must be understood in its original context of the past if it is to be properly applied to the present context. Otherwise, to literalize the text creates confusion in this present world.

This is why we must pray for the Spirit’s direction, so we don’t violate the principle by taking “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” into our own hands. We must keep the Word of God in the hands of the Holy Spirit, by prayer, submission, and carefully avoiding violating the principles.

A very obvious example we understand well today is that the Holy Spirit can use a woman to teach and preach. I know of a woman who totally broke the ground of truth in overseas. She both taught and instructed many, even other male pastors. Does the scripture agree with this?

“Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence”—I Timothy 2:11, 12.

“Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.”—I Corinthians 14:34, 35.

At first glance it would appear Paul had established a new law that would even correct God for using, for example, the prophetesses Deborah and Huldah. But God does not need any correction! Certainly, Paul was dealing with some serious problems being caused by certain women. To understand how to apply these scriptures today, let us first separate and consider the principle found here—subjection.

Subjection, not usurping authority and being obedient, are principles that never change. The woman should show submission and obedience to authority and also towards her husband; not as a slave or under a dictator, but as a partner at his side in love. (See also Ephesians 5:22-33). Why? Because these scriptures must not violate any other unchangeable principles! In addition, we are all to be in subjection to one another by being clothed with humility (which is another unchangeable gospel principle).

The New Testament also has specific examples where women were used to instruct men. The daughters of Philip the evangelist prophesied. In Ephesus both a man and a woman were used in instruction, “And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly” (Acts 18:26).

Today, most of us know how to implement these New Testament scriptures concerning women. I know of many Spirit-filled women who teach and instruct classes and pastor congregations. And many people have been saved because of their ministry. If the Holy Ghost is pleased to anoint and use these sisters, how can we find fault with God?

So let’s be totally honest with ourselves. Do we know how to do this with other scriptures? Maybe we need to go back and take a closer look at the principle behind the teachings of other scriptures in order to check ourselves. Let us be sure we understand the principle behind the scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us.

What about other scriptural directives relating to clothing and how we adorn ourselves? Too often the local ministerial guidance concerning these things has been an unnecessary point of contention, creating uneasiness, and at times, even division.

“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.”—I Timothy 2:9.

Let’s first look at the principles here: modesty (covering nakedness); vanity (the pride of life); and shamefacedness and sobriety (reverence and self-control).

There are no scriptural dictates of exact types, styles, or colors of clothing related to women’s clothing. (Except a guideline in the Old Testament where we are instructed that a man should dress like a man, and a woman like a woman, and that it should be discernibly different.) So the only thing to go by is what is necessary, respecting local norms, to keep one’s self modest and humble. The local administration provides guidance in this. As long as people are still living holy, every other congregation in the world should be fine with that congregation—especially if the women are behaving themselves with reverence and respect and with self-control.

In Acts 15, we have a perfect example in different ways that gospel directives can be given to two drastically different cultures within the church: Jewish and Gentile. When the apostles and elders considered what should be required of the many cultures of the Gentiles of their time, the Holy Spirit showed them they should only require what was NECESSARY to keep them holy, and to keep them in unity with their Jewish Christian brothers and sisters.

“For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things.”—Acts 15:28. And so they reduced the requirements from the 600+ dictates of the Jewish Law and culture down to four requirements. Oh, if only everyone could see this great wisdom they had from the Holy Spirit! because with this wisdom they delivered a severe

blow to paganism, and many souls responded to the gospel and were saved!

What is fascinating about this decision is that it did not include a description of the underlying principles. The actual letter to the Gentiles was written as follows:

“... The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.”—Acts 15:23-29.

To us today, an instruction regarding “meats offered to idols, from blood, and things strangled” may seem a little strange. But it was important for the Gentiles of that age and time, and there were important principles (or critical reasons) why these directives were given. The reasons were not fully expounded in the text, but they can be obtained from the original discussion within the rest of Acts 15 and other epistles.

