

The Way of Truth

Vol. 76

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

No. 11

Oh, beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

– Katharine Lee Bates

**NOVEMBER
2018**

**Thanksgiving Day
November 22**

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

WE HAVE so much for which to be thankful! In the United States, we celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November. But how many Americans are truly thankful? I am afraid that in many homes God is but an afterthought, if any thought at all. Thanks to God should be given on a daily basis—not but once a year.

The apostle Paul exhorts in I Thessalonians 5:18, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” God wills us one and all to live in a thankful atmosphere 365 days a year. God does not want us to be negative, finding fault, complaining. The scripture says, “IN everything give thanks.” In every situation of life! No matter what happens, there is still much for which to be thankful. Through this verse, we know that this is the will of Jesus Christ concerning you and me! There is a spirit of thanksgiving we must manifest if we are the children of God. Consider the following few thoughts inspired by the scriptures:

WHEN ARE WE TO GIVE THANKS?

At all times—Psalm 34:1—“I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

When things are going well—Romans 8:28—“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

When things are going bad—Psalm 42:5—“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.”

When we are in a trial—I Peter 1:6, 7—“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

When we enter the sanctuary—Psalm 100:4—“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”

When we sit down to eat—Matthew 15:36—“And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.”

Early in the morning—Psalm 57:8, 9—“Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations.”

In whatever we do—Colossians 3:17—“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

Forever—Psalm 79:13—“So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations.”

HOW ARE WE TO GIVE THANKS?

With our lips—Hebrews 13:15—“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”

With our whole heart—Psalm 9:1—“I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvellous works.”

By the life we live—Psalm 119:145—“I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord: I will keep thy statutes.”

With our prayers—Philippians 4:6—“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

By our conduct towards God’s creation—Psalm 24:1—“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”

FOR WHAT ARE WE TO GIVE THANKS?

All things—Ephesians 5:20—“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

For God’s faithfulness—Lamentations 3:22, 23—“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”

For His greatness—Psalm 145:3—“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.”

For His love—I John 3:1—“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”

For His holiness—Psalm 30:4—“Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.”

For Jesus Christ His Son—II Corinthians 9:15—“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”

For the sacrifice of Christ—Ephesians 5:2—“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”

For Christ’s compassion—Hebrews 4:15—“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

For Christ’s mercy—Psalm 136:1-3—“O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.”

ABOUT THE COVER

November 22 is Thanksgiving Day in the United States. Our cover conveys the thought of plenty that this nation produces. God has blessed our nation abundantly and we should never take that for granted! Let us take time to thank our Lord for all His blessings.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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

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—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

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For hope and the love of God—Romans 5:5—“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

For peace—Colossians 3:15—“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

For living in America—Let us not take for granted the freedoms we enjoy.

For the fellowship of the saints—Psalm 35:18—“I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.”

The Bible—Thank God for His Word!

For everything—II Corinthians 9:11—“Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.”

Remember this Thanksgiving—I Thessalonians 5:18—“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” †

WE PRAY THAT OUR READERS ENJOY SAFETY AND BLESSINGS OVER THIS THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!

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For the blessed Holy Spirit—His Guidance—His Inspiration—His Power—Colossians 2:7—“Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”

For Family—Parents—Children—Spouse—Siblings—God is the Architect of the home as the basis for support.

For health and strength—Acts 17:28—“For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.”

For knowledge of the will of God—II Corinthians 2:14—“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.”

For the ability to see and hear—Helen Keller once said. “It would be a blessing if each human being were stricken blind and deaf for a few days at some time during his adult life. Darkness would make him more appreciative of sight; silence would teach him the joys of sound.”

For this beautiful world which God has created—Psalm 24:1—“The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”

For the privilege of prayer—Colossians 4:2—“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.”

For victory in Jesus over sin, over temptation, over death and hell—I Corinthians 15:57—“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”



THANK HIM
Margaret E. Sangster

For pasture-lands folded with beauty,
For plenty that burdened the vale,
For the wealth of the teeming abundance,
And the promise too loyal to fail,
We lift to the Maker our anthems,
But none the less cheerily come
To thank Him for bloom and fruition
And the happiness crowning the home.

THANKFULNESS
Ellen Isabelle Tupper

For all that God in mercy sends—
For health and children, home and friends,
For comfort in the time of need,
For every kindly word and deed,
For happy thoughts and holy talk,
For guidance in our daily walk—
For everything give thanks.

THANKSGIVING
W. M. Maiden

For happy days and pleasant hours,
And for the sunshine and the showers,
For Thy blessings glad and free,
We bring, O Lord, our thanks to Thee.

For fruitful fields and hills and dells
And babbling brooks and cooling wells,
For springing flowers that deck our way,
May we be thankful, Lord, we pray.

For homes and friends and kindred dear,
For music's strains that greet the ear,
For restful nights and gladsome days,
Our grateful hearts would give Thee praise.

For freedom's light that shines anew,
For noble souls that bade adieu
To all things dear, and went away,
Make us grateful, O Lord, today.

For battles fought and victories won,
For plans for peace yet scarce begun,
For faith in Him who rules above,
May we give thanks and praise and love.

For Father's Gift in love sent down,
His perfect life with cross and crown,
For life beyond this vale of tears,
We'll praise Thee, Lord, throughout the years.

Now thanks to Thee for all these things,
And all the joy Thanksgiving brings;
But one more blessing still impart—
Give me, O Lord, a thankful heart.



A THANKFUL HEART
Author Unknown

We thank Thee, Heavenly Father,
For every earthly good.
For life, for health, for shelter,
And for our daily food.

Oh, give us hearts to thank Thee
For every blessing sent;
And whatsoever Thou sendest,
Make us therewith content.

**THANKSGIVING FOR BENEFITS
RECEIVED**

Lois Givens Vaughan

So often, Lord, I come to Thee
To ask Thy help in stress,
But now in gratitude I come,
To say my thankfulness;

For all the mercy Thou hast shown,
In countless gracious ways,
I now would be of service, too,
That I might prove my praise;

Lord, I would have a listening ear,
To hear Thy children call,
In my own heart remembering,
No need to Thee is small. †



Blessings, dear Young People,

Let me encourage you to keep your eyes on Jesus. He is our strength. He is our Friend. There is none as lovely as He. This month we have an excellent article, "Solemn Reminders," written by Sis. Meldy Santiago from the Philippines.

I trust the Lord will bless her for her willingness to write to our dear readers.

If you would like to share your testimony, or if the Lord inspires you to write for our Young People's page, please send me your article. I would be happy to hear from you!

May the Lord bless and strengthen each of you!

With Love,
Sis. Crystal Gossard

SOLEMN REMINDERS

By Sis. Meldy Santiago

ONE OF the most common temptations to many is that of thinking only about our life on earth and forgetting the spiritual, which is the most important. Mark 8:36, 37 says, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Let us be reminded today of the solemn truth in the Bible about the things that are truly essential in life. It is with honest desire that I share this message to everyone's precious soul.



First, we must **sincerely realize the importance of our relationship with our Creator.** We read of this reminder in the first part of Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Our relationship with our Creator is paramount to truly live a meaningful life—a life with a purpose. He is the Source of life. Have we already accepted the Lord in our hearts? Do we feel the essence of talking with Him in a closet every day? There must be a spiritual connection between God and us. We must know God, and we must make sure that He counts us as one of His own. We read in II Timothy 2:19, "The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." One can claim that he or she knows God, but does God really know him or her? The Bible speaks of disappointment by those professing to know the Lord: "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord. ... and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Personal relationship with Jesus is essential to be known as His. Knowing and accepting Christ as Lord and Savior means departing from sin and living a

righteous life. Sin separates man from God; and if we continue living in sin, our relationship with God is broken, our connection has been cut off from the Source of life, and so we're dead, spiritually. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father except through me." We must genuinely receive Him in our hearts as our Lord and Savior. When we call Him Lord, we must be subject and submissive to His will. He is our Lord, and we are His servants. We are followers. We love to obey, and we choose to submit. We do what He tells us to do out of love, because our relationship with Him is built in love and grows in love.

We must also be **serious about the necessity of a born-again experience.** John 3:3 says, "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." This is a solemn truth that everyone must not ignore. When Jesus used the words, "Verily, verily," He emphasized solemn truth, and one must believe in it because He not only said it, He will act upon it. It says in verse 7, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." The word *must* here is expressing necessity, "something that should not be overlooked or missed"; otherwise, it would mean forfeiture or lost opportunity.

Have we genuinely experienced being born again? Have we been born spiritually? Do we remember it? When one has been born again, the date of birth, the place of birth must be definite. When we were born on this earth, the birth date and place are clearly indicated on the registration. The same way with our spiritual birth. We can definitely know it, be aware of it, and remember it; how, when, and where it took place, because the experience is real and unforgettable! We can never forget that day, the very moment when Christ entered into our hearts and gave our spirit a life. There was a great change in our lives. II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." What a wonderful experience indeed! Therefore, we can confidently say and sing—

Great change since I've been born. ... The words I used to say, I say them no more, ... The things I used to do, I do them no more, ... The places I used to go, I go there no more, ... There's a great change since I've been born. One must have this authentic experience to be able to see the kingdom of God.

Another solemn reminder is: **the importance of making effort to lay up treasures in heaven.** Written in Matthew 6, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, ... But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, ... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." There is nothing wrong in becoming rich materially. In fact, rich people can greatly help in the furtherance of God's kingdom. However, we must not consider material riches as real treasures. We must not neglect laying up treasures in heaven, which are the true riches.

Remember the parable of the Rich Foolish Farmer? He had been wise in laying up treasures on earth, but had been foolish neglecting to lay up treasures in heaven. He had a lot to sustain his temporal needs, but he forgot the needs of his own soul. He forgot his Cre-

ator; he only thought of God's blessings. He forgot his soul; he only thought of his body. He forgot his neighbor; he only thought of himself. He forgot his life after death; he only thought of his life on earth. In Luke 12:15, Jesus said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Beloved Ones, earnestly set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. It doesn't really matter if we belong to a rich, or an average, or a poor family. Life on earth is but just a short period in comparison to eternity. We would rather be poor while serving the Lord for many years, and yet be rich forever, than to be rich while living in sin, disobedient to God's will, and then suffer everlasting punishment. We can be rich on earth, but endeavor to be rich in heaven as well, so we can inherit life everlasting. It takes effort to be rich spiritually. Love and obey God, be diligent in service, love our neighbor as ourselves, and be faithful unto death.

