

The Way of Truth



Vol. 72

...h the ...pel to every creature.”

No. 4

What Does the Cross Mean to You?

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APRIL
2014

PASSOVER starts at sundown, April 14, this year and ends at sundown, April 15, followed by the seven days of unleavened bread. Jesus was crucified at the Passover season and gave up the “ghost” at 3:00 in the afternoon. That was the hour the Passover lamb—which was a type of Jesus—was slain in Egypt.

Before I speak of the resurrection, I would like to emphasize the importance of Jesus’ death. First, I would like to quote from the book, *The Gospel Under Siege*, by Malcolm L. Lavender:

“Major leaders of the Charismatic Movement deny the blood atonement of Jesus Christ. Their teachings come from E. W. Kenyon.” [Though Kenyon was not Charismatic himself.] Then Mr. Lavender quotes E. W. Kenyon thus:

“If the physical death of Jesus paid the penalty of man’s transgression, then sin is but a physical fact.

“If Jesus’ physical death could pay the penalty of sin as some contend, then why is it necessary that Christians die?”

“If a Christian dies physically, does he not pay the penalty of his own sin?”

“If a physical death is the penalty for sin, then why do not the whole human race pay their own penalty and save themselves, for all die?”

“But we hold that the PHYSICAL DEATH of Jesus did not touch the sin issue at all; it was only a means to an end, and the REAL SUFFERING of Jesus, the Substitute, must be SPIRITUAL as well as PHYSICAL.

“We know that the PHYSICAL DEATH of Jesus would not satisfy the claims of Justice; so it was necessary that He become identified with our union with the devil, that He actually die spiritually and become a partaker of **Spiritual Death**. ... It was **HIS SPIRIT RESURRECTION** rather than His physical Resurrection that has given humanity its Redemption.”

Mr. Lavender says the well-known preachers Kenneth Copeland and Kenneth E. Hagin “follow this same line of reasoning.”

If the Bible teaches anything in regard to Jesus Christ, it teaches that it was His shedding His life’s blood and His death on the cross, along with His physical resurrection, that paid the debt for man’s sins. “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22). “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (I John 1:7). In spite of this clear statement by the apostle John, Kenneth Hagin says, “Physical death would not remove our sins.” (*The Name of Jesus* pg. 29).

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28). “Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God”

(Romans 3:25). “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him” (Romans 5:9). “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7). This same statement is repeated in Colossians 1:14. “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us ... How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:12 and 14). “Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Revelation 1:5). Is it necessary to quote more scriptures to prove the point?

Let us return to the words of E. W. Kenyon. His words about our paying for our own sins is not worthy of comment! What I do want to call your attention to are his remarks about Jesus being “a partaker of Spiritual Death.”

I will quote some additional remarks of his:

“He could not be killed; He could not die.

“Why? Because His body was not *mortal*.

“Jesus had a body *like Adam’s before* he sinned.

“It was a perfect, human body, *not mortal, nor Immortal*. [Adam had a body formed from the dust of the earth. If Christ had a body like Adam’s body, then it was mortal, and it could have died.]

“It was a body that *could not die* until sin had taken possession of His spirit.

“In other words, *Jesus had to die spiritually before* He could die physically.”

A short quote from Kenneth Copeland: “Now listen to me, if it had been physical death only, it would not have worked. And if He hadn’t died *spiritually that body never would have died.*”

A short quote from Kenneth Hagin: “Physical death would not remove our sins. He tasted death for every man—SPIRITUAL DEATH.”

There is not one verse in all the Bible that speaks of Jesus dying a spiritual death. The Bible clearly teaches that SIN is what produces spiritual death. God told Adam and Eve that in the day they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would die. The Lord declared in Ezekiel 18:4, “Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.” Paul, in Romans 6:23, declared, “For the wages of sin is death.” In Ephesians 2:1, Paul wrote, “You hath he [made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins.” The Scriptures inform us that Jesus Christ “did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth” (I Peter 2:22). To say that Jesus Christ was “the first one to be born again” is ridiculous. He would have had to sin, which would bring death, to be born again.

ABOUT THE COVER

The cross is an emblem of Christianity because Jesus Christ, in humility, suffered and died on the old rugged cross. Each individual Christian has his own cross to bear, but if faithful will exchange it for a glorious crown. What does the cross mean to you?

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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Jesus died on the cross, as He told the disciples He would, and He rose from the dead on the third day, as He said He would. The only way a person can be saved is through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This includes the shed blood of the Son of God. Peter and John were called before a number of people, including Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, because of the healing of the lame man at the gate Beautiful. He and John were asked, "By what name, have ye done this?" "Then Peter filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:7-12).

Paul wrote to the Romans, "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (10:8, 9). Paul wrote to the church at Corinth that if Christ was not raised from the dead "your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" (I Corinthians 15:17). Paul was not in doubt "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" (verse 20). Jesus Christ said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and death" (Revelation 1:18). I serve a risen Savior! †

OUR SERVICES ON CD'S

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

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"I am the resurrection, and the life."—John 11:25.

CALVARY

Gladys Swinney Van Deventer

There upon a rugged cross,
Sensitive and fine,
Hangs the gentle Son of God—
Your defense and mine.

Shall we let Him hang in vain,
Suffering torment wild,
Shall we honor Him today,
Become God's own dear child?

Jesus, Jesus, hanging there,
Blessed Hope and Friend,
I will give my heart to Thee,
Love Thee 'til life's end.

Rugged cross upon a hill,
What a tragic test,
Cross that cleanseth many a heart—
Mine among the rest.

THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED

Thomas Kelly

The Lord is risen indeed,
The grave hath lost its prey;
With Him shall rise the ransomed seed,
To reign in endless day.

The Lord is risen indeed,
He lives to die no more;
He lives the sinner's cause to plead,
Whose curse and shame He bore.

The Lord is risen indeed,
Attending angels, hear!
Up to the courts of heav'n with speed,
The joyful tidings bear.

Then wake your golden lyres,
And strike each cheerful chord;
Join all ye bright celestial choirs,
To sing our risen Lord.

THE VITAL, LIVING SAVIOR

Roy W. Potter

He has risen, Christ, our Savior!
He is living, though He died,
Now a vital, living person,
Though He once was crucified.

As He walked with His disciples
The Emmaus road that day,
So He wants to walk beside you,
Make your heart burn "by the way."

Yes, your heart will burn with rapture
If you'll let Him walk with you,
For His vital, living presence
Makes the whole world live anew.

Oh, if now we feel this glory
Of the risen, living King,
What will be eternal glory
Where bright angels of it sing?

I'm so glad that He is living!
He brought life beyond the grave;
In His vital, living presence
There is power to bless and save.

THREE CROSSES

Nellie Pease Gorbett

Today I saw three crosses raised
Outside the city wall.
They stood upon a little hill,
Golgotha it is called.

The birds had hushed their songs of praise,
The breezes ceased to blow,
And in the calm I heard Him say,
"Forgive them, they don't know."

And then I hung upon the cross,
Stained through with guilt and sin,
But when my heart I opened up
His love came pouring in.

I asked Him to remember me,
Still knowing it was true,
In me was nothing worthy, yet
He answered, "This day you

May be with Me in paradise."
The birds began to sing,
All heaven burst within my soul,
For Christ had entered in. †

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!

CHRIST DIED FOR ALL

By Bro. Hoyt Matthews

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

—John 3:16.



lies to leave the lips of the father of lies, the devil. Satan knows the scriptures well. He knows that Jesus tasted death for every man. He knows that God would have all men to be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth. He is well-acquainted with the words penned by the prophet Isaiah which say, “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all ye ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else” (Isaiah 45:22).