In the Acts 15 council at Jerusalem, the apostle Paul perfectly understood the principles underlying the instructions to the Gentiles. In Romans, chapter 14, and in I Corinthians, chapter 8, Paul extensively deals with the principles and the reasons for these instructions and carefully explains that things sacrificed to idols (by strangling, blood, or otherwise) actually are not unclean in and of themselves. It is the association with pagan practices and the offending of their brothers that they need to be concerned with. Otherwise, he explains, much falls into what we understand as “personal convictions.”

This example of Acts 15 and the later explanations given by the apostle Paul show us an actual example to help us understand the difference between unchangeable principles of the gospel and their interpretation for the present need. The unchangeable principles of this example can be summarized as, “avoid false worship and let not your liberty offend your brother.”

These principles still apply today because they are unchangeable.

All of this seems simple enough and practical when we leave principles as principles. We can then allow the Holy Spirit to guide each minister in their implementation according to the local need. Do we have a problem leaving these things in the hands of the Holy Spirit? If so, we often find a problem with each other.

My hope is that this article has helped us to understand that which is unchangeable, and that which must change according to our time and our need. †

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



DON'T BELIEVE IT

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

“What’s wrong with you?” my mother asked, looking back to where I stood nervously, three steps below her on the escalator. “Get up here where I can keep track of you.” Slowly I moved up one step. I looked across to where the steps of the other escalator system moved downward toward the ground floor of the department store. A couple of ladies stood on the steps, talking together, seemingly unaware of the danger that awaited them at the bottom.



I turned and looked at my mother’s feet, planted firmly on the metal steps of the escalator. She, too, was headed for danger, but she showed no fear. I watched in awful fascination as her feet neared the top of the escalator. Without even looking downward, my mother lifted the toes of her shoes ever so slightly and was transferred smoothly onto the shiny tiles of the second floor.

Soon it would be my turn. The step began to level out as it sank in preparation for its journey into wherever it was that escalator steps went before they reappeared to carry more passengers. My heart beating wildly, I took a flying leap and cleared the dangerous seam.

My mother frowned and took me by the arm. “What in the world are you doing?” she asked. “You almost ran into that lady!”

“I’m sorry,” I mumbled. *How can I admit to her how terrified I am of escalators?* I wondered. *She would probably laugh because I am not as brave as I ought to be.*

The truth was that I had only recently become afraid of escalators. Just a few weeks earlier, I had heard a terrifying story from a classmate at school. “You have to be very careful on escalators,” he had said, his eyes wide and solemn as he delivered the awful warning. “If your toe gets caught in the crack at the top or the bottom, the escalator step will pull you right under! It happened to a man one time, and he completely disappeared. He finally came out at the other end of the escalator, smashed flat as a pancake, with the lines of the escalator step pressed right into his body!”

The same classmate had told me of other terrible things that had happened to people in our community. “There was a woman eating at the lunch counter in People’s Drugstore,” he told me. I knew where that drugstore was. Grandma and I walked past it sometimes when we went downtown to the shoe store. “Well,” the

boy continued, “this lady ordered five hot dogs and ate them all, one after the other. All at one time! And do you know what happened to her? She fell on the floor and her body split wide open!”

“Did she die?” I asked him, shivering.

“Yes, she did!” he answered, nodding his head soberly.

I should have known better than to believe such a story, but I was only seven years old and had a very vivid imagination. It was so vivid that I could no longer bear to look through the doorway of that drugstore when Grandma and I walked by it. I was afraid I might see something tragic happening at the lunch counter.

We seldom had hot dogs at our house, and so I wasn’t too worried about eating them, but my parents did take us with them to Sears from time to time, and we always used the escalator when we were there. Although I finally admitted my fears to my mother, and was assured by her that escalators weren’t out to swallow me, I continued to fear them for years. Even as a teenager, I could hardly refrain from taking a giant step when I got to the top or bottom of escalator steps.

It is unfortunate that little children often believe things that their peers tell them, even when those things run counter to what their parents and other adults have said. Children, it makes far more sense to believe what godly, experienced adults tell you, than to take advice from a person your own age—especially one who has often been in trouble for not telling the truth.