Not all reminders can be interesting or alarming. Nonetheless, there is one last solemn reminder to which everyone must take heed, reflect upon, and determine to live, and that is: **Holy living**. In Hebrews 12:14, we read, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." Holiness is the most neglected truth and principles in life. People are following the worldly trends. What the majority of people do, others will do and follow. The instructions of God in the Holy Scriptures are no longer appealing to them. Most people now these days, love and like to read, feel, hear, post, share, and apply the popular words and quotes of famous people or even prominent church leaders. But we are commanded to be athirst, to be hungry, to be inspired, and to be doers of the Word of God, the teachings of JESUS in the Holy Bible. We must desire it, read it, hear it, feel it, live it, teach it, share it, proclaim it, and be blessed by it. It is a choice to live a holy life.

There are many young people who started adhering to holy living when they accepted the Lord and got saved, but along the way they gradually became adherent to the fashions of this world. It is one thing to live holy and another thing to pursue holiness to the end. Heaven is a holy place, prepared for a holy people to meet and to be with the Lord eternally. We must be ready to meet our Lord at the judgment day. To live a holy life is a requirement by God to open the heaven's gate for us. Purity of heart, a godly character, a life separated from the world, righteous living, a life dedicated to God's service are requirements for God's people. Dear Ones, holiness is the will of God. It is clearly stated in I Peter 1:15, 16: "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." This is a command of God, by a holy God who called us, and if we are obedient children of God, we love to follow, we love to obey, and we desire to be like Him. God is not unjust to require anything impossible. He commanded it because He knows we can obey and follow it.

Sin made all men unholy, but God, through the Lord Jesus Christ, made a way, provided a ransom to redeem us from sinful living. He shed His blood, died on the cross, and took all the shame of our sins so that anyone

who desires deliverance from sin to live holy, Jesus Christ is the answer. When we repent of our sins, accept the Lord as Savior, and choose to follow His will, we are on our way to holy living. We must not just start living it; we must pursue it until we see Him face to face. Revelation 4:8 says, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." We must indeed adore His holiness, and live holy to be worthy of His coming. Every Christian who is prepared to meet the Lord will say the same.

Beloved Ones, I encourage you to take heed of these solemn reminders. Our Lord has always been serious about our souls. We must take His reminders seriously, for to be with Him in heaven is our ultimate goal. †



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



QUESTION: John 8 tells of a woman being brought to Jesus. Did what Jesus wrote in the sand have anything to do with her sin?

ANSWER: Since the Bible does not say what He wrote, no one can say for sure. After Jesus wrote in the sand and said, "You that are without sin, cast the first stone," all the men who brought her went out; so I would think what He wrote had something to do with their sins, not hers.

QUESTION: What was the spiritual meaning when Paul said, "I die daily"?

ANSWER: Some feel Paul was saying that he was in danger daily of being put to death, and there were those who tried to kill him; but to put a spiritual meaning on his words, I would say, he died daily to temptations, to some things that would not have been sinful but might have hindered him in his service to the Lord.

QUESTION: Elijah was a man full of the Spirit and did many things, such as: cause a drought; provide for the widow and her son, along with himself; confront Ahab; challenge the false prophets; etc. Why then did he run when Jezebel said she would have him killed? Was Elijah at this time bereft of the Spirit?

ANSWER: First, Elijah did the mighty miracles he did through the power of God, and at His directions. He, of course, could not have done those things in his own human strength.

James tells us, "Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are" (James 5:17). So he could, and did, become discouraged at times. In fact, in reading I Kings 19, we might say he became deeply depressed! So much so that he wanted to die—verse 4, but he did not lose God out of his life.

QUESTION: How can one find the right way through this dark world of many false teachers and self-styled prophets?

ANSWER: I will not say it is easy, but I will say it can be done! If the person does not have a true church to attend, he should take his Bible and get alone with God and ask Him to reveal the truth to him. In doing this, he must be willing to DO whatever God reveals to him. The Bible says, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine." Also, "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light," then God will reveal more "light" to us. Do not expect God to reveal more truth to a person who is not willing to walk in the truth he has. Do not search the Scriptures to prove YOU are right; search the Scriptures to KNOW the truth so you can apply it to your own heart and life.

QUESTION: What does Paul mean in I Corinthians 9:5, 6, "Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?"

ANSWER: Reading from the first verse of this chapter, it is plain to see that there were some at Corinth who questioned whether Paul was an apostle. The statements that follow are to show that he is an apostle. In the verse you ask about, Paul is saying that he has a right to have a wife, even though he did not have one. Possibly, the reason he did not have a wife was because of his great burden for the spread of the gospel. Further, his trouble and manner of living would have made it difficult for him to have a wife.

Paul believed and taught that the workman was worthy of his hire, but again, because of the type of work he was doing, he was not fully supported by his converts. He made tents from time to time to support himself and those who were laboring with him, but he had just as much right as the other apostles to be supported by the saints. The fact that he did not have a wife, the fact that he worked with his hands at times to support himself, was NOT to be taken as proof that he was not an apostle.

QUESTION: Please explain Isaiah 58:4, "Ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high." How can I fast without making my voice to be heard on high?

ANSWER: We need to look at the entire verse to get the answer. The first part reads, "Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness."

To have your voice heard on high, or in other words, to get your prayers answered, you must fast with a pure heart, and with pure motives. These people were fast-

ing to accomplish their own selfish and evil purposes. God will not be moved by such fasting. Again, to have your voice heard on high, you must be honest before God; and what you are seeking must be to the glory of God.

QUESTION: Can a Christian do away with witnessing and be glorified or go to heaven? Why is witnessing so important?

ANSWER: How can a person be a true Christian without being a witness for his Lord? Our very life is a witness. "A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14). A true Christian will let his light shine; he will not hide it under a bushel.

Also, there will be times when the Lord will have a Christian speak to others, to witness to them. It is important because it is the will of God, and you can't be a Christian without doing the will of God. "Ye shall be witnesses ..." (Acts 1:8).

QUESTION: What will be the fate of Israel when Christ comes?

ANSWER: In this New Testament age, God has concluded all under sin; He has offered all salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. Those who accept Him will be saved; those who reject Him will not be. "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). This is true of Hebrews as well as Gentiles. So they will stand before the Lord in judgment and give an account of their lives like all the rest of us will. †

OUR SERVICES ON CD'S

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"What Advantage Do God's People Have?"

2018 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Harley McClung



I AM QUITE happy to be here tonight. I'm always pleased to come to Hagerstown. I was thinking about this before I came: I was in the Philippines the last week of December 2017 for their convention, I was in Honduras for convention in April, and now I'm here in Hagerstown. In less than a year, I've been in three conventions, so I am a blessed man.

God has been good to me. He's provided all of my needs, according to His riches in glory. He has blessed us richly this day. As I've said before, coming to Hagerstown for a convention is a highlight of my year. We've looked forward with anticipation of being here. We prayed and fasted for this convention. We're here for a purpose. We're not here for a vacation. We're here to be workers together with our Master. We don't want to receive the grace of God in vain. We want to be doers of what God has called us to do. We want to do our best in serving Him. The Bible says, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest"; also, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. We want to do our little bit to try to help someone who is in sin to see the advantages of being a Christian. I'll just do what little bit I can do, but little is much when God is in it.

If you have your Bibles, I invite you to turn with me to Job, chapter 35, verse 3: "For thou saidst, What advantage will it be unto thee? and, What profit shall I have, if I be cleansed from my sin?" I will entitle my thoughts, "What Advantage Do God's People Have?"

I know you know what the word *advantage* means. It means, "any state, circumstance, opportunity, or means specially favorable to success, interest, or any desired end; having a superior position."

From the text that I took from Job, it seems like Job was having some questions. He was a godly man. The Bible says that he was perfect and upright; and yet, Job was a man who faced trials and tests. He faced difficult situations. If you'll read the account of Job, you will find that he went through some very, very severe trials. Sometimes that might cause people to think, *Well, I'm doing all I know to do. I'm obeying the Bible, and yet I have to go through all of these situations. How is this, being a servant of God, any advantage to me?* Job asked, "What advantage will it be unto me? What profit shall I have, if I be cleansed from my sin?" Well, it did seem like Job was questioning. Have you ever done that? Have you ever questioned whether it was really worthwhile to be a Christian?

All Christians face trials. I'm not going to tell you that the greatest advantage of being a Christian is that you'll be completely free from all adversity. That's just not the way it is. Jesus Himself didn't come into this world and have an easy way. He was faced with adversity. But, Dear Ones, I don't want to just discolor the

Christian life, because it is a glorious life. It is one of the most beautiful things that ever could happen to a human being.

Sinners face great trials and great situations. As a matter of fact, the Bible teaches us that the way of the transgressor is hard. I know firsthand that's true. I have lived both lives. I know what it was like when I was in sin. I had no advantages. I had very little success. Everything that I did seemed to turn downhill. But, oh! one day God in His great mercy and love saved me. Listen to me: The Bible says that it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe, so we're trying to help you through the preached Word to see what advantages you could have. There was a preacher who preached to me. Now, I didn't see it all nor understand it all to begin with. You just can't do that. May God help you to see tonight.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Except you be born again, you can't see. You can't comprehend. You can't fully understand the advantages that come along with the Christian life. But, Nicodemus, you'll be born again if you'll be saved. If you'll allow God to take away that life that is keeping you down in drudgery and in a disadvantaged position, then you will be able to see and comprehend. You can start to run this race that brings blessing after blessing after blessing."

PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR ADVANTAGES

People everywhere are looking for advantages. Aren't they? People are looking for advantages. Think about driving down the road. I know those of you who drive a lot do look for advantages so that you can have a clear road. Well, I was thinking about this: When I was in Escondido, California, and I was driving from San Diego to there, there were five lanes of traffic going one way and five lanes going the other way. Now, if you would hit the wrong hour of the day, all five lanes going both ways would be full. You won't have anywhere else to go but just here and there.