Such lies are perpetuated by those who are of their father, the devil, and who are carrying out the will of their father. A careful examination of the Scriptures expose these doctrines of the devil. The doctrine I have mentioned is known as “predestination” and is one of the most godless doctrines perpetrated by the father of lies. “For God so loved the *world*, that he gave his only begotten Son, that *whosoever* believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). This verse leaves no doubt that all mankind in every age were privileged to “choose you this day whom ye will serve” (Joshua 24:15).

A question frequently asked is, “What about those who have never heard the word of truth?” God is just, and we stand by the truth that all men are without excuse. Let us again look to the Scriptures: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and God-head; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:18-20).

Let us look now to that beautiful Psalm that came from the heart of the psalmist David: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof” (Psalm 19:1-6).

Not only the heavens declare the glory of God, for God created the heavens and the earth. The earth also declares God’s glory. Let us briefly now let the camera of our minds pan the expanse of our fair land from sea to shining sea. As we view the magnificent sun rising above the horizon over the tumultuous Atlantic, signaling the beginning of a brand new day, we are entertained by the frolicking creatures of the sea searching for their first meal of the day. We are forced to retreat from the shoreline as the waves come rushing in, crashing against the cliff rocks and leaving behind the great sand dunes as they return to the sea, only to endlessly perform the same ritual. As we begin our trek inward and westward, we must pass through the forested terrain, over the mountain peaks, and through the lush valleys where the husbandmen of the soil labor to produce that which satisfies the hunger and sustains the body of both man and beast.

THE WORD *world* as used in this verse is not speaking of the globe on which we live; rather, it is speaking of every soul-bearing creature that will ever exist on this globe. Not one of these creatures will be exempted from the plan of reconciliation between God and His created. We must quickly add that all who were created in God’s image were created with the ability to choose the pathway they will follow on their earthly journey. We wish to make it very clear that every created one will be made to understand that there exists a great supreme entity to whom they must be subservient, one to whom they must love with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and one to whom they must worship in spirit and in truth.

The Scriptures declare, “God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34). In John 3:16, we find the word *whosoever*. This carries the thought of “any person, no matter what person.”—*Webster*. Any person means all persons. Revelation 22:17 says, “And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” We see in this the exercise of the God-given ability to choose. “Whosoever believeth in him should not perish.” Consequently, because of Adam’s sin, “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Therefore, all must come to repentance.

What we wish to present in this lesson is the precious truth that God made provision for all mankind to be reconciled to his Creator. Let us take courage and be inspired by the words penned by Isaiah foretelling of this provision: “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:5, 6). Does this not point to Jesus who, as He sweat as it were great drops of blood, took on himself there in Gethsemane the iniquity of us all? Does this not point to Jesus as He was led from Pilate’s judgment hall where He bore the stripes that made provision for our healing, to the hill called Golgotha where He paid the debt of sin we could not pay? We would readily reply *yes*.

Some have said, “Not all mankind were included in the redemptive plan, for only some were predestined to be saved, while others were predestined to be lost.” The Holy Scriptures do not support this conjectural (guesswork) error which was born of one of the greatest

Ere long we encounter a barrier that divides the east and west of this great land. It is the great river whose source is near the Canadian border and flows southward to the Gulf of Mexico. Its length is 2,300 miles and it has many tributaries.

Beyond this great river, westward, we encounter the western prairies which was home to the great herds of buffalo that grazed on its lush grasslands, and which was pursued by the original immigrants to this great land. The buffalo was a great source of food, clothing, and utensils.

As we continue westward, the snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountain range loom on the horizon. As we approach the foothills, herds of deer and antelope grazing peacefully appear. At the higher elevations we marvel at the sure-footed mountain goats as they leap from rock to rock. This great range came from the creative hand of our almighty God. It is 3,000 miles in length and at its widest point is 300 miles in width.

As we look westward, we are soon to gaze upon a mind-boggling, amazing spectacle, a spout of boiling water erupting from a crater with the height of the eruption reaching from 106 feet to 185 feet. This eruption occurs every 45 to 125 minutes, and the duration of 1.5 to 5 minutes, with a discharge 3,700 gallons of water with each eruption. Our minds wander in amazement as questions arise: What brings the temperature of this water to 244 degrees? What forms such pressure that the eruption reaches as much as 185 feet skyward? Where do such tremendous volumes of water originate? By 1938, 137,000 eruptions had been recorded. When did these eruptions begin? We are dependant on wells of water for consumption, but these sometimes run dry.

We must not tarry. We must hasten on that we may soon rest our feet that once rested in the boisterous Atlantic, in the tranquil, peaceful Pacific, for such was it named. The Pacific is the largest ocean to leave the creative hand of God. It covers an area of 64.1 million square miles, with an average depth of 14,000 feet. This great body of water has many stories to tell.

We have barely touched the extent of this earth's wonders, but remember this, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art" (Romans 2:1).

Dear Reader, be sure, the just, faithful, loving, heavenly Father has made a way for every man, no matter the depths of his ignorance, to understand that there is a great supreme Being in whom he lives and moves and has his being. God has created within the heart of every man that desire to worship that One who is higher than he.

It is sad, but true, that man's posterity many times suffer from the unrighteousness of their fore parents. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). This is a result of Adam's disobedience. Nevertheless, God is true and faithful. All are without excuse. "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. ... Yet say ye, Why? doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, and hath

kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live. The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him" (Ezekiel 18:4; 19, 20).

Consider the following words spoken by Jesus: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: Because strait the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13, 14).

Mankind has never been robots. When Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate," He was not speaking to a mechanical creature that could do nothing other than what he was directed to do. When Jesus was speaking these words He was pleading, "Choose the heaven-bound pathway!" When Joshua inherited the leadership of the nation of Israel after the death of Moses, he challenged Israel, saying, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

It is true that choices can be influenced. Jesus confirmed this when He issued the great commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). What a wonderful blessing it is to be under the influence of the gospel of Christ Jesus!

Moses was in the care of his godly mother, possibly till the age of seven years, at which time he was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter. By the time he reached 40 years of age, Moses made a choice that had eternal implications. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Hebrews 11:24, 25).

Be sure of this, Dear Reader, Satan, too, is acquainted with the fact that our choices can be influenced, and because of this, he too commissions his followers to go into all the world with the message of deception to every creature. Because of this, multitudes have departed from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; nevertheless, "Thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art!" But be sure of this also, Dear Reader, God exhausts every measure within redemption's plan to bring about a right relationship between Himself and His creation. "Choose you this day whom ye will serve!" Choose the "strait and narrow way which leadeth unto life." †

BOOKLETS BY BRO. HOYT MATTHEWS

The following booklets are free and available for ordering; however, a donation to cover postage is appreciated.

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"; "We Were There"; "Deceptions"; "Lifting Up the Standard"; "Heroes of Faith"; "I Will Answer Thee"; "Messages that Matter" (Books 1-3); "25 Mini-messages"; "Suggested Bible Study Outlines."

EXCHANGING A CROSS FOR A CROWN

Radio Message by Bro. Greg Tyler



IT IS MY happy privilege to come to you as a minister of Christ. I want to call your attention to Revelation, chapter 2, verses 8-10: "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: *be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*" That's what I will like to use for a thought today on this radio program. I'd like to entitle my few thoughts, "Exchanging a Cross for a Crown."

In today's religious world, most religions have a crossless religion. They preach to please the people, but I want you to know today that there is a cross that must be borne to gain a crown at the end of the way. *To gain a crown* means, "to bear a cross." Jesus Christ bore a cross on Calvary for us so long ago, and we as children of the most high God should count it a privilege to bear a cross for His sake. Hebrews 12:1, 2, tells us, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Jesus Christ left the glories of heaven, took on the form of man, and suffered in our stead on Calvary. He was beaten, bloodied, suffered and died that you and I could be saved. He expects us as children of God to follow in His footsteps. Christianity is the best way to live. I don't want this to be a negative message today. I want this to be a positive message, but I want you to know that to gain a crown at the end of the way, there is some living that must be done. There is some faithfulness that must be done. The scripture says, "Be thou faithful unto death, and [then] I will give thee a crown of life."