Above all else, we should believe God’s words. They are always true. There is no better advice than what we find in the Bible. This month’s wise saying comes from Proverbs 14:15, which says, “The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.”

A “simple” person is one who is not wise. We are not wise if we believe everything we hear, especially from those who are not godly examples. A “prudent” person is wise. A prudent person studies the Bible, believes it, and obeys it. Let us ask God to keep us prudent, not believing anything that is not backed up by the Word of God.

Activity

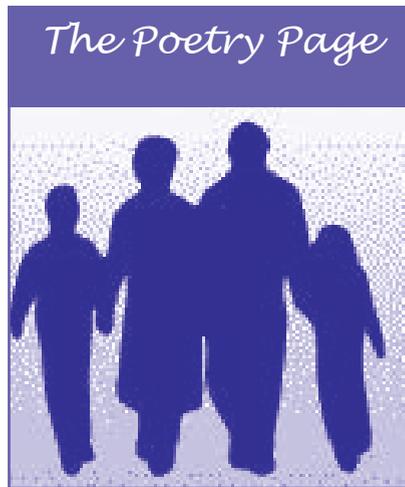
Can you name the wise Bible character who gave the godly advice?

1. “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”
2. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.”
3. “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”
4. “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.”

Answer to Last Month’s Activity

What God loves:

1. a cheerful giver (II Corinthians 9:7)
2. righteousness (Psalm 11:7)
3. judgment (Psalm 37:28)
4. the church (Ephesians 5:25) †



A TRIBUTE TO FATHER

Flora Dawson

We are paying a tribute of honor today
To one that is steadfast and true,
A heart full of love and devotion,
Dear father we are bringing to you.

You have stood by when others have failed us,
So patiently doing your part,
Though we often carelessly grieved you
And wounded your fond loving heart.

You carefully planned for our future,
You patiently toiled with your hands,
Denying yourself many pleasures
To supply our endless demands.

While others took places of honor,
And were showered with fame and renown,
You stood in the background unnoticed,
A king and a hero uncrowned.

But today we remember you, Father,
As a tribute of honor we bear,
We love the hands that are calloused
And the silver that shines in your hair.

We honor the years of your toiling,
As to every fond memory we cling,
We thank you for love and counsel,
As today we are crowning you king.

A FATHER'S PRAYER

Remelda Nielsen Gibson

Bless me with wisdom to recognize truth;
Bless me with knowledge to benefit youth.
Bless me with courage to uphold the right;
Bless me with forethought to treasure Thy light.

FATHER **Dorothea Robisch**

Who worked so hard and saved so long
For what we have today?
And anytime will sacrifice
His chance to rest or play?

Who always sees his children have
The things he did without?
And gives so much, unselfishly,
For that's what love's about.

Who thinks and plans and struggles, too,
As nobly as he can
To set a good example, and
Be a respected man?

Who seeks no honors, no rewards
For all that he has done?
Except to raise a family,
The very finest one.

Though we cannot evaluate
Our dad, his love, his worth,
To us he'll always be "just Dad,"
The greatest guy on earth.

DADDY **Norma Lee**

When we were young, you worked very hard
At the plant, in your shop, at the barn, in the yard.

Money was tight then; we didn't have much
Of toys, extra clothes, vacations, and such.

But you worked very hard to build us a home,
And we always had food, we always kept warm.

There was no one quite like you, in your quiet way,
With much in your heart, but little to say.

Today when I see all the love in your eyes
As you look at your grandchild, I realize

How you must have said something in word or in deed
That said the "I love you" we children could read. †

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
June 16

THE DIVINE NATURE

Radio Message by the late Bro. Alvin Craig

OUR SUBJECT for today's broadcast is, "The Divine Nature." Reading from II Peter 1:1-4: "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

The apostle Peter, of course, was one of the twelve disciples, and he was taught personally by the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter has written two small books that we have recorded in our Bible, and we're thankful for these because they teach a lot of precious truths. Again, the subject of today's broadcast, "The Divine Nature."