Traffic is worse than that in the Philippines. I'm telling you, the Filipino roads are amazing. I drove in California, but I'm not going to drive in the Philippines. Whenever those drivers are driving there in all that traffic and they see an empty lane, they get over quickly so they can have an advantage to keep going. But all of a sudden, where they saw an empty lane and got over, up ahead a tractor trailer was in front of them. They didn't get to go far, did they? It is the same way with a lot of people. They think, *Well, I'll jump over here or over there, and I'm going to have an advantage here or an advantage there.* It just doesn't work out that way. On the authority of God's Word, I'm telling you that you can have an advantage. God is willing to give you an advantage.

Politicians look for money. Do you know what they do, too? They start smearing their opponent. If they smear enough mud, it might give them an advantage to look attractive. I've never been able to comprehend that. How can you throw mud at someone and then look attractive? But that's what politicians do so that they can have an advantage.

Young people need an advantage. You live in a very competitive world. You need an advantage. Since young people need an advantage, they go to college to get a diploma so that they can have an advantage in the world. High school athletes want to have advantages, so when an opportunity is afforded to them, they select the best school they possibly can to give themselves an advantage. That's just common sense; that's just practical choices; that's just using their God-given intelligence. Nothing wrong with that. Actually, people want to be preferred by the people so that they can have an advantage. "I want to be preferred."

King's children are preferred children. King's children have an advantage. Well, Christians are King's children, too. They have all the advantages. They have opportunities, they have wealth, and they have everything right at their fingertips that gives them all the advantages in the world.

SPIRITUAL ADVANTAGES

When it comes to one's soul though, it's quite different than having an advantage for the things of the world. It's altogether different, because whenever you look at one's soul, you're giving consideration to the most valuable possession one has. It's the possession that one ought to have the greatest advantage towards. So when it comes to our souls and quality of life, we need to seek out where we can find the greatest advantages available.

We read in John 10:10 of two forces that have come to this world. Jesus said that the thief comes for a purpose. He comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy. Now, how much advantage can you see in his coming? How much advantage can you see in having someone come to you that is going to steal your affection from its rightful Owner, which is God? God is the rightful Owner of our hearts. It is God who gave us everything. He gives us richly all things to enjoy. It is "in him we live, and move, and have our being," so God deserves our hearts, but the devil comes along and steals our affection. Quite frankly, I don't say this to the devil's glory in any way, but he's been successful. I'm saying here tonight that we all need to take warning of what he's trying to do. He's trying to steal our hearts. He's trying to kill, and he makes sin attractive.

To many people, Satan makes sin look like it's something that will give them an advantage, but it doesn't give people an advantage. It actually places people under an umbrella of disadvantage. So, when a person is tempted and gives into that temptation by Satan, he or she is separated from the Source of life, which is God. God is the only One who can give to us physically, mentally, and spiritually an advantage. Satan comes to destroy, to put us on the broad road that leads to destruction.

Sinner Friend, if you're here tonight, I'm talking to you. You need to know what Satan is doing and what

disadvantages he brings to you; but Jesus came to give you life. Life! He came to give you a connection to Him. He came to reconcile you to Him, to bring you back into His favor, to bring you into having merit with Him. This is what Jesus came for. He came to give you life; and not only a connection, or a reconciliation to God, but He came to give you a glorious life. He came to give you life more abundantly. He came to give you such vast advantages. All of us here cannot describe this to you. This is something that has to be experienced. Whenever you experience these advantages, you can look back and say, "Oh, how blind I was!" Jesus said, "I am come that [you] might have life, and that [you] might have it more abundantly."

SATAN IS MAN'S ENEMY

Satan is man's enemy, his adversary. Satan comes to take advantage. Yes, he does! With every door of opportunity opened to Satan, he takes advantage. He doesn't need a big opening. Give him a little toehold, and he'll do the rest. Paul said in II Corinthians 2:11, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." Thank God, God's children are not ignorant of Satan's devices. Sinner Friend, you might be ignorant of Satan's devices, but we're trying to help you to see that Satan is trying to get the best of you. He's trying to take you out of the most blessed life that Jesus Christ came to give. Christ condescended from the splendor of heaven. He came down to this sin-sick and cursed world to give to you a life that will be such an advantage over the life you once lived. The advantage Satan likes to have over people is blindness. As I've said before, he likes to make people believe that sin gives them an advantage, but it doesn't. Satan makes people believe, when they let him, that if they can go out and steal hoards of money, they will have it to use and be blessed. No, Dear Ones, that's not the way it is. We reap what we sow. There's no way around that. That's a law. We reap what we sow.

CHRISTIANS HAVE ADVANTAGES

What and who are Christians? You see, Sinner Friend, sometimes even Satan paints a picture of what and who Christians are. I know much of the religious world paints a picture of Christianity that is not all that attractive. A lot of people are artificial when it comes to Christianity, but we as God's children cannot afford to be artificial or hypocritical. We have to be genuine and sincere. We have to walk the talk. When we do that, we portray such a wonderful and beautiful life that yields advantages to those out there. I know that's true. If you're a Christian tonight, you know it's true, too. We can look back on our lives and see from the day we started in this Christian race how much God has given us, and how He has blessed us again and again.

I mentioned in my earlier remarks that in less than a year I was honored to be in three glorious conventions. Let me tell you something, they were glorious. The convention in the Philippines was "rich" as Bro. Terry said. In Honduras, we had a glorious convention. You could feel the presence of God. Any time you're in a place where you can really feel God, it gives deep within your soul a feeling of "I'm advantaged. I'm really in a

special place. I have such opportunities afforded me.” Therefore, we need to make sure how we live so that we can make attractive the way for those who are looking for an advantage. God help us! Quite frankly, many claiming to be Christians do not show the advantages they have. Some even paint a drab picture of Christianity, but God’s people have many advantages over those who are living in sin. God gives His people victory. Victory!

*Along the way of life are many foes
That daily war against my soul;
But constant victory
My Savior gives to me
As I press on to the goal.*

*On the winning side, I’m on the winning side,
I’m on the winning side with Jesus;
Though hot may be the fray,
My soul can boldly say,
I’m on the winning side with Jesus.*

Every winner has advantages. Every loser has disadvantages. If you’re here in sin tonight, you are at a disadvantage. You’re a loser, but you can be a winner. All you need to do is to come over on the Lord’s side; all you need to do is to come to the place where you can follow the Captain or the Master who has never lost a battle. He will never lose a battle.

THE BIBLE GIVES AN ADVANTAGE

All the stories in the Bible inspire me. One time Bro. Snedegger from Durbin, West Virginia, was asked, “How do you know that the Bible was inspired by God?” He said, “I know that it is inspired by God because it inspires me.” Well, the Bible inspires me, too. The account of David inspires me. Let me tell you something, David was a youth. He wasn’t very big or strong. He didn’t have a lot of muscles. David came out into the battle that was raging and found his brethren, and even King Saul, all cowered down. They were peeking out so they could see that big giant that was challenging them. David said, “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” Listen, when we’re on the winning side, we have an advantage; and David had an advantage, because he had God with him. He had already proven God. He knew what God was able to do. God had already enabled him to slay a lion and a bear. David said, “This uncircumcised Philistine isn’t going to be any different. I’m going to take him down. It’s not within me. I have the advantage because God is with me.”

If you’re here in sin tonight, you don’t have God with you, and you’re sure to fall because you need a higher power. You need something greater to help you. You need what David had. God wants to give it to you. Those who are in sin really believe that they have the advantage. They’re blind! Satan has blinded them. Goliath really believed he had the advantage over little David. He laughed at him. He said, “Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.” David said, “Oh no, you won’t!”

You see, the proof is in the pudding. God gives us the means to have the goods, the power, because He has given us an advantage. The power that is almighty

God’s, He brings it down to us. He gave it to David. I don’t believe David took any chances. I just believe he went as God directed him. He put his sling in the air, and when he slung it, down came Goliath. Listen to me, that’s an advantage. That’s what God can give to mankind. Paul said, “God is no respecter of persons.” I know that David was a man after God’s own heart, for the Bible says so, but you and I can be, too. God said that Israel was the apple of His eye, but you and I can be the apple of His eye, too. We can be His people. He said, “I will dwell in them, and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.” If we are God’s people (and I’m not using the word *if* as a question, for I know we’re God’s people), He dwells with us.

If you’re here, Friends, and you’re not saved and not a part of the kingdom of God, you’re not under the Lordship of God. You’re under the power and the dominion of Satan. He’s bringing such a disadvantage to you. We’re trying to bring to you the Word, because God chose through the foolishness of preaching to save your soul, and to bring you to the point where you can understand clearly that God is wanting to give you an advantage.

GOD’S POWER IS AN ADVANTAGE

Christians have God’s power on their side. “If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31). Who can be against us here tonight if God be for us? Sinner Friend, do you have God for yourself? You can, and we want you to have Him.

Christians are connected to the upper echelon of friends. Yes, that is Jesus Christ. What a Friend we have in Jesus!

I know one lady who is quite sick. She’s bedfast. She doesn’t have any means. She doesn’t have social security, and she doesn’t have a rich family, earthly speaking, to supply her needs, but she has a friend who is faithful to send to her the means by which she can be taken care of all the time. That gives her such an advantage, doesn’t it? Well, this friend is just a human being, and humans have limited resources, but she also has the greatest of all friends. She has the God of heaven as her friend. What a Friend we have in Jesus!

If you are in sin, you have a Friend, because God commended His love toward you while you were yet His enemy. Listen to me, I appreciate so much the scriptures for this convention theme. Titus 2:11, 12: “For the grace of God [This unmerited favor of God is extended to you tonight.] that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.” So, if you’re in sin, this great grace is coming to you from God, and you need to take advantage of it. It is a great honor to have this grace offered. This grace teaches you, and you need to learn. You need to understand what advantages are available by being a servant of God. You need to see that. Thank God, the grace of God came to me. If you’re here tonight, thank God it came to you.