Jesus said to His disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Jesus set some standards for discipleship, and one of those standards is, to deny one's self, take up the cross, and follow in His footsteps. Some people find that's a hard saying. Many people today are not interested in denying themselves or bearing a cross. But this is part of the Christian race and part of the Christian experience—to

follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Jesus said that if they hated Me, they will hate you. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you. In one place, Jesus spoke to His disciples and said, "Unless you eat of my flesh, and drink of my blood, you cannot be my disciple." Many of them said, "This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" I am reminded of one songwriter's words: "Must Jesus bear the cross alone, And all the world go free? No, there's a cross for everyone, And there's a cross for me."

My Beloved Ones, the cross is not a symbol of popularity, of pleasantness, of ease, or comfort, but the cross is a symbol of suffering, shame, difficulty, cruelty, and mocking. Do you remember the old precious song that so many of us sing?

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.*

*Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary.*

*In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.*

*To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.*

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

What does it mean to bear the cross? One thing it means is, *enduring temptation*. James said, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." Bearing temptation, going through temptation, resisting temptation, enduring temptation is what a Christian must do if he is to remain faithful unto death.

Bearing the cross includes persecution. Paul said to Timothy, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." True Christians don't act like the world. They're different. True Christians don't dress like the world. They look different. True Christians follow in the footsteps of Jesus. They follow the example of Jesus. *Christian* means, "Christlike." Christians are examples of what Christ taught. If you live that kind of life in our time world, you are going to suffer persecution.

Bearing the cross includes trials. The apostle Peter said in chapter 4 of I Peter, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." So trials and temptations will

come. This is part of bearing the cross, being a Christian, and living for Christ in this gainsaying world.

Bearing the cross includes suffering; being defamed, lied about, and mocked. Peter said, "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." So there is some cross-bearing to be done, but I want you to know, Dear Listening Audience, you do not have to bear the cross alone. God has promised to never leave you nor to forsake you. Do you remember the Hebrew three—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? When they were cast into the fire, they were never alone. There was the fourth in the fire who protected them from the flame. So it is with each one of us. When we are going through trials, tests and difficulties, there is One who is with us to go through the trials with us.

I am reminded of this old story—

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it: "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me." The Lord replied: "My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

So it is in our lives, Dear Ones. Some trials seem more than we can bear, but He's promised to be with us, and He will carry us through if we but trust in Him. To receive a crown at the last day, we must be faithful unto death. We must bear the cross. If we remain faithful unto death, we shall receive a crown of life.

Polycarp was a pastor at Smyrna. He was finally burned at the stake around 166 A.D. It is said of Polycarp that when we was brought before the judge and commanded to adjure and blaspheme the name of Christ, he firmly answered, "Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King who saved me?" Then he was set aflame. But Polycarp was faithful unto death, and he received a crown of life.

If you and I endure temptation, we also shall receive the crown of life. James said, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

If we keep the faith, we have a promise to receive a crown at the end of the way. It is not automatic. There is some fighting to be done; there is some living to be done; there is some resisting to be done; there is some cross-bearing to be done; but if we keep the faith, there's a crown of glory laid up for us.

Paul, at the end of his way, was able to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a

crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." Do you love His appearing today? Are you living for Christ today? That's the question you need to ask yourself.

The Lord has been faithful unto us, and we need to be faithful unto Him. If we are, then we shall experience a great exchange at the last day. We shall lay down our cross and receive a bright glittering crown. There will be no crosses in heaven; there will be no burdens in heaven; there will be no trials in heaven. If we're faithful, when we lay down our cross at death we shall receive a crown of life. We shall see Him face to face.

Paul said in I Corinthians 13, "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." We shall know some things at the last day. We shall see Him face to face, and we shall receive a glittering crown if we're faithful and true. Oh, to hear His voice! "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." To hear His voice, and to receive that crown of life at the end of the way is worth everything it cost during the course of this life. Again, we don't have to bear the cross alone, but we have One who is faithful and true to us.

Don't you want to receive a crown of glory at the end of your life? If you want and aim to, you need to take up the cross and follow Him. Peter said, "When the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" (I Peter 5:4). "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (I Peter 1:4). God wants everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. He's made the way possible for every human being to receive a crown at the end of the way; but to do so, we must accept God's proffered grace, be saved from our sins, deny ourselves, take up His cross and follow Him. If we do, I promise you, according to the Word of God, we shall lay down our cross at the end of the way and receive a bright glittering crown.

Revelation 2:10, "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Nothing else really matters in this time world but that we receive a crown of life at the end of the way. Only comparatively few are going to make it. Jesus said, "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

I am so glad that I found the way years ago. I am so glad for the grace of God that forgave me of my iniquities. I am so glad for the grace of God that has kept me true these many years. By His grace, I mean to remain faithful and true, to carry His cross, and to serve Him faithfully so that when I get to the end of the way I can hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

It is our prayer that each one of you who are under the sound of our voice will make the same decision in your life. †

THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST

2013 Cayman Convention Message by Bro. Duane Jeffries

I WANT TO first thank the Lord for allowing me this privilege today to be back in the house of God, among the people of God. I don't know why I'm always fearful whenever I'm asked to speak, but I suppose I'm not the only minister who struggles with it. I am looking forward for the Lord's help, and I ask for your support and prayers. I have a burden on my heart, and I trust that the Lord will help me to deliver it.

If you have your Bibles, please turn with me to Philippians, chapter 2. We'll take our text from verses 5-11: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." The thought on my heart is, "The Humility of Christ."

Perhaps we do not even need a dictionary to understand what the word *humility* means, but I came across this definition and it really blessed me: "the act or posture of lowering one's self in relation to others."

PRIDE IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD

I was watching a broadcast a few months ago. It was concerning four televangelists in the United States. Two of those had gifted themselves some very lavish gifts. One, a female evangelist, had granted to a male a four hundred thousand dollar Rolls Royce. The news went on to show their private jets, their many mansions all around the United States, and their lavished lifestyle that they lived. I thought to myself this morning, that is not true Christianity. I believe with all my heart that the mark of a Christian is humility, and I am glad that I serve in a church and ministry where there are men of humble beginnings, and they are still humble today. I have been living in Cayman for 15 years. I have never once heard Bro. James stand in this pulpit and solicit money from this congregation. The man of God is a humble man.

When I examine the life of Christ, when I look at His life from the beginning to His crucifixion, all I see is humility. If you take account of His birth, what a humble birth it was! In the minds of great men who lived in the day, the promise of the coming of the Messiah was to be with great pomp and fanfare, but oh, it was so different! The announcement of His coming was not to great dignitaries, but to the lowly shepherds out in the fields. The Bible tells us that the angel of the

Theme of Cayman Convention

"Jesus, a Positive Choice in
These Changing Times"



Lord appeared and said, "Fear not: for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." He was not born to great dignitaries or into a royal family, but to a humble carpenter man by the name of Joseph and a simple little woman whose name was Mary. Praise the Lord! Do you see the humility of Christ? He wasn't born in a lavished place. He wasn't born in lavished accommodations, but a humble little cave He was content to be born in. I had the privilege of visiting the little place a few years ago with Bro. Alvin and others. Just a humble little cave—a place where they kept sheep, goats, and other animals. The great King of kings and Lord of lords was willing to be born there. Jesus' growing up was very humble. He grew up learning the carpenter's trade in His father's home. While much is not said about His childhood, I believe it was a humble one.