Man was created in the image of God. God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness,"—so God created man in His own image—"in his own image, in the image of God created he him" (Genesis 1:26, 27). Now, God is not a physical being, and so the writer here, when he quotes God as saying, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, ... in his own image, in the image of God created he him," is not talking about the physical man.

Jesus told the woman at the well in Samaria that "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth," so we are to conclude from the words of the apostle Peter and from the Genesis' scriptures I just read that we were made in the image of God, in the spiritual sense, or what we call the inner man or the soul in man.

We were made in the image of God. Therefore, whenever Adam and Eve were formed, they were made with a divine nature. Yes, they were a holy people. They had the divine nature. Since God is not physical, we are to understand again that Peter and the Genesis' scriptures are referring to the nature or the spirit of man. Remember this: God did not make an unholy person. When He formed Adam and Eve, He made them in His own image with the divine nature. However, as we read on in the book of Genesis, we find that Adam and Eve sinned against God. So, whenever they sinned, they lost that divine nature. They lost the image of God and took on a sinful, depraved nature. We might even say that they took on the nature of Satan. Certainly, he is an evil being. He is totally degenerate. However, I am not saying that Adam and Eve were totally degenerate after they sinned, but they did lose that divine nature. They lost their sonship (fellowship) with God, and they had a different kind of nature from the divine nature. That nature was an evil nature.

I know there are those who teach the predestination doctrine. They teach that man is totally degenerate, he

is not capable of making a decision, and that God pre-ordained before He made the world who would be saved and who would not, but that teaching is not scriptural. It is not true. Man is not totally degenerate. He does have the capacity, in fact, the responsibility of choosing. We see this in the book of Genesis, Exodus, and in Joshua. We see this in various scriptures. Moses chose, Joshua challenged the children of Israel to choose, and everyone who becomes a Christian does so by choice. Man was made a free moral agent. He was given the responsibility of choosing whom he would serve, just as Joshua challenged the children of Israel whom they would serve.

Man's nature was changed when he sinned. We come into this world with a depraved nature, which I will deal with a little later on. But whenever man's nature was changed, it became a lustful desire for things that were forbidden by God and were forbidden by the will of God. Yes, man became degenerate. He became evil in his nature and in his desires. Eve partook of that fruit whenever she had no right to do so. She did so because she was tempted and yielded to that temptation. The apostle James said, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." So, whenever man became a sinful being, his desire was for sinful things. His desire was for those things which were contrary to the will of almighty God. It brought sin, death, and destruction. Jeremiah, the prophet, said in Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" That's the divine, inspired Word of God. That's not my word or saying. Those are the words of the prophet Jeremiah who was inspired and moved by God. He was talking about that depraved nature. He wasn't talking about the divine nature.

Genesis 6:5 says, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." The Lord said, "Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous" (Genesis 18:20), "Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities" (Genesis 19:24, 25). Man's imaginations were evil continually and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were very sinful because their sin was very grievous. God destroyed them because of their sinful acts and ways.

Let us return to our text today: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises." Now, what were those promises? Well, the first promise of a Savior, as we understand, was given to Adam and Eve. Whenever God told Adam and Eve that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent, we understand that to be the very first promise in the Bible of a Savior. As we come on down through the Old Testament scriptures, we find various promises, thoughts, and expressions in regard to the coming Messiah. Isaiah is called *the gospel of the Old Testament*, because

you'll find various scriptures in his book that are prophesying and referring to the coming of the Messiah, the Savior. So it is through Jesus Christ that we have these exceeding great and precious promises.

Jesus Christ came into this world, born of a virgin in Bethlehem's stable, but He didn't remain a baby in a stable. He grew to manhood and started His earthly ministry around the age of thirty. First, Christ was baptized by John the Baptizer in the Jordan River. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and then He entered into His earthly ministry. He preached the gospel to the people. Paul told the people in Athens, "The times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." Jesus Christ said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Jesus Christ came, He suffered, bled, and died upon the cross of Calvary so that we could be changed from the sinful nature back to the divine nature. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The Scriptures represent Christ as having died as a substitute for us. His death was vicarious. Yes, His death was vicarious. Had He not died, we would have had to die. The word *vicarious* means that Jesus took our place; not that He just died for us, but He took our place. He died so that we could live, so that we did not have to die. Christ died to redeem us. *Redeem* means, "to buy back; to bring back." We sold ourselves to sin by choice. We are the ones who chose to go into a life of sin. We chose to do wrong and chose to disobey almighty God. So we sold ourselves to sin. One scripture says, "I am carnal, sold under sin." So, Jesus Christ died upon that cruel cross and rose again the third day to redeem us, to bring us back. We have the privilege through these great and precious promises to be redeemed and become a child of God.