GOD’S GRACE GIVES ADVANTAGES

Once that grace is offered, and once you have been dealt with by the Holy Spirit and have been offered the love and mercy that God has by giving to you advantages, then He doesn’t have to give you anything more.

The Bible says, "My spirit shall not always strive with man."

Grace is offered to you, Dear Sinner, in this gospel day of time. Today is the day of salvation. Now is the accepted time for this grace to be applied to your heart and to your life that will give you an advantage of leaving that old life of drudgery and disadvantage, and come up to where you can sit in heavenly places with Christ Jesus our Lord. Be lifted up, be brought up out of the hog pen of sin, and be brought up to where you can have an advantage to see and have an understanding. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

The unmerited favor of God is offered to you tonight. Won't you please take advantage of this grace, this great gift that God wants you to have? He wants you to have His gift of salvation. If you'll accept that great gift, if you'll allow God to come into your heart, He'll make you a new creature. He'll make all things brand new, and then you'll be able to see all the advantages that you have. You can look back and say, "Why didn't I do it sooner? Why wasn't I here sooner?"

CONCLUSION

May God help you tonight, if you're unsaved, to see what He's offering to you. Doesn't that sound appealing? It does to me. Do not turn the grace of God away, because "My spirit shall not always strive with man." God is

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here and He's offering His grace to one and all who will receive it. He said to those who will receive it, "I will give you the power to become the sons of God." What an advantage to be a follower of God!

If the Spirit is dealing with anyone here, we plead with you, don't turn God away. Respond. Come and give God your heart. I promise you, on the authority of God's Word, you'll will never, ever be sorry. Then you'll perhaps go through situations and trials where Satan might come to test you, but you'll have the grace to say, "No, Satan; I know now I have the advantage. I don't want to have the disadvantage." Isn't that something attractive? So come tonight. †

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

JUSTIFICATION

JUSTIFIED MEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Scriptures: Galatians 3:11; Genesis 5:24; 6:8, 9; 15:6; Exodus 32:32; Hebrews 11:24-26; Psalm 32:5; Micah 6:8.

Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Exodus 32:32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Psalm 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Micah 6:8 He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Memory Verse: But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.—Galatians 3:11.

Aim: To show that no one is justified except through faith in Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

IN ACTS 4:12, we read, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Therefore, regardless in what period of time any man may live, if he makes it safely to heaven, he does so by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ, who is the second person in the Godhead, always did exist; and the principles of atonement at His hand were established even before the world began. Those existing principles were not fully manifest to the understanding of man until in the end of time as promised by the Father. Since they existed in the mind of God, they were as effective as if they had been given. Therefore, men enjoyed the blessing of the sacrifice of Christ through obedience to the will of God before the coming of Christ.

MEDITATIONS

NONE EVER JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW—Galatians 3:11—Just shall live by faith—If man could be justified by the keeping of the law, it would be his own works that would save him. This would rob the gospel of all its beauty and glory. It is faith in the love of God that delivers men from the power of sin and gives favor with God.

ENOCH PLEASSED GOD—Genesis 5:24—Walked with God—In order to walk with God, we must have favor with Him. Favor comes through obedience to His known laws. Little is known of the details of religious worship in Enoch's time except that they had blood sacrifices, as revealed in the lives of Cain and Abel. They had no written law of any kind. All information about God and the creation was handed down from generation to generation by the spoken word.

NOAH JUSTIFIED—Genesis 6:8—Found grace—Through obedience to the known will of God in his day, Noah pleased God and found the rich grace of God. Through sin man is separated from God. As long as sin dwells in the heart, there can be no peace with God. So it is evident that Noah was successful in eliminating sin from his life, and we are told that this can be done only through Christ. Noah believed the promises concerning Christ and thus obtained favor with God.

PERFECTION BEFORE THE LAW—Genesis 6:9—Perfect in his generations—Noah was not perfect by the standards that are given to us today, but perfect for the requirement that God held out to the men of that generation. Any man who is perfect in the eyes of God certainly has nothing to fear in this world or in the one to come.

ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD—Genesis 15:6—Counted it to him for righteousness—Jesus declared just before He left the earth for heaven that he who believes shall be saved. The Scriptures here declare that Abraham believed, and it was counted to him for righteousness. Believed what? He believed God in His promises to fallen mankind. It saved Abraham then; it will save any man now. Abraham was not saved by works but by the faith in the promises of God. His faith in God caused him to do the work that he did. Faith without works is dead, and works without faith are dead also. The two must be properly associated.

MOSES IN THE BOOK OF LIFE—Exodus 32:32—Book thou hast written—In verse 33, God declares that he who has sinned He will blot out of His book. Of necessity, we must conclude that the book referred to here is the Book of Life. How did Moses get his name in the Book of Life? The only way that his

name could be recorded there would be through salvation, for the man who sins is removed from the book.

MOSES FACES TEMPTATION—Hebrews 11:24—Refused to be called—All the pomp and power of Egypt was flashed before Moses for the purpose of getting him to lay down the faith of his mother. Being trained in the courts and wisdom of Egypt, Moses still kept his integrity—a result of his parents training him in the way he should go.

MAKING THE WISE CHOICE—Hebrews 11:25—Choosing rather—Before him was displayed the pleasure that he might have if he were to decide to be a son of Pharaoh's daughter. If he were to refuse this, he must cast his lot with the slave people, his brethren, the Israelites. Hardship was certain to replace the pleasure of sin, but he wisely chose the affliction.

FOLLOWING CHRIST A REPROACH THEN AS NOW—Hebrews 11:26—Esteeming the reproach—Christ becomes a reproach only because His beauty of character condemns the wicked life of the sinner. Life does not consist in the abundance of things that a man may possess, so the Christian does not feel disheartened if he is found destitute of this world's goods. He has a far greater treasure in Christ Jesus, for his soul is satisfied. Moses chose soul satisfaction rather than fleshly satisfaction.

FORGIVEN—Psalm 32:5—Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin—David was a righteous man, for he had faith in Christ for the pardon of his sins. We cannot hide our sins from God or get rid of them in any way except by acknowledging them and then having faith in Christ to take them away. When we do this, it gives us great joy and causes us to love Him who first loved us.

ACTING JUSTIFIED—Micah 6:8—To do justly—A heart that is justified and filled with the love of God delights in doing the things that are right. A soul who is filled with sin may want to do that which is right, and sometimes does do that which is right, but he will usually be found doing that which is wrong as the pressure of temptation is brought upon him by the power of Satan. There may be a desire to do right in a sinner, but he finds not the power to perform it. God requires nothing that is out of reason, and His burdens are always light.

CONCLUSION

Our lesson has produced abundant evidence of the fact that the blood of Jesus Christ reaches back into the dispensation that preceded His life on the earth, and that men in the past ages have been blessed by His redeeming and justifying power. If in a less advantageous age men lived victoriously, how much more should we live victoriously with all the light that is now shining and the revelations that are ours!

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What is the one name given to man by which he may be saved?
2. By what power, then, were Noah and Enoch justified?
3. Was anyone ever justified by the law?

4. What did Enoch do that he was able to please God?
5. What did Abraham believe that was counted to him by God for righteousness?
6. Why is Christ a reproach?
7. What was the meaning of the choice that Moses made? †

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

AUTUMN had come with its short afternoons and early evenings. The sun had disappeared behind the western mountains, and already the street-lights had begun to push back the shadows of night.

I looked out the car window as my parents drove through the town on their way home from the evening's errands. The buildings that had looked so friendly in the daylight seemed strangely menacing now with their darkened windows and shadowy doorways.

My father stopped at a red light, and I gazed pensively at a stately brick building on the corner of the intersection. The red traffic light lit up a sign that hung in one of its dark windows. "*R-E-A-L-T-Y Office.*" The second word was familiar to me, but I spelled the first word slowly to myself and pronounced it carefully inside my head.

I shivered. A "*reality*" office! The very thought of such a place made me nervous enough to wish the light would hurry up and turn green so we could leave the building behind us.

Since I was only seven years old, I wasn't exactly sure what *reality* was, but I had heard my parents use it in conversation.

"Sooner or later, we all have to face reality," I had heard them say soberly to each other. REALITY. It was a solemn word. A little frightening, even. And now here we sat—right beside the dreaded place where people must come when it was time for them to face REALITY.

"Is the light ever going to turn green?" I asked.

"Patience!" my mother said. "What's the big hurry?"

"I don't like sitting next to that place," I told her, pointing to the brick building.

"What in the world is wrong with it?" my mother asked, turning her head to look at the "reality" office. "It's just like any other building."

"Did you or Daddy ever go in there?" I asked her.

"Not that I can remember," she said. "And I doubt that we ever will," she added. "We don't have any rea-

son to go in there. We already have a house, and we don't plan on buying another one."

The light turned green, and my dad drove through the intersection. I looked back at the shadowy brick building. I was perplexed. I had heard my parents say everyone had to face reality, and yet they never planned to go into that office building to do it. I frowned. *And what does a "reality" office have to do with buying houses?* I wondered.

"How can you face reality if you don't go into the 'reality' office?" I asked as the car traveled down the street that led out of the town.

"Of all things!" said my mother as she suddenly realized the mistake I had made. "It's a REALTY office, not a REALITY office. R-E-A-L-T-Y spells 'realty.' It means property. People go into a 'realty' office when they want to buy or sell houses and land. If you put an 'T' after the 'L', then you have 'reality.' That's a completely different word." She looked over at my father.

"'Reality' means what is actually true," he said. "When people face reality, they are honest with themselves about what is true and what is not true in their lives."

For the rest of the way home, I was quiet. I was trying out both words in my head, determined to remember the difference between them.

It was a simple mistake I had made—not realizing the enormous difference one letter could make in a word. Because of that one letter, my childish understanding had led me to picture something that was not at all accurate.

Children, as you grow older, you will become more expert in your understanding. You will learn from mistakes and become wiser. But no matter how much wisdom you gain, you will never become as wise as God. There will always be situations in your life where you will wonder what you should do. Your own understanding will fall short, and so you must seek God for His wisdom.