The problem with the religious world today is pride. Too much pride. People seeking their own instead of that which belongs to God. Men and women looking to exalt themselves in the place of God. That is not the Christian spirit. Christians are followers of Jesus Christ, and if we're followers of Christ, we'll look to pattern our lives after Him. Our lives should be a reflection of Jesus in every way, shape and form. We walk like Him, we talk like Him, we act like Him. Too many people claim to be Christians, but want to follow after their own way. They want to do what they want to do. They want to dress how they want to dress, but Christians are followers of Jesus. I said in my opening remarks, the mark of a Christian is a humble life.

THE HUMILITY OF JESUS

Let us look at the life of Jesus. When He began His ministry, the Bible tells us that He went down to the river Jordan, and there He was baptized of John. The Bible tells us that when John saw Him coming, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John was so humbled by this experience. He felt so small in the presence of God. He said, "Lord, I am not worthy to baptize you." John tried to forbid Him. He said, "Lord, I have need to be baptized of thee." Oh, Friends, look at the humility of Jesus! He said, "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness." Jesus came not to seek His own, but to do His Father's will. You see, although Jesus was equal with God, He became a man. He set aside all of His kingly privileges. He submitted Himself to God in every way. He didn't come to flaunt His authority or to boast

about His position in the Godhead. He came to set an example for you for and me. He was baptized of John. The Bible says, "And, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." He was not just any man. He was God Himself in the flesh; the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

We read in the book of Luke, chapter 5, where Jesus cleansed a leper. Luke 5:12-14, "And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him." Jesus did not boast of His accomplishment. He did not seek to bring attention to Himself. Too many times we find people boasting about what God did through them or what they were able to do. That is not a humble spirit. Jesus said, "Tell no man [Do you see the humility? Think about it.]: but go, and show thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them." Jesus' mission was to bring glory to the Father above. That is why the Bible teaches us that we should not seek our own glory, but the glory of God. "Do all to the glory of God." What a humble example Jesus is!

HUMILITY IN FEET WASHING

We read about the ordinance of feet washing in John, chapter 13. This speaks about one of the greatest acts of humility. "Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded." Do you see the humility of Christ? God Himself in the flesh. He was willing to lay aside His garment and take a basin of water and stoop down low to wash His disciples' feet. The part that touches my heart is, He knew the one who would betray Him, and it made no difference among them. He knew who Judas was, and He loved him just as much as He loved Peter, James, and John. He went to them one by one and washed the dust off their feet. From Peter to James to Judas, and on down, He washed their feet.

What about us this morning? Too often we're so puffed up with pride that we can't even greet one another; too often we're so pumped up with pride that we can't even fellowship one another. I believe with all my heart that one of the greatest hindrances to the working of the Spirit in the church today is personality. God will not walk with the proud nor the scornful. If the Spirit of God must work in the church, personalities must be removed. You see, it's not about you and me. It's not about us. It's about Jesus and His cause on this

earth. Too often we care too much about what and who we want. We even have our favorite preachers, and when they're not selected to preach, we don't want to come to listen. It's not about us.

Christianity is a humble life. When you have the love of God in your heart, you're content to prefer your brother greater than yourself. The Bible says, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour *preferring* one another." What does that mean? It means to put our brother first. Can we do that? It's easy to say it, but it's another thing to put it into practice. I read in the Scriptures of the New Testament church where some who had a parcel of land, sold it, and laid it at the apostles' feet. They had all things common (Acts 2:44). Do we have all things common? God help us. Humility! Jesus washed the disciples' feet, and He didn't do it out of formality. He didn't do it out of make-believe, but out of genuine love and care for those men. He washed their feet.

Let us continue on in John, chapter 13, beginning with verse 7: "Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet."

TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE HUMBLE

What is Jesus teaching us? Humility, preferring one another, serving one another. Christianity is serving one another. Paul said, "When one of us hurts, all should hurt." My body is one. If I get a thorn in a toe, my whole body feels it. If I get a blow anywhere in my body, it is felt all over. That is a reflection of the family of God today, of the Christian body. When one hurts, all hurt. It is never a good thing to see Christians putting down other Christians. It is contrary to the Christian way. When one suffers, all should suffer. When you see your brother or sister going through a rough time, you shouldn't rejoice over it. You must have compassion and love. The Bible says, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak." We are called to bear one another's burdens. Sometimes we see our brothers and sisters with a need, and a lot of times we have the means (resources) to help, but we're contented to sit on the sidelines. That is not the Christian way. The Bible says, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" Christians should be able to help their fellow Christians and lend them support. I'm telling you, we are living in a time where we need one another more than ever before. One of the reasons why Christians are struggling today is because that togetherness is not there. We need

EVANGELISM

THE RESULTS OF WINNING A SOUL

Scriptures: James 5:19, 20; Acts 2:47; Luke 15:4-7; Acts 8:5, 6, 8; Daniel 12:3; I Peter 5:4.

James 5:19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Luke 15:4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Acts 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

Daniel 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

I Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Memory Verse: Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

—James 5:20.

Aim: To consider the present and future results of winning a soul to a true experience of salvation.

INTRODUCTION

THE Hebrew word *nephesh* and the Greek *psuche* have different meanings.

“The word *nephesh* occurs 745 times in the Old Testament. It is translated *soul* 473 times ... *Psuche* appears in the New Testament 105 times. It is translated *soul* 58 times.

“The term *spirit* is from the Hebrew *ruach* and from the Greek *pneuma*. The word *ruach* occurs in the Old Testament 442 times. It is translated *spirit* 232 times ... *Pneuma* occurs in the New Testament 385 times. It is rendered *spirit* 288 times.”—H. M. Riggie, *Beyond the Tomb*.

Those who deny that man is a twofold being, flesh and spirit, take some other meaning of these two words to try to support their doctrine. For instance, the Hebrew word *ruach* is translated *wind* 97 times out of the 442 times it appears in the Old Testament. But to use the word *wind* in all the verses the word *ruach* is found would be foolish.

In our teaching and preaching, we use the words *soul* and *spirit* interchangeably, meaning the “inner

to lean on each other. It makes the journey a little easier. I was going through a rough time recently. One day I was down in spirit and almost sobbing. I thank God for a sister in this congregation. She sent me a text message, and it was so encouraging. It was all that I needed to get back on my feet. What a wonderful thing it is to be a part of the family of God!

Christ's sacrifice on the cross was an act of humility. He could have called ten thousand angels to destroy all of His enemies. He didn't have to submit to death, and to all of the suffering and scorning that He went through. John 10:14-18, “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.” He didn't have to die. He came not to seek His own, but to do His Father's will. He submitted Himself to God. Bro. Alvin preached about His agony in Gethsemane. He prayed three times and His sweat became as great drops of blood. “Not my will, but thine be done.” Do you see His humility? Finally, when He had the victory, He submitted Himself completely. He went through all of the suffering and scorning, the pain and the agony to lay down His life for you and me. What are we willing to lay down for Him?

CONCLUSION

Quite often as Christians, we make too many excuses. We're all guilty of this. We have to do this, we have to do that. Convention is in progress and we're occupying ourselves with so many different things. How much are we willing to lay down for Him when He laid down His own life for us? He was willing to pay the ultimate price for you and for me. We sing this hymn from our hymnal: “If thou wouldst have the dear Savior from heaven, Walk by thy side from the morn till the even, There is a rule that each day you must follow: Humble thyself to walk with God.”

How many of us are willing to lay down our all for Him? How many of us are willing to make a complete surrender? Paul said, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” In another instance he said, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Some of us have gone through things. There have been misunderstandings, mistakes made, but are we willing to leave them all behind? “Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.” How many of us are willing to “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”? Jesus laid it all down for us. How much are we willing to lay down for Him? “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

May God bless you. †

man,” the part of us that exists eternally, whether in a state of death—spiritual death being separation from God, not the ceasing of existence—or eternal life with the Lord in heaven.