Through Jesus Christ, we can be reconciled to God. It isn't God reconciled to man. God never did anything wrong. He's never done man any wrong. We are the ones who did the wrong. We are the ones who have sinned against God; therefore, we are the ones who must be reconciled to God. We do this by repenting of, and by forsaking our sins, by truly asking God, with a broken and a contrite heart to forgive us, and not as a mere form as, "Lord, forgive me of my many sins," and pray that prayer every day, no! Whenever we come to God with a broken and a contrite heart, truly repenting of our sins, we do so with a desire and with a determination of turning away from sin. We stop the sinning business. Repentance is required because Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish," but if we do repent, "he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Beloved, after we have been converted and have peace with God, there still remains that depravity in the soul that needs to be eradicated. Yes, we have been born again, but we still need something more, and that is what the Bible calls sanctification. We need to be sanctified and have that Adamic nature removed and again have the divine nature. Notice again our text: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of

the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (II Peter 1:4).

The doctrine of sanctification as a second cleansing is an important biblical doctrine. I know that there are those who deny it and those who would have you to believe that you get it all at one time, but that is not what the Scriptures teach. Sanctification is for the converted.

The Lord's Prayer is not that one in the Sermon on the Mount. The Lord's Prayer is found John 17. Jesus prayed thus for His disciples: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." The sanctification that Christ is talking about here is not the sanctification or the cleansing of the life. Your sinful life is cleansed in justification, in regeneration. Jesus is talking here about the cleansing of the nature. That's what happens when a person is truly sanctified and infilled with the Holy Spirit. I'm not talking about gibble-gabbling (senseless chattering) in tongues. I'm talking about the Holy Spirit coming in and eradicating that depraved nature, leaving only the divine nature. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Sanctification, "the eradication of the depraved nature and the receiving of the divine nature in its fullest extent" is for the church. It is for those who have been saved and the Lord has added them to His church.

In sanctification (in the infilling of the Holy Spirit), all depravity is removed and only the divine nature is left. We have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust through the redeeming grace of God. Whenever we are redeemed, whenever we become a part of God's church, then we are to "present [our] bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is [our] reasonable service." The apostle Paul taught us in the book of Romans, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

We are taught in the Scriptures that whenever we are filled with the Spirit, we become a temple for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We not only become a temple, but we become "a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use."

After we have been truly saved and sanctified and have that divine nature, we need to do what Peter has gone on to say in II Peter, chapter 1. Let me read these verses: "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ... Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." Thank God for that saving, keeping grace! †

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**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

**YOU SHOULD KNOW MORE
ABOUT THE CHURCH OF GOD**

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

COMING MEETINGS

**2019 INTERNATIONAL
CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION**
12819 Point Salem Rd.
Hagerstown, Maryland U.S.A.
July 2-7, Lord willing

Bro. Gregory E. Tyler, Host Pastor
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2019 CAYMAN CONVENTION
83A Walkers Rd.

George Town, Grand Cayman
November 26-December 1, Lord willing
Bro. James Arch, Host Pastor

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REVIVAL SERVICES

Patton, Pennsylvania
June 7-9, 2019, Lord willing
Bro. Greg Tyler, Evangelist
Bro. Mick Akers, Pastor

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Miami, Florida
July 10-14, 2019, Lord willing
Sis. Margerie Allen, Pastor
Contact number: 305-685-5707

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Jamaica Youth Revival
Grants Mountain, St. Ann
July 23-28, 2019, Lord willing
Sis. Linette Jutan, Pastor