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 3:5, 6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." When we do not know what to do, we must go to God in prayer and ask Him to give us His wisdom. If we humbly and sincerely trust in Him, He will always guide us.

Activity

Unscramble the letters to identify five Bible characters who sought the Lord for wisdom to solve life's problems:

mosloon - _____

nielad - _____

kihaeze - _____

herest - _____

bacjo - _____

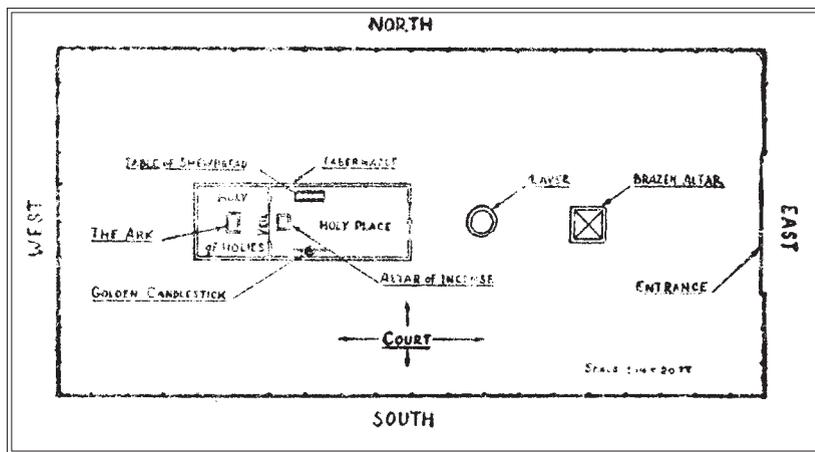
Answer to Last Month's Activity

Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." †

SALVATION IN TYPES AND SHADOWS— THE TABERNACLE AND TEMPLE

By the late M. H. Craig

Editor's Note: This message was edited for printing in this issue of *The Way of Truth*. The quotes by Byrum were added to the article.



THE OLD Testament contained the types and shadows of the things we now have to enjoy in the New Testament dispensation. In the Old dispensation, they had literal symbols which were a type of the heart experience we now receive through Christ. Jesus said that He came not to destroy the law and the prophets, but to fulfill. In a previous article, we studied the two works of grace. Now we have the same things in type in the tabernacle and the temple. Both were a type of the two works, but I will consider in this article the temple as a type of the New Testament Church of God. The temple was built of literal stones, so is the church built of **spiritual stones**.

“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). Paul also said to the Ephesians that they were “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.”

In this it is easy to see the analogy of the temple and the church. The entering in and the fixtures of the temple were typical of the heart experience. We wish to notice the entrance: first, you have the brazen altar and the laver, which was between the brazen altar and the temple on the outside; the brazen altar, a type of justification and the priests washing their hands and feet in the laver as a type of regeneration [being born again]. It took both to be able to enter the temple, which had two rooms, as there was a veil across the temple which divided it into two rooms. The first room was twice the size of the second, and there were two orders of priests. The regular priest could only enter and minister in the first room. The High Priest could enter the second room only once each year on the day of atonement. Now these two rooms foreshadowed the two works of grace.

The first room was called *the holy place* and the second was called *the most holy place*. We have in the first room the table of shewbread on the north side of the holy place. On the table was placed each Sabbath-day, twelve loaves of bread, as many loaves as there were tribes. Six loaves in two stacks. They were to remain there until the following Sabbath, and they were to be eaten by the priests and twelve new loaves were to be placed on the table. This bread was a type of Christ, the living bread, that came down from heaven. Just as natural bread sustains the physical body, so Christ sustains the spiritual body.

The golden candlestick stood at the south side of the room. It was one piece of pure beaten gold. They were to burn a special type of oil in it. There were seven lamps, three on each side of the center lamp; seven, being a perfect number. This was a type of Christ. He is the Source of all spiritual light. “I am the light of the world.”

The golden altar, which was sometimes called the incense altar, was smaller than the brazen altar and was located in the holy place near the veil. It was located in the holy place between the north and south sides of the first court. There were two uses for this altar. One was the burning of incense, which was a type of the prayers of the saints; the second, blood was put on the four horns of the altar which made it possible for the High Priest to enter the second. The Lord said that He would strike the High Priest dead if he entered the second room without the blood. We read in Hebrews 10:19-22: “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ... let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.” We are also told that Jesus suffered “outside the gate” to sanctify His people with His own blood.

Now remember, the second room was called *the most holy place*, and only the High Priest could enter the second room, and he could go in only once each year. When Christ died, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom, showing that the way into the holiest was now made manifest, and by faith in Christ we now can enter into that which is within the veil, or be sanctified.

Now let us see what was in the most holy place that was a type of our experience: first, there was the ark of the covenant. The ark was overlaid with gold and contained the two tables of stone on which God had written the ten commandments; also, Aaron’s rod that budded, and a golden pot with manna in it. The “mercy seat” covered the ark.

“The ark was typical of God’s righteous law which sinful man has violated. And the mercy seat was typical of Jesus Christ as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of violating that law. The mercy seat was the same length and width as the ark; so Jesus’ atonement is coextensive with man’s sin in breaking God’s holy law.”—R. R. Byrum.

On each end of the mercy seat, there was a cherubim and their wings covered the mercy seat and touched each other. The Lord said that there over the mercy seat, His presence would be. It is in the sanctified state that the Holy Spirit comes to abide in the saints of God. It took the blood shed at the brazen altar to enter the first room, and it took the blood to enter the second room, so we have in type two cleansings.

“There in that sacred place the redeemed soul dwells in closet communion with God. No veil now is needed to bar him from the presence of the infinitely Holy One, because he is cleansed from the last remains of sin and is pure, ‘as he is pure’; he ‘dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High,’ he abides ‘under the shadow of the Almighty.’ And under his golden ‘wings shalt thou trust.’ There, as on the stone tables, the law of God is perfectly written in the hearts of the sanctified by the restoration of the moral nature to primitive holiness. There their souls are satisfied with the hidden manna. And there the Shekinah light of the glory of God is their constant portion. In this heavenly condition they abide in God and God in them. And this blessed experience is the rightful heritage of all God’s people.”—R. R. Byrum. †

WINNING A CROWN

By the late C. W. Naylor



Part V HOW TO FIND GOD

THE PRODIGAL has wandered far; he is in a strange land. Things there are not as they are in Father’s house. As long as he is satisfied in this strange country, the charms of home appeal to him but little. Before the sinner can find God he must, as the prodigal of old, come to himself. He must realize what his situation means. He must become conscious of his true state as a sinner. He must see his sins in their naked reality; and he has only to see them so to abhor them. The pleasures of sin may satisfy for a season. His heart may have no longing after God; but when he comes to himself, he begins to think of better things. Sin loses its attraction. He begins to eat the bitter bread of remorse. He thinks of the outraged father, and there arises in his heart a desire for reconciliation. He is conscious that he has transgressed, that he has deeply wounded the paternal love. He is deeply conscious of the fact that he deserves nothing better of the Father than permanent rejection. The language of his heart is, “I am no more worthy to be called thy son.”

No man can ever find God who does not first become thoroughly dissatisfied with his own condition; for so long as he is satisfied in sin, he has no desire to be reconciled to God, he does not wish to be in God’s presence. But when once he begins to abhor his sin, and to desire to be something better than he is, he instinctively turns Godward, and says, “I will arise and go to my Father.” Reconciliation with God is not hard to obtain if there be first this turning away from sin and self. But without it there can never be peace. There can be

no salvation while there remains self-satisfaction or rebellion.

Seeking God

It is not hard to become a Christian. It is not difficult to find God. The difficult part is to leave self and to gain the consent of mind and heart to begin the seeking. God is not far away. We do not need to take a long journey to find him. He “is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart” (Psalm 34:18). Yea, He is “not far from every one of us” (Acts 17:27), and He has said, “Seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one ... that seeketh findeth” (Luke 11:9, 10). There is, however, a way in which we must seek in order to be successful. We must not seek carelessly nor indifferently. “But if ... thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul” (Deuteronomy 4:29).

God never hides Himself from those who seek Him with right desires and pure purposes. The seeker should come humbly and simply and trustingly. He should come as one who expects to find, and, having found the desire of his heart, to turn back no more to his former life.

But if we desire to find God, we must seek for Him where He is. The prodigal would have sought long and vainly for his father in the land wherein he was a prodigal. Knowing this, he said, “I will arise and go to my father.” So we must arise and go from the land of our sinful service, from the country of our evil master. God is not to be found there. In vain do we look for Him there. He is not found in the way of earthly pleasure. So long as our hearts and affections are set upon the things of this world, so long as we care for them, we cannot find God. It is only when we turn to Him with our whole hearts and with a full purpose to serve Him that we can find Him.

Sometimes people desire to be Christians, and they make up their minds that they are going to do better. That is their thought of being a Christian—just doing better. But that is not enough; there must be something more than that. How can a man who is evil do good? Nor is it enough to join with people who are Christians, or who are professing to be Christians. We may unite with some organization of people called a church, but that of itself may not make us either better or worse. Turning over a new leaf and taking up new habits, becoming interested in church work and various benevolences, will never bring us to God. Our souls must become hungry for Him. We must desire Him more than anything else and search for Him until we find Him. That is the one thing—we must find God. We must become His. We must have a new life, new purposes, and a new relationship with God. This demands a severance of old relations, a forsaking of the old habits and life, of the old ways and desires. Do not suppose that you can find God as your Savior unless you turn to Him with your whole heart, giving up once and for all time everything that displeases Him. He will not be a partner with you in anything that is unholy; therefore, all that is unholy must be given up.

God has said, “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and

to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7). These are God’s terms, and He will not change them. David said, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18). God tells us the result if we seek Him while we still hold to sin. “When ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear” (Isaiah 1:15). What, then, must we do? His answer is, “Put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil” (verse 16). If we will do this, the gracious promise is given, “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (verse 18). As long as the soul clings to one sin, it cannot find God. All must be forsaken. The old life must have “Finished” written under it. When we fully turn from sin, then, and then only, can we turn to God. We are told to reckon ourselves dead indeed unto sin. If we do this, our relation to it will be the same as that of a literally dead man to the activities of this life. Sin must end before righteousness can begin.