“The Bible clearly teaches three states of the human soul, or spirit: First—in union with a physical, material body. This is man’s present state and it terminates at death. Second—a state in which the human spirit is separated from the body and remains conscious. This commences at death and terminates with the resurrection. Third—the reunion of soul and body. This takes place in the final resurrection, and continues ever after, which is the eternal state.”—Riggle.

MEDITATIONS

IF ANY ERR—James 5:19—According to the apostle Paul, there are seducing spirits, and some shall depart from the faith giving heed to these spirits. Some will never return to the faith, but James said if you are able to see such a one converted, and he returns to the truth and the fold of God, you have done a good work. **Verse 20**—Let him know that he has been used of the Lord to save a soul from death. The wages of sin is death, and if one dies in sin, he will have part in the second death, which is being cast into the lake of fire to be eternally separated from the Lord. What a wonderful work has been done, not only in saving a soul from death, but “covering a multitude of sins”!

THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH—Acts 2:47—Peter had been used by the Holy Spirit to preach a powerful message that had brought conviction to many hearts, and they cried out, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said unto them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” That same day there were about three thousand souls added to the church. No, they didn’t join! They were added by the Lord through spiritual birth, but it did not end there. A little later five thousand more were added, and the verse says, “The Lord added to the church daily,” so salvation work continued.

JESUS GIVES A PARABLE—Luke 15:4—There is much in the Bible about sheep and shepherds. David, as a young man, risked his life to protect his father’s sheep. According to what he related to King Saul, he slew a lion and a bear with his hands to save a sheep from being killed and eaten. Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep” (John 10:11). In the parable we have before us now, Jesus asked a question, “What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?”

Again, looking in John 10:12, 13 we read, “But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.” So the shepherd left the ninety and nine to go look for one. However, although the Lord did not say so, I would think we would be safe in saying that the shepherd put them in a fold for their safe keeping. He did not leave them

alone, unguarded to wander away or to be attacked by wild animals.

THE SHEPHERD LOOKS FOR THE LOST—Verse 5—We do not know how far or how long the shepherd looked for the one lost sheep, but we know he kept looking until he found it. When he did find it, he did not kick it or abuse it in any way. We are not sure just what the condition the sheep was in. It is possible it had a broken limb or was hurt in some other way, for we read that he laid it on his shoulder, rejoicing, and carried it back to the rest of the sheep.

WHEN HE COMES HOME—Verse 6—After he finds the lost one and brings it back where he left the others, he then brings all one hundred home. And he informs his friends and neighbors saying they should rejoice with him, for he had found the sheep that was lost.

ALL WE LIKE SHEEP—Verse 7—We read in Isaiah 53:6, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” We read in Luke 19:10, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” So the “Good Shepherd” came to seek the sheep that had gone astray, and He gave His life so that we could have life. Every time a “sheep” is saved, there is rejoicing in heaven, and there should be on earth as well—among the saints of God. This is a small part of the result of winning a soul to Christ.

PHILIP GOES TO SAMARIA—Acts 8:5, 6, 8—This would have never happened before Jesus gave the church the commission to go into all the world. But Philip, being faithful in the first “job” he was given, was called to do a greater work. He preached Christ to the people. Some had already heard of Him; some had met Him. The people with one accord gave heed to what Philip preached to them. The Word preached was confirmed with miracles, and there was great joy in the city. Unclean spirits were cast out, some with palsies were healed, some that were lame were healed, and many were baptized. A man who had deceived many before Philip arrived was exposed.

THEY THAT TURN MANY TO THE LORD—Daniel 12:3—According to Daniel, there is a great reward awaiting those who turn many to righteousness. We need to follow Jesus’ instructions. Do not say there are four months and then comes the harvest, but even now, lift up your eyes for they are already white to harvest; therefore, pray the Lord of harvest that He will send forth laborers into the harvest field. If it was that way when Jesus was here on earth, what about today when there are billions on earth?

THE CHIEF SHEPHERD—I Peter 5:4—Sometimes pastors are spoken of as under-shepherds. What a grave responsibility to feed the sheep, to protect them from hirelings, and to lead them in that strait and narrow way! Let me also say, Jesus cannot be a shepherd to those who are not willing to follow Him, nor can a pastor lead a person who is not willing to be led. But to those who will be faithful, a great reward awaits them.

CONCLUSION

This is the last lesson for this quarter. I trust the lessons on evangelism have been a blessing and a help

to the teachers as well as the students. It is a wonderful blessing to be a part of God's redeemed family; but it is not only a blessing, it is a responsibility. As you go forth and see souls all around you, pray for them. If a door opens for you to reach some of them, enter the door. "He that winneth souls is wise," and soul-winning is part of the mission the church has. God bless you in your efforts for the Master.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What have you learned from this series of lessons?
2. If you know of any who have erred from the way, pray for them, and endeavor to win them back.
3. How often does God add souls to the Church?
4. What does the parable of the lost sheep teach us?
5. When the chief Shepherd returns, will you be given a crown? †



Answered by the Editor



QUESTION: What did Moses' wife do before he sent her away with her sons (Exodus 18:2)?

—S. U. O., Lome, Togo

ANSWER: Exodus 18 tells of Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, bringing Zipporah, Moses' wife, and two sons to meet him after he came back out of Egypt. I am assuming you are asking about what is recorded in Exodus 4:24-26.

What Moses' wife did was to take a sharp stone and circumcise her oldest son, Gershom. As Adam Clarke says, "The account in this and the following verse is very obscure." It seems that possibly the Lord had instructed Moses to circumcise his son and he had failed to do so, so the Lord had threatened to take the son's life, and to prevent that, Zipporah had done it instead. Now, I cannot say for certain that is the way it was. Please note: I said it was possibly that way.

QUESTION: In Leviticus, speaking of the guilty and the making of restitution, what part does a child of God play in that today?—S. U. O., Lome, Togo

ANSWER: The New Testament requires wrongs to be made right as far as possible. This would include things that had been stolen, lies that have hurt another's influence, etc. As to what has been stolen, you would need to do what the owner required of you as long as it was reasonable—if he required interest, pay it. You would not be required to offer the Lord an animal sacrifice, but you would need to seek His pardon. If you want to become a Christian, you must.

QUESTION: In fasting and prayer (fasting and drinking some water; fasting and eating only some fruit), and fasting without taking anything till the end of your fast, what does the Bible say about this?

—S. U. O., Lome, Togo

ANSWER: I do not consider it fasting if you are drinking water or eating fruit! It is my understanding that when Jesus fasted for 40 days, He did not drink or eat anything. I would say the same thing about Moses when he was on the mount alone with God. I also understand after the angel provided drink and food for Elijah, he ate no more nor drank anything for 40 days— I Kings 19:7, 8.

QUESTION: Explain Matthew 24:27, 28.

—O. O., Nigeria

ANSWER: First, let me point out that most, if not all, of Matthew 24 deals with the siege and destruction of the temple and Jerusalem. Jesus told the disciples the time would come when there would not be one stone (of the temple) left upon one another.

Many of those who teach a literal kingdom of a thousand years and a future "great tribulation," put Matthew 24 yet out in the future. I don't know why they cannot believe the Scriptures! In verse 34 of this chapter Jesus clearly says, "Verily [truly] I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till ALL these things be fulfilled." He was not talking about the generation that started in 1948, as the author of the book, *88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Take Place in 1988* taught! Jesus was talking about the generation living at the time He gave this prophecy.

I will quote from Adam Clarke on these two verses you have asked to be explained:

Verse 27: "It is worthy of remark that our Lord, in the most particular manner, points out the very march of the Roman army: they entered into Judea on the EAST, and carried on their conquest WESTWARD, as if not only the extensiveness of the ruin, but the very route which the army would take, were intended in the comparison of the lightning issuing from the east, and shining to the west.

"Verse 28: *For wheresoever the carcass is* The Jewish nation, which was morally and judicially dead.