Repentance

God’s message to sinners has always been that they should repent. This was the burden of the message of the Prophets, of John the Baptist, and of the Son of God when He came, as it has been the message through the ages. But what is repentance? In its practical sense as respecting the sinner, it means regret or sorrow for sin, accompanied by a turning away from sin. The word sometimes means no more than a change of mind, but in the true evangelical sense it means something more than this—not only a change of mind, but much besides. It means that change accompanied by or produced by real sorrow for sin, that godly sorrow which works repentance and leads to salvation.

One of the most important points involved in this subject is the direction in which repentance acts, or the object toward which it acts. Much repentance is essentially selfish in its nature. Sometimes people grow very sorry because of what they have done when they see the effects upon themselves. When they see disease brought upon their bodies and realize that they are languishing under its touch because of what they have done, they are filled with regret. The prisoner behind the bars often is repentant because he is suffering punishment. He is sorry for what he has done, but sorry only because of its effects upon himself. Sin often brings shame, and this shame is not easily borne, and often brings self-reproaches and sorrow, not because the evil was done, but because of the fruit of that evil.

All such repentance is essentially selfish. It leads to no change in the individual, in his attitude toward God, nor in God’s attitude toward him. He may have wronged friends and later may come to feel very bad over having done so; he may wish that he had the opportunity to change matters and would be glad if he had not done as he did. In this case his friends are the object of his repentance. Any effectual repentance must have God for its object. It must be directed toward Him. The individual must be genuinely repentant because he has wronged God. He must look at his sins from God’s standpoint, not from his own. He must consider that he has wronged God, that he has transgressed His

law; and he must consider the character of God—how infinitely just and holy He is and how exceedingly wrong has been his conduct in thus breaking the holy law of that holy God. It is only when he views his sins from this standpoint that he can have any adequate idea of their deserts, and only then can he have any proper idea of his own guilt and his own need of repentance.

Repentance implies a turning away from sin with a full purpose never to repeat the sinful deeds. Anything that does not produce such a result is not real repentance. Those who claim to have repented and still go on in their sinful ways, doing what pleases them rather than what pleases God, have never truly repented; for if one is truly sorry for sin, is truly sorry that he has grieved God, he will once and forever turn away from doing such a thing. God says, “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts.” That is an essential part of repentance, and if omitted, the repentance cannot be unto salvation.

God says that the wicked shall “give again that which he hath robbed” (Ezekiel 33:15). One characteristic of true repentance is the disposition of the individual to repair the injuries that he has done others, so far as it lies in his power. If he has stolen from another, he desires no longer to have that property in his possession. If we have taken from our fellow man by fraud or in any other way things that were his, the things are still his, and if we truly repent, we shall feel an earnest and sincere desire in our souls to restore them. Repentance that leaves the individual in possession of that which has been wrongfully gotten, is not genuine repentance, for genuine repentance wants to make right any wrong that has been done. It takes no argument to convince anyone who really repents that he ought to confess to those whom he has wronged and to make restitution to them to the extent of his ability and opportunity. The thousands of professors of religion who have things in their possession that are not theirs will have a hard task getting inside the pearly gates, as they have now a hard task of convincing those who know of the facts that they are true Christians. It is not enough to be sorry that we have done wrong; we must go far enough to be thoroughly sorry that we have that which is not ours, so sorry that we will not keep it. It is just as truly natural for the penitent sinner to make his wrongs right and to ask the forgiveness of those wronged and to make thorough confession as it is for his soul to reach out after God’s mercy.

Having truly repented, the soul is then upon the threshold of God’s mercy and can reach out expectantly to find Him.

Submission

The sinner is a rebel against God. He has lived in open rebellion all his sinful days; but if he will find God, if he will be reconciled to Him, then he must submit himself to God in whole-hearted surrender. “Submit yourselves therefore to God” (James 4:7). Self has been the king upon the throne of the heart. Self must be dethroned. All its rule must be overthrown, its government entirely demolished. Christ must be enthroned; He must be above all and through all. His will must be law. The soul must yield true allegiance to Him. It must yield glad and full obedience. He must be supreme and

the soul rejoice to have it so. The yielding must be not only a passive submission, but an active submission. It is good if we shall say, "Not my will, but thine, be done." But this is not enough. We must dedicate ourselves to the fulfilment of His will, to the task of carrying out His will. "I delight to do thy will" is the language of the submitted heart.

We are not fully surrendered so long as we require one condition. Christ cannot be master so long as we offer terms. Our surrender must be unconditional, or it is not real. Here is where many fail. They have their way mapped out before them, and have their ideas of just what kind of Christians they want to be and what they want to do. That leaves them the masters, and if their terms were accepted, they would never be submissive. Some will not yield to God lest He should call them to preach; others, lest they should have to be missionaries, leave home, testify, pray in public, or do some similar thing. Others have plans that they wish to carry out, or things which they desire to continue in, such as dancing, taking part in worldly amusements, and the like. God will let us have a form of godliness, if that is what we want, and He may let us be pretty well satisfied with it, even if we are not really surrendered; but if it is real salvation that we want, that is to be had only on condition of an absolute surrender so far as we can understand what that means. We must throw away our maps and plans, and say: "Here I am, Lord, body, mind, and soul. All I am or ever shall be is Thine unreservedly forever. Not my will, but Thine, be done." This must be said, not with the lips alone, but from the heart's remotest depths. This, and this alone, is surrender. This is real submission, and this is one of the steps in finding God.

Believing

In reply to the jailer's question, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). Faith is the hand that reaches out to God and lays hold upon Him through His promises. Without it we cannot find God; without it we cannot be saved from our sins; but by believing we may be saved. There are, however, two kinds of believing, and both are necessary to our salvation. Jesus said to the Jews, "If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). Many people believe in Christ as a historical character, as a great and glorious teacher, even the Son of God; but that faith affects nothing for their salvation. It is, however, the ground of the other and more important faith. We "must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). Many people believe in Christ who never receive Him as their Savior. We must not only believe in Him, but believe on Him, that is, confidently rely upon Him for our salvation, trusting Him to forgive our sins and make us all that He has promised to make us. Believing is no hard thing. It is not something that is strained, not something that is forced. It is something that operates naturally and easily. The soul that has done what has already been noted under the previous steps, is in a position to rely upon Christ for his salvation; that is, to confidently trust in Him that He does now save him. It requires no effort of

will, no straining to do this; it is natural, just as natural as breathing.

He has said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). Is this true, or is it false? If it is true, then it is true for you, and for everyone else who will come to Him in the way of His truth. His promise is, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (I John 1:9). Is this true? If it is true for anyone, it is true for you. Just simply believe it, and you will know that His Word is true; you will within you have the consciousness of that fact. But until you do believe it, that is, until you accept it not only as being true but as being true for you, it will count nothing. But when you do so accept it, it will count all, and you will find that your soul reaches out and finds God true and knows Him for itself.

Assurance

Belief brings assurance. Peter said, "We believe and are sure" (John 6:69). Effectual faith, that is, faith that reaches out and appropriates God's promises for salvation, brings to the heart a knowledge of the forgiveness of sin. We are not left to uncertainty as some suppose. John says, "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself" (I John 5:10). What is this witness? Paul tells us in Galatians 4:6—"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." The work of the Spirit in witnessing is stated in Romans 8:16—"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God."

The Christian has a twofold witness of his acceptance with God. First, this witness of the Spirit, who testifies to him of his acceptance. This is the voice of God Himself to the soul. It speaks in the believer's inner consciousness in language that cannot be misunderstood. He knows that he is God's child. He realizes from the testimony of that sacred Spirit that the work of God has been wrought and that he is now a child of the divine Father. He is no more a rebel, but a son. Secondly, there is that inner consciousness known and realized as any other definite fact of human experience. He knows that he is no more what he was; he knows that he is no more a rebel against God, but is at peace with Him. He no longer feels the guilt of his sin. He is conscious that a great change has taken place. Everyone who truly becomes a Christian, has this inner consciousness that he is God's.

This is a sure product of saving grace. This twofold witness within our souls continues as long as our faith continues. Only doubts can silence its voice. When faith fails, the voice of this testimony becomes weakened and finally silenced. It is dependent upon faith, and as long as we believe we may expect its testimony; but we must believe in order to retain this glorious realization of divine sonship. John was very positive in his knowledge and assertion on this point. He said, "We know that we have passed from death unto life" (I John 3:14). Again, he says, "We know that we are of God" (I John 5:19). In every case, however, saving faith must precede this witnessing, and saving faith must always accompany it, or it is made void. †

GOD IS GOOD!

MISSIONARY PAGE

YOUTH REVIVAL REPORT

Held at: Axe and Adze, Hanover, Jamaica

(From notes by: Sis. Talia Shaw and Sis. Orinthia Shaw-Allen)

Theme: “Stand Firm in the Faith, Be on Your Guard”

Scripture: I Corinthians 16:13

Tuesday Night, July 24

Pastor Rupert Shippy gave welcome and introduced the speaker. Bro. Aldrin McLaughlin from Honduras brought the message from the theme. Excerpts: “When you are standing firm in Jesus, the attacks of the enemy will not conquer you. If you are not standing with Jesus and being certain, the enemy will overpower you. With Christ we are more than conquerors. Even when the devil knocks you down, get up, don’t wait for the timer to go off. While you are standing firm, you must be prepared, ready to leave at any moment. Run the race, keep the faith.”

Wednesday Morning, July 25

Prayer meeting was led by Bro. David Martin from Hagerstown, Maryland. He spoke briefly on “Love and Unity.” Excerpts: “Unity and love prospers the church. When we are unified, God will be able to work through us. Love is the greatest of the fruit of the Spirit.” Prayer requests were taken.

Sis. Orinthia Shaw-Allen gave the order of upcoming services and closed in prayer.

10:00 A.M.

Bro. Thomas Harris from the Hagerstown congregation was chairman. Exhortations were as follows:

(1) Bro. Wilson: Psalm 24—“Be on Your Guard.” Excerpts: “Don’t waste the strength that God has given to us. God called the young because they are strong. Don’t wait until the body is deteriorating before serving God. The best time is in your youth. When you are strong, you can do much for God.”