"*There will the eagles* The Roman armies, called so partly from their strength and fierceness, and partly from the *figure* of these animals which was always wrought on their *ensigns*, or even in brass, placed on the tops of their ensign-staves."

QUESTION: Please explain Joel chapter 1 and 2:1-27. Are these things happening literally?

—D. H., Rep. of Benin, Africa

ANSWER: I do not normally use the Question Box to explain whole chapters in the Bible, but to answer questions on specific verses. However, I will make some comments on chapter one: Joel speaks of literal things in his day, and he was speaking of the kingdom of Judah. It is believed by some that the northern kingdom of Israel had already been carried away. God was sending plagues and drought on the land because of their evil. Besides drought, there were to be great numbers of

locusts—so many that the sky would be made dark—and other things as described in this chapter.

In the first part of chapter two, he continues the events of chapter one. However, starting with verse 13, the Lord is telling them what to do to get the plague lifted! “Rend your heart and not your garment.” Also fast, mourn, and weep. Verse 19 tells how God will answer and bless them IF they do as He instructed them.

In the last part of this chapter, we find a prophecy of God pouring out His Spirit on all flesh. According to the apostle Peter, this prophecy was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost—see Acts chapter two.

QUESTION: Please explain Revelation 2:7.

—D. H., Rep. of Benin

ANSWER: In the Garden of Eden, there was a tree called “the tree of life.” As long as Adam and Eve ate of it they would live, but after they sinned, they were driven out of the Garden and away from the tree of life, so they started on their journey to physical death.

We understand “the tree of life” to be a symbol for Jesus Christ, as spiritual life is found only in Him. To “eat” of Him is to have life.

QUESTION: Please explain Revelation 22:1-4.

—D. H., Rep. of Benin

ANSWER: The water of life that Jesus told the woman at Jacob’s well about was salvation. And we might add, “full salvation,” for Jesus said that out of our belly shall flow “rivers of living water.” The Bible says He was speaking of the Holy Spirit.

In regard to the twelve trees on the side of the river with fruit and leaves, that must be understood symbolically, for there will be no sick people in heaven and no need of healing. I will add, there will not be “nations” in heaven. There will only be one nation—the spiritual nation of Israel, the redeemed of all ages. †

OUT OF BOX 88

Thank you for *The Way of Truth*. I read it while I wait for my grand-daughter to get out of school. It is a blessing to me.

—S. W., Georgia

Dear Ones,

I appreciate the labor you are endeavoring to do to spread the truth of God’s Word. May this year be a fruitful one for your labor.

—R. M., Louisiana

I enclose my thanks for having received and being blessed from reading *The Way of Truth* in 2013. I hope to receive it in 2014. ... My prayers are always said for each of you.

I can feel the Spirit of God in your hearts and lives as I read and reread the godly magazine. Thank you from my heart for all you do to show people the right way.

—J. J., Tennessee

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



WHATEVER IS RIGHT

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

IT WAS A cold, rainy Saturday morning in early spring. The delicious odor of pancakes and sausage floated up the stairs to the bedroom where I was making the bed I shared each night with two of my younger sisters.

Why aren't they helping me make this bed? I grumbled to myself. It isn't fair. They are always running off, leaving me to finish the work.



As soon as I had finished making the bed, I ran downstairs to the kitchen. My father had just come in from milking the cows at the farm where he worked, about a mile down the road. “Pancakes and sausage!” he said with a smile of anticipation as he watched my mother pour four new rounds of batter onto the hot griddle. A stack of steaming hot pancakes, smothered in syrup, sat in the center of the table.

“We might as well say the blessing and start eating before the pancakes get cold,” my mother said. In the short silence that followed the prayer, the sound of a bawling calf could be heard in the distance.

My father looked over at me. “Did you feed the calves this morning?” he asked.

“Not yet,” I told him.

“Go on out and feed them now,” my mother said. “We’re not going to listen to them bawling the whole time we’re eating.”

I looked at my sisters, sitting around the table in the warm, cozy kitchen, their plates filled with fluffy pancakes and crusty, fried sausages.

It's not fair, I said to myself. Why am I the one who has to go out in the cold to feed the calves, while my sisters sit in the warm kitchen and have their breakfast?

“Why?” I said to my mother. “Why do I have to go out there right now?”

My father jumped up from the table. “You come here!” he said to me as he led the way to the next room. He motioned for me to sit down beside him. He looked at me sternly. “You are never to talk back to your mother again!” he said.

That was one of the few times my father spanked me. It was a punishment I deserved, but I did not see the justice in it at the time.

As I walked through the rain to the barn, I pouted and complained to myself. *I am so tired of being the eldest child, I said to myself. My sisters never have to do the things I have to do. It's not fair.*

If I had been honest with myself, I would have realized that, as eldest daughter I had both extra privileges and extra responsibilities. For instance, after I had outgrown a dress, I passed it down to my younger sisters. Perhaps they felt it was unfair that they had to wear “hand-me-downs.”

My parents did their best to make sure we children all had the things that we needed, and that we all helped out with the work as we were able. However, that didn’t keep us from complaining from time to time that something wasn’t “fair.”

Have you ever felt unfairly treated? What does “fairness” actually mean? Jesus once told a story about fairness.

“There was a farmer who had many large fields,” Jesus said as He began His story. “When harvest time came, he found he needed help to gather in all his crops. The farmer went to the marketplace at six o’clock in the morning to see if any men were there looking for a job.

“ ‘Would you like to come and work for me today?’ he said to the men he found there. ‘I will pay you a penny for the day’s work.’ ”

A “penny” in Bible times was very different from our penny. It was a worth perhaps as much as \$70.00 in today’s money.

“The men went to work for the farmer,” Jesus continued. “But the farmer soon realized he needed more help. He went back to the marketplace and saw some other men standing around. ‘Come work for me today,’ the farmer said to the men. ‘At the end of the day, I will pay you whatever is right.’ ”

“Again at noon, the farmer went out and found men standing around in the marketplace. He hired these men, too, telling them that he would pay them a fair wage at the end of the day.

“The farmer went to the marketplace at three o’clock and hired more men to work in his fields. ‘At the end of the day, I will pay you what is right,’ he said to these men.

“Five o’clock came. The work day, which normally ended at six o’clock in the evening, was nearly over. But when the farmer stopped at the marketplace one last time, he saw men standing around, doing nothing. ‘Why are you not working?’ he asked the men.

“ ‘No one has hired us,’ the men explained to the farmer.

“ ‘Go and work in my fields,’ the farmer said to them, and the men went.

“When six o’clock came, all the workers left the fields. They lined up to get their pay from the steward—the farmer’s paymaster.

“First came the men who had been hired last. The paymaster gave them each a penny. The other workers were surprised. ‘Those men worked for only an hour, and yet they received the same wage that was promised to us. The farmer is surely going to pay us more than a penny, since we have worked all day.’ ”

“But when the first workers came up to the paymaster, they each received only a penny, as they had been promised.

“The workers were angry. They said to the farmer, ‘That is not fair! We worked hard all day long, sweating

in the heat of the sun. How could you pay us exactly the same as you paid the men who worked only one hour for you?’ ”

“ ‘Friends,’ said the farmer, ‘I paid you exactly what I said I would. You agreed to work for me today for a penny. I told the other workers I would pay them whatever was right. Since it is my money, I can do with it as I see fit. Take your wages and go.’ ”

In this story, the farmer represents God. He has a right to do whatever He pleases in our lives. The world is His, for He created it and all things that are in it.

We know that God is always fair. “Fair” doesn’t mean that everyone will receive exactly the same blessings from His hand. “Fair” means that everyone will receive exactly what is right—and what they need—from God’s hand. We should never complain about anything God does. Instead, we should appreciate every one of His blessings to us, and pray that He will bless others in just the way He sees fit.

Activity

The first verse of an old hymn called, “I Cannot Be Idle,” refers to the parable in our lesson today. See if you can fill in the missing words in the verse and chorus. HINT: The rhyming words will help you.