(2) Sis. Grace Ramsay: Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:8. Excerpts: “In seeking God, whatever is in order for Him to give you, He will. God will give you what He sees best. Whatever God gives you, it should be used to glorify and honor Him. Give God first place. He is the truest Friend you will ever have. Live for Jesus.”

(3) Sis. Joyce Lamey: “Standing Firm.” Excerpts: “We need God’s help to stand for Him. We need to seek to draw closer to God. Live for others to see. Live so God can boast about you. Be watchful, be careful.”

(4) Bro. Rupert Shippy. Excerpts: “When you get down, don’t stay down; get up! If you have ever fainted in the race, it doesn’t mean you have backslidden. There is a God who will forgive you and who can keep you. Keep faith in God. Faith is the substance we need. Even though you are young, you can have faith. You can do all things in Christ who strengthens you.”

2:30 P.M.

Praise and songs. A presentation was done by Sis. Orinthia Shaw-Allen on the topic, “Problem Solving.”

The story of the lion and the mouse was told. The lion had to make a decision. If he was not full, he would have reacted differently. Based on what is happening in our lives, we will react to conflicts differently.

A PowerPoint presentation was done. Five steps in decision making include:

Think about the person: Understand the problem that is at hand. Identify the problem. Remove the focus from the person;

Look for solutions: Find options to alleviate or eliminate the problem. Brainstorm and remain calm in the process;

Find out which solution is best. How you’re going to sort out the issue. Choose a solution. If none is suitable, go back to step one;

Execute it;

Assess to see if the right decision was made.

Questions were asked and a mini-discussion held on the question posed:

Selfishness hinders problem solving, compromise is necessary for problem solving;

A mediator can be used in more difficult situations;

Self-assessment is important to see where you stand and how you have contributed to the problem.

Groups were formed to solve various problem cases. Each group presented on their case creatively.

Night Service

Chairperson: Sis. Susan Mann from Honduras. Speaker: Bro. Doug Shenberger from the Hagerstown congregation. Scriptures: Matthew 5:16; Revelation 5:11. Excerpts: “God is looking to people to glorify Him. He is to be glorified. Mankind has a free will and because of that free will, God gets so much joy when we choose to glorify Him. He deserves to be glorified. We have to glorify God out of a pure heart, out of a heart that has been forgiven. Why should we worship God? He is our Creator. He is almighty, all-knowing. God knows the details of the human heart. You can’t pretend with God or trick Him. He cannot be deceived. He is the Source of all wisdom. We need to praise Him.”

Thursday Morning, July 26

Bro. Orlan Malcolm spoke briefly on the topic of “The Church.” Prayers followed for the members of the church and a burden for the lost.

10:00 A.M.

Chairperson: Sis. Susan Darby-Ellis. Singing was done and prayer. Activity—A Discussion on the Importance of Prayer. Presenter: Sis. Susan Darby-Ellis. I Thessalonians 5:17; I Timothy 2:8; Colossians 4:2; Ephesians 6:18.

Points discussed included:

- prayer can be public or private
- prayer can be formal or informal

Prayer is done to:

- seek God’s favor
- pouring out one’s soul to God
- crying out to heaven
- drawing near to God—Psalm 73:28

- kneeling before God

Benefits to be received once engaged in prayer:

- gives strength to fight temptation
- avoids distraction
- proves God
- keeps from worry and anxiety
- helps the downhearted
- helps to accept God's choice, to stand firm
- sharpening discernment
- to find forgiveness
- invites the Holy Spirit in your life
- for directions
- gives confidence
- removes burden
- helps to conquer the devil
- prevents wrong decisions
- provides answers/solutions

2:30 P.M.

Activities: Quiz—Bible questions and answers. Following the quiz, creative activity was done on the title "I Am" which refers to God Himself. The verse from Exodus 3:14 was used as the lead for the activity. Other scriptures were given to groups of four to depict the meaning of the verses in a creative way by role plays, talk shows, or otherwise.

Night Service

Chairperson: Sis. Dorrett Clarke. Speaker: Bro. Leston Mann from Honduras. Scriptures: Galatians 4:19; Romans 6; Ephesians 3:17; Colossians 3:5. Excerpts: "At the end of this revival, we want to be so filled with Christ that the devil will not have us weak in faith. People must be able to walk up to you, even if they don't know you and say that they see the grace of God in you. For us to stand firm in God, the old man must be put to death. If we fall in love with sin, it will be hard to let go. Turn from sin. Hate sin. In Christ, we are new creatures. We need to put that old man to rest with all of his deeds."

Friday Morning, July 27

Sis. Sheka Bascoe was in charge. Theme: "Marriages and Families."

10:00 A.M.

Fasting and Women's Day. Theme: "Grow Where You Are Planted." Chairperson: Sis. Marsha Allen-Smith. Scripture: Psalm 1. The sisters were in charge. Singing was done throughout the fasting period. Individual prayers were offered at different intervals.

Speakers for the day were:

(1) Sis. Nadine—"Natural plants bloom wherever they are planted by God. In the sea, the river, in rocks, on the sand, in dry places. So, wherever God places us, no matter the situation and the undesirable conditions, we can grow through God. God knows where we are to be. He knows what we are capable of. He will put you where you can survive. Each of us has a place in the house of God, so let us grow where we are planted."

(2) Sis. Amanda Stamper from Hagerstown, Maryland. She used Psalm 145:4. Excerpts: "No matter our age, no matter what generation we are a part of, we

should let God be known. We should serve God. When a generation decides not to serve the Lord, the gap is left. There will be no one to look up to. We need to fill the gap for the Lord. We are all needed. We need to grow where we are planted. We want to grow in grace and be a righteous generation."

Night Service

Chairperson: Sis. Keisha Shaw. Speaker: Sis. Lona Smith from Honduras. Scripture: Daniel 6:19-22. Excerpts: "Daniel was an example of someone who stood firm for God. In the midst of his opposition, he did not allow that to keep him from praying and standing up for his God. If we live for God, we are going to be watched by others. But, like Daniel, let those who watch only see good things to report. Stand for God and let others see so God can be glorified."

Saturday Morning, July 28

Bro. Brian Richards from the Hagerstown congregation was in charge. Theme: "Backsliders and the Unsaved." Prayers were made to God for a successful day.

10:00 A.M.

Chairperson: Bro. Brandon Bascoe. Theme: "Nothing in this Life is Permanent." Men's Day—the brothers were in charge.

Exhortations were given by the following:

(1) Bro. T. J. Brown; Scripture: John 3:16, 17. Excerpts: "This shows the love that God has for us. God does not love sin, hence He gave His only Son. We would never be willing to make a sacrifice as such. Let us not take the cross for granted. Jesus' blood was shed to set us free. Let us live for Him and please Him."

(2) Bro. Orlan Malcolm spoke.

Night Service

Chairperson: Bro. Peter Ramsay. Speaker: Bro. Hezekiah Lamey. Topic: "Make Your Calling and Election Sure." Excerpts: "Make sure your name is in the Lamb's Book of Life because the end is coming. We should rejoice that our names are in the Lamb's Book of Life and not to rely on our abilities. Our duty is to live in obedience to the Word of God. No one is sure when time will be no more. Seek to serve God."

Sunday Morning, July 29

Early prayer meeting was held as usual.

11:00 A.M.

Divine Worship. Chairperson: Bro. Thomas Harris. Mini-sermons were given by Bro. Orville Bascoe and Bro. Brandon Bascoe.

Night Service

Chairperson: Bro. Leston Mann. Thanks was given by Bro. Doug Shenberger. Speaker: Bro. Aldrin McLaughlin. Excerpts: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you' (Matthew 6:33). When you give your life to Christ, that is when you begin to see what you have been missing. There is a better life to live in Jesus Christ."

Closing hymn: "The Last Call"

Closing prayer: Bro. Leston Anderson †

THANKSGIVING

Message by the late Alvin A. Craig

delivered 11/22/15



 UR TEXT for this morning's service is I John 3:1: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."

The Pilgrims were a small group that left England in 1620 on the Mayflower to start a new life in the new world. The Mayflower carried 102 passengers; roughly, 40 of those were Pilgrims. At first, there were supposed to be two ships. Some of the English people had gone over to Holland because of persecution, and so a ship from Holland came over to England to join the Mayflower, but it sprang a leak. They patched it, and they went on farther up the coast, but it sprang another leak. Then they started across the ocean, but it sprang another leak. Three times that ship sprang a leak. By that time, they decided they would turn around and go back to England. A few of the passengers and some of their goods were transferred over to the Mayflower. It took them 66 days to come across the ocean.

One of the major reasons why the Pilgrims left their homeland was because they were being persecuted, and the king at that time was hostile towards the Pilgrims. So after 66 days of coming across the ocean, they intended to settle near the Hudson River, but the waters were so rough that they went farther up the coast to land. The place they landed and built their first cabins became known as Plymouth Rock. They arrived early in November, right before the real freezing weather set in, and they had very limited quarters, so over half of their number died that winter. Their goods ran short, so the Indians, now known as Native Americans, were helpful to them.

There was a native American there who had been a slave taken over to England for a while. While he was there, he learned the English language. He acted as an interpreter for the Indians. He also taught them how to plant corn and how to fish. By then, harvesting time of 1621, brought forth much corn that they wanted to share it with the Native Americans, so they planned a

feast. There were about 90 Indians, or the Native Americans, who came and they brought six deer to add to the food that the Pilgrims had planned. This famous celebration became the basis for the story of the First Thanksgiving. They gave thanks to God for their bountiful harvest.

Thanksgiving to God is always in order. From what I understand, our area here was blessed with sufficient rain that there was a good harvest. Therefore, we need to be thankful.

We read in Psalm 50:14, "Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High." In regard to paying those vows, I will give you a quote from Adam Clarke: "The vow-offering was a male without blemish, taken from among the sheep, or the goats. Now these were offerings, in their spiritual and proper meaning, which God required of the people: and as the sacrificial system was established for an especial end—to show the sinfulness of sin, and the purity of Jehovah, and to show how sin could be atoned for, forgiven, and removed. The grand sacrifice of Christ was, of course, a type of the animals that they were required to give when they paid their vow, and Christ became the sacrifice, and naturally did away with those animal sacrifices."

I'd like for you to think with me for a few moments in regard to the things that we are to be thankful for—

In the name of Christ we are to be thankful: "*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (Ephesians 5:20).

It is through Christ that we have access to the Father: "*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father; but by me*" (John 14:6).

It is in the name of Christ that we are to pray: " *whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son*" (John 14:13).

Don't forget that it is with thanksgiving that we are to let our desires be made known unto God: "*With thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God*" (Philippians 4:6).

We should be thankful for the Lord's mercy: "*O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever*" (Psalm 136:1). What hope would we have if it were not for the mercy of almighty God?

Paul wrote to the saints at Corinth, "*Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift*" (II Corinthians 9:15). Now, we cannot fully understand all about God's unspeakable gift. We sing about it, we talk about it, but the half has not yet been told.

Romans 5:8, "*God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" We try to comprehend what the Father did, how much He loved us, and what Christ did for us, but we can give Him thanks and praise for His love, for His mercy, and for His gift. Salvation is not of works, as you well know, but it is the gift of God. I would say, it is the greatest gift of all.

Paul said, "O wretched man that I am!" What was the occasion in Romans 7? Well, Paul was a Pharisee, and he did his best to obey the Old Testament law, as far as he knew and understood it, but he really did not

have peace with God. He did not have real salvation. We find him saying, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" I know there are some people out in the religious world who want to apply that to Paul as a Christian, but that wasn't Paul as a Christian. That was Paul as a Pharisee who did not know God. He went on to say when he had an experience with God, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Beloved, if we have that experience this morning, we have a lot to thank the Lord for. Our sins are gone! They were wiped out of God's remembrance, to remember them against us forever no more. We thank God through Jesus Christ that we have this peace with God.

I would point out: Although salvation is a gift, there is something that we must do to obtain it. It's not turning over a leaf, it's not joining a church. Salvation is a gift. I remember hearing a young lady say one time as she spoke in a young people's service in North Carolina, "Salvation is free if you'll just pay the price." Well, that's not contradictory. Salvation is a gift, but there is something we must do. Jesus told us that without repentance, we cannot enter the kingdom of God. Jesus also said, "Those upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." So, salvation is a gift, but we must repent and forsake our sins. A lot of people confess their sins and then go right on sinning. That's not what the Bible teaches. We repent and forsake our sins, and then we have peace with our Lord Jesus Christ.

We should be thankful for all of our blessings. *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning"* (James 1:17). So we are to give thanks to God for everything.

I read in the Scriptures that Jesus gave thanks when He was getting ready to feed the multitudes. So, I think it is only proper and right to give thanks for food, whether it is at a restaurant or at home.

We read in the 103rd Psalm, *"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits [Do you remember them all? I can't remember them all, but I can still bless Him for it]: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."*

Psalm 150, *"Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. ... praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."*

The Old Testament Feast of Tabernacles was one of the seasons that the Lord had them to observe. I'll give you a quote here from Russell Byrum's book, *Shadows of Good Things*, in regard to that:

"The Feast of Tabernacles is also called 'the Feast of Ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field' (Exodus 23:16). Both names are descriptive of the nature and purpose of the Feast.

"It was celebrated by the Israelites dwelling for seven days in temporary booths, or tabernacles, made of boughs of trees—hence the name of the feast. These booths were built on the housetops, in the open courts of the homes or of the temple, or in the streets. The purpose of the booths was to remind the Israelites of their dwelling in tents during the forty years in the wilderness.

"It was a national festival of thanksgiving for the bounteous harvest, not very different in this aspect from the thanksgiving season now observed by Americans for a similar purpose. It was a time for rejoicing before the Lord, and of feasting."

I suppose many of you have heard of Herbert Armstrong. He's been dead for years now, but he was head of the Worldwide Church of God. He believed in observing the Old Testament customs. Do you know what they did during the Feast of Tabernacles? No, they didn't build booths on their housetops. They rented rooms in hotels and feasted and had dances and sports' activities, etc. They called that the Feast of Tabernacles. But the Israelites actually built tabernacles.

Thanksgiving should be a part of our praying. When Daniel knew that the decree had been signed by the king that no one should ask any petition, or any request of any God or man, except the king for thirty days, do you know what Daniel did? "He went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime" (Daniel 6:10). He had the habit of praying three times a day, and the king's decree did not stop him from doing that. Even though he was thrown in the lions' den for it, he still went ahead and prayed.

Beloved, we have so much to be thankful for. *"Be careful for nothing [don't be fretful or worrying]; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God"* (Philippians 4:6).

Thanksgiving is a part of our worship services. *"I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people"* (Psalm 35:18). *"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people"* (Psalm 105:1). *"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms"* (Psalm 95:2). *"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name"* (Psalm 100:4).

I think Thanksgiving Day is a very important day, but as has already been said, we should be thankful the year around. *"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth"* (Psalm 34:1). †

TEACH US TO PRAY

By the late H. R. Matthews

FMMANUEL, God with us, became flesh as God's only begotten Son. As such, He set the example in every way for the benefit of mankind. His example in solitary prayer inspired His disciples to desire to follow His example. To fulfill this desire, they came to Jesus, saying, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). Jesus began, by saying, "After this manner therefore pray ye" (Matthew 6:9). Jesus did not instruct them to repeat the wording of what some call the Lord's prayer when they prayed; it was not a prescribed prayer. A mere repeating of what some call the Lord's prayer is vain repetition, which is the same as reading from a prayer book, or attaching a written prayer to a turning prayer wheel as the heathen did. It is important to note that Jesus said, "After this manner therefore pray ye."

The manner in which we are to pray began, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." To paraphrase this, we would be praying, "Our Father which art in heaven, holy and reverend is Thy name." We are approaching His lofty throne with deepest respect and reverence. Although we usually bow when praying, the posture of the body is least important. It is the posture of the heart that must be bowing in submission to our Father which is in heaven. Our hearts must be free of an arrogant attitude when addressing the One whose name is hallowed.

A prayer is not necessarily beautiful because it is spoken by one who possess a polished vocabulary. A beautiful prayer may flow from the heart of the uneducated peasant with limited vocabulary who prays in the Spirit. A beautiful prayer may be the silent prayer. Hannah prayed a beautiful prayer and only her lips were moving. A beautiful prayer is the prayer that pierces the brazen heavens and flows into God's prayer bottle from where it will be poured out in God's time in the way that will bring Him the most glory and that will be to our greatest benefit.

Agreement in prayer is encouraged by Jesus as He spoke to His disciples in Matthew 18:19, saying, "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." Those who may be agreeing in prayer may not necessarily be in the same geographical location. Our local congregation has a prayer request internet web address where we frequently have agreement in prayer in our several homes. This privilege is shared by saints of God from other congregations of the Church of God. There are false holiness churches who, when they are assembled together, all pray simultaneously. This creates confusion and makes an agreement in prayer impossible.

We are so blessed that our heavenly Father is acquainted with our finite infirmities. Knowing not how to pray as we ought, Father enlists the Holy Spirit to help our infirmities. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray

for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26, 27). This is one of the mysteries of godliness. Thank the Lord for the inspired Word of God in which there are no fabrications.

God takes pleasure in His people. So it was with newly created Adam. God had placed him in his beautiful home in the Garden of Eden and gave him a beautiful bride with which to share it. It was a time of fellowship and vocal exchange with earth's first bride and groom, a time when God came down in the cool of the evening and took pleasure in their presence and communion.

Although our heavenly Father delights for us to ask largely of Him, our time of communion with Him should be more than just asking for our needs to be met. Our communion with God should be well-accompanied with praise and gratitude. We are to let our requests be made known with thanksgiving. If we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our hearts (Psalm 37:4). A New Testament companion verse is found in John, chapter 15, verse 7: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Does not this verse reflect our delight in the Lord?

Jesus chided the Pharisees for praying openly in the marketplace to be seen and heard of men. Such prayers are not rewarded. For this reason, Jesus instructed His disciples that when they prayed to enter into their closet and pray secretly, and they would be rewarded openly. Jesus was not instructing them to enter into a dark cubical; He was telling them not to pray just to receive praise of men. Our prayer closet will be wherever we have occasion to pray, even when we are agreeing in prayer with another.

We Americans have become increasingly health conscious in recent years. We carefully plan our menus for each of the three daily meals. If proper meals are neglected, the human body soon fails to function as our Creator planned and our demise occurs before we reach our three score and ten. Unfortunately, the citizens of our great nation have become less conscious of the health of the inner man, the soul. Jesus said to His disciples on the seashore, "Come and dine." Our time in prayer is food for the soul. Neglecting the appropriate time in communion with our Creator brings leanness to the soul, which will eventually bring death to the soul, although body and soul are still intact.

There is much consolation in knowing that the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and that His ears are open unto their prayers. King David expressed this thought in Psalm 34. We should be encouraged, too, by the example David provided for us: "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice" (Psalm 55:17). Daniel was aware of the law that would send him to the lions' den for continuing his daily prayers to the God of heaven rather than to the king of Babylon. There are religious people today who are very faithful in carrying out their practice of kneeling in prayer five times daily, but they are kneel-

ing to the king of Babylon rather than the God of heaven. There are others who direct their prayers to those who themselves were among those whom Jesus came to save. These are those that visit the confessional booth, confessing their sins to those who themselves are ridden by the guilt of sin. These are those that use the prescribed prayers in which prayer beads are used to keep count of the number of prayers that have been prayed. These are those that declare Mary to be the mother of God. How could the created be the mother of the Creator?

Let us conclude this message with the blessed truth that the sweet incense that immerses the throne of God is the heartfelt prayers that issue from the community of God's saints.

May God bless you as you dine at your Father's table. †

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Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

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Cornwall Mountain, Westmoreland

March 5-10, 2019, Lord willing

Sis. Ruth Cummings, Host Pastor

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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