*I cannot be idle, for Jesus says, “Go,
And work in my harvest today;
And then at the evening when labor is done,
Whatever is right I will _____.”*

*Then away to the work I will go
And join in the reaping of grain,
And back from the harvest with beautiful sheaves
I’ll come with rejoicing _____.*

Answer to Last Month’s Activity

Some things we should remember to do each day that will help us be like the “good wheat” in this story:

Watch and pray that we enter not into temptation (Matthew 26:41).

Hear the Word of God and do it (James 1:22).

Enter in at the strait gate (Matthew 7:13).

Allow no evil words to come from our mouths (Ephesians 4:29).

Teach others about the gospel (Matthew 28:19). †

Stories from “The Children’s Corner”

By the late Wanda Craig

Sis. Wanda Craig passed into glory in December 2007. Her first story for children was printed in the April 2000 issue of *The Way of Truth*. Her last one was printed in April 2011. We have compiled them all in a 216 page book. This book is available for US\$10 plus \$3 postage in the U.S. (No International orders, please.) Send your order today!

THE BENEFITS OF SALVATION

Message by Bro. Doug Shenberger

Delivered 12/29/13 at Hagerstown, MD



THANK THE Lord for another wonderful day of life and for the opportunity to gather together in the house of the Lord. It is not something that we should take lightly. It is easy to get in the habit of coming to church, but it is a very special privilege. I thank the Lord so much to have had the opportunity to be brought up in the Church of God. I have sat under many messages and have had the opportunity to learn many truths. I have been dealt with by the Spirit of God. I want to always be thankful and grateful to God for all His blessings.

I will like to read a verse of scripture from the book of Romans. This is a very familiar verse of scripture. Romans 6:22, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." I will entitle our thoughts, "The Benefits of Salvation." There's a number of benefits to salvation, but we'd like to look at a few main points this evening.

Salvation is truly the greatest gift that God can bestow to mankind. There's nothing else to compare with it. There are a lot of gifts that people are looking for in this world today, but there's nothing that can realistically compare with the gift of salvation. It is brought forth by the gospel of Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation, and it is given to everyone who believes. It is not an exclusive club that only a few can enter into. It is available to everyone who believes. Salvation has benefits which are unknown to those who are sinful. Those who are without God cannot really grasp the true benefits of salvation. I believe that the Holy Spirit makes these benefits possible to the saved through His sanctifying power. When a person consecrates his life to God, the Holy Spirit bestows upon him some very wonderful benefits.

Now, the verse says in Romans 6:22, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

SALVATION'S POWER

The first benefit I want to think and talk about tonight is *salvation's power*. Let's look at the first part of that verse: "But now being made free from sin, ..." It is not readily understood the power that's involved in making a soul free from sin. Let's turn to First John, chapter 3, verse 8: "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." I want us to grasp *that he might destroy the works of the devil*. That is why the Son of God was manifested. Satan's power is defeated in salvation. When a person is saved and made free from sin, the yoke and bondage of sin is broken. Satan's power over that individual is defeated. To be made free from sin is to break Satan's power on a particular indi-

vidual. Now, if you believe that, you will believe a couple of things. You will believe that Satan actually has power over a sinner. A lot of people don't really think about that, or want to acknowledge that too much, but I believe that's a truth the Bible teaches. Satan has power over a sinner.

We need to realize that an unsaved person is to some degree under Satan's power, whether it's just his influence, or whether it's near total control as you see in a devil-possessed person. That is not the normal thing. That is something rarely seen; and in a world that we live in today where that much is not really expressed or acknowledged about Satan's power, it's easy to overlook the reality of the influence and control that Satan has on people's thoughts and understanding. People's understanding can be clouded and confused by the power and influence of Satan to where they're not able to grasp the truths of the gospel. They're not able to grasp the reality of salvation and the power that's available in salvation, because they're under the influence of Satan and his view that he expresses in people all around us.

Salvation has the power to defeat the power of Satan and to break that bondage that he has people in. He has their minds confused, full of doubts and questions to where they're unable to believe in the reality of salvation and take advantage of it.

Salvation liberates a person from the dominion of sin. Salvation's power is a wonderful, wonderful thing. I don't know if I have the words to really clarify that in a real, clear way. We must understand there's a power that God has made available to the family of man, that through salvation, there is a bond we cannot escape. A human being cannot escape on his own. There's a bondage there that the power of salvation breaks. That's important for us to realize and grasp, because many people believe and feel that they may not be able to live a Christian life. They don't understand what draws people to Christianity and what makes them want to be saved. We must realize that the bondage of sin can be broken, and we can be made free from the power of sin and Satan's control. That's a wonderful blessing. It is a benefit to the family of man, and it is only available through salvation. We'll never be able to work really hard and do self-improvement, and eventually break Satan's influence and control over us. We can't do it. This benefit is only available through the miraculous gift of salvation. We don't want to ever fail to teach and believe and experience a salvation that is capable of breaking that bond.

We don't want salvation to be, as is taught in some religious groups, something that is a way of just becoming a part of a group of people. That doesn't really have

power; it doesn't really break the bondage. We see this manifested in the world around us—whenever people are taught that they have to keep on sinning—where people don't really have a clear experience that makes a difference in their lives and makes them new creatures in Christ. The power of salvation will break those bonds. This is what gives a person the strength, the difference in his life to become that new creature. There's a change from being a sinner. There's a difference. He becomes a Christian and seeks to have the power to live a different life, even in the midst of less than ideal circumstances and difficult situations, and even in dealing with the past that may not be easy to escape. The power of salvation has been proven to change people if they really experience it. We need to see a salvation experience that clearly displays the power that God has planned for us in salvation.

In Galatians, chapter 2, verse 20, we have a very familiar verse of scripture: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Salvation is Christ living in us. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me.*" We can see where that power is coming from. If we are really crucified with Christ, and Christ liveth in us, it is clear that there's going to be a difference. There's going to be a change. We will experience the power by being saved, and that power will make us free from sin and death. The old man is dead and Christ lives in us. What a difference! Christ living in us makes us new creatures, and we're set free from the power of Satan. Our text once again: Romans 6:22, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

SERVANTS TO GOD

Another benefit of salvation is, *we become servants to God.* We become part of God's household—the family of God. We are adopted into the family of God, into the household of God to become His servants. Salvation puts one into the family of God. What a wonderful benefit to be adopted into the family of God by Jesus! Now, we consider ourselves as servants, but the Bible expresses that God looks upon us as His children. That's a very special place to be—a part of the family of God. When we are saved from our sins and made new creatures, a new life is born within us. There's a separation that naturally happens in our lives. There are some things we don't have the desire for any more. There are some things we don't want to do and some places we don't want to go, and it causes problems sometimes in our human relations with our friends and people we are involved with. We may all of sudden not be interested in the same things that they are interested in. But we're adopted into the family of God. We become a part of God's family, and God has a wonderful family. He has a family that loves one another, supports one another, and that's endeavoring to work together to make heaven their home.

When we're adopted into God's family, we come under God's protection. Salvation brings God's protection upon individuals. I believe that God's desire and

plan is to protect His people, to keep us in the hollow of His hand, and to protect us from evil. It is His desire to give us all the benefits of the family. It's a wonderful thing to be a part of a family in this world. There are a lot of lonely people in the world, I believe, but if you're a part of a loving family that supports one another, works and enjoys being together, that's a wonderful thing. It makes life beautiful. It gives us a sense of purpose and involvement if we love our family. A saying says, "Blood is thicker than water." There's something about our family that can touch our hearts in ways that others can't. We feel that attachment to our family. I believe that's one of the benefits we receive in salvation. To be at peace with our heavenly Father, to be a part of the Church of God are benefits we can enjoy. These are a blessing to our lives.

THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

Another benefit of salvation I have listed is, *salvation's beauty is holiness.* "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness." There is something beautiful about the thought of holiness. I read that holiness is God's beauty. Holiness—the purity and the integrity of God. To think about God's holiness, we think about His perfectness, how wonderful He is, how He can do no wrong, and He doesn't even consider doing anything sinful or evil. Salvation's beauty in holiness is a beauty that doesn't fade away. Many things we know that are beautiful in this world have a time span. They may be beautiful for awhile, but after time they fade away. A person's beauty may fade away as the person gets older, but God does something different whenever He makes a person beautiful. He makes a person's heart beautiful. Holiness makes our hearts beautiful. The verse says "ye have your fruit unto holiness."

The fruits of our lives as Christians are going to express holiness. They are going to be beautiful. There is going to be fruit that comes forth, and it's going to be a beautiful thing. When God makes the heart beautiful, I believe the beauty shines outward through the Light. Regardless of who you are, what your position is in life, this is a beauty that can shine through every person. A holy life is a beautiful thing. Holiness is not something to be talked of lightly, or considered as unimportant or insignificant. Holiness is precious. Salvation puts a person in a place where he has a desire for that which is holy and right. When a person is filled with the Spirit of God and consecrates himself to God, there is a natural response to that person to want to be like God. "Ye have your fruit unto holiness."

What is our fruit like? Are we producing and showing a life of holiness? Is that shining out through our lives from day to day? God is looking at the heart. Whenever salvation restores our hearts, when we come in right relationship to our heavenly Father, when we become a part of the family of God and endeavoring to live Christian lives, it is natural that we are going to become like God. We're going to have a desire to be holy, and we're going to have a desire to be examples of the family of God. The fruit of holiness is going to come out through our lives. I don't believe this is unrealistic at all. I think these are the natural results and the flow of this verse: "But now being made free from sin [The

power of sin is broken upon our lives.], and become servants to God [We become a part of God's family. We are His servants who produce the fruit of holiness in our lives], ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

Holiness is something that is almost despised in a lot of religions in the world today. "Oh, you're a holiness person." What are they saying? Are they saying they don't believe in holiness? "Only God can be holy. We're not supposed to be like God." Holiness is beautiful. It is a beautiful life. The fruit of holiness in a person's life is just a response to what's actually in his heart. Holiness isn't something you put on because it helps you to fit in with the people you want to be around. Holiness is a result of the change in your heart. It is an expression of what's inside; it's an expression of our relationship with our God. We have a desire to be holy, to be acceptable in His sight. We are aware of the need, and we have a desire to please God.

It's an unfortunate thing that the idea of a holy people is not widely accepted today. Many people who talk about holiness don't really understand what they're talking about. They involve it in so much false teaching that people don't really understand and see the beauty of being holy. This world doesn't really tend toward holiness. The things of this world don't tend toward holiness. That is not what's going to be shown and experienced in a person who is under the influence and control of Satan. That person is not going to be holy. Holiness is a benefit of salvation.

Let me tell you why I think holiness is a benefit of salvation. It is good for us. It is a beautiful life. Living a holy life is not drudgery. "Oh, you know, I can't do anything." Holiness is the way that God designed life to be for the family of man. It is a protection from the evil. It is a protection from that which is wrong and what would be an influence for wrong. Holiness is a beautiful thing. It is a desirable thing and natural for a Christian. It is a benefit. I believe it is God's plan for all of us to have a beautiful life. It is not God's plan for us to live a life of drudgery on this earth and then go to heaven some day. I believe it is God's plan for us to have a beautiful life today. Living a holy life is the way to experience the truly beautiful things.

Look at the world around us. It is full of hurt, of broken relationships, of wrong decisions, and pain and suffering. A holy life would protect people from these things. It protects us from the evil that is so prevalent in the world today. The ability to seek out that which is wrong and harmful is right there before us. It is not hard to find things that will be damaging to our souls. It would be damaging to our relationship with God and our fellow man. Holiness protects us from the evil and wrong in life. Holiness is salvation's beauty. That is what makes salvation beautiful. If we look at people who are endeavoring to live holy, endeavoring to live in proper relationship with God, there's something just beautiful about them. They have a love for people and a love for God. They don't want to hurt others. They don't want to take advantage of other people. They are endeavoring to live and follow the Golden Rule. There's nothing that should be looked at as ugly or undesirable about a holy life. It is a beautiful way to live. May the

Lord help us that as we look and see the difference He has made in our hearts that it is causing us to desire to be like Him, that the beauty of holiness is shining out through our lives so those who are around us are seeing the beauty of holiness in our lives.

EVERLASTING LIFE

The last benefit of salvation is: salvation's reward, *everlasting life*. We have four benefits here: "But now **being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.**" We don't tend to spend a lot of time thinking about eternity when we're busy enjoying life on earth today. Life is an enjoyable thing; but the reality is, there is going to be an end. We don't know if it will be at the end of time or at the end of our lives, but there is going to be an end. In the end, everlasting life is a wonderful, wonderful benefit. To be able to go where God is, to be able to be in His presence is not a light thing. It is a wonderful, wonderful benefit.

In Romans 8:18, we read, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [There is going to be some suffering. Not everything is going to be easy. Some have suffered more than others. When you think about those who have taken their stand for Christianity in spite of persecution, the threat of death, and the loss of material things and family, how many people have suffered the loss of *all* things that they might win Christ?] are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Paul knew something of what he was speaking. He knew something about the sufferings of this present time. He had experienced them firsthand. He had seen them in those who had made the decision in a day and age when Christianity was not widely accepted. He saw the cost. He was involved in causing some of the suffering before he was saved, but he said that they are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

We do not want to become engaged in the things of this world that we lose sight of our goal, our glorious reward that is planned for us in heaven. Everlasting life is for the saints of all ages. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." One of those He has for us is, to make heaven our home.

The four benefits that I mentioned earlier are just some of what we could talk about in the topic of salvation. The first one: *the power of salvation* is the most immediate need for a person to truly experience. That benefit in the life of an unsaved person outweighs anything else he can experience. The greatest need and the greatest opportunity is for a person to be made free from sin. We can't overstate the reality of that need. That is why we believe in evangelism; that is why we believe in reaching out to the lost, because they need to know the power of salvation.

We're not looking to just get people to visit with us and be a part of a group. We want to see them saved from their sins; we want to see them truly experience that power and the incredible benefit it would bring in their lives; we want to see them become a part of the family of God. We want to be able to rejoice along with those who seek the Lord and find Him, and they begin to live the beautiful Christian life. We want to be able

to see the fruit of holiness come up in their lives. It is a wonderful thing to be a part of that experience in any person's life. We want this entire group of people to continue on and to experience the benefits of salvation in this life, and in the end, everlasting life. It is a wonderful, wonderful plan. It is a simple message, but there are a lot of benefits and incredible power that God has made possible here. Jesus sacrificed to make salvation possible. Look at what God's plan accomplished. He brought Jesus into this world to make it possible that the power of the devil could be broken on my life through salvation.

CONCLUSION

The benefits of salvation are numerous. They are beautiful, and they are for each one of us. Let's hold them close. Let's enjoy what we have. Let's acknowledge the benefits that we have and what they're doing in our lives. They create a beautiful life and truly makes life worth living. We want to always be grateful and thankful to the Lord for the benefits that we have and to hold on to them. Never let them slip away from us. We need to know what they are to really appreciate them. The power of salvation, being a part of the family of God, to have our fruit unto holiness, to experience the beauty of salvation, and to prepare to make heaven our home are truly wonderful things. †

WHAT ABOUT THIS?

BY ALVIN A. CRAIG

BELIEFS OF THE Gnostics

ONE OF the false teachings that began to come in among the early church was the teachings of the Gnostics. A number of the New Testament books warn against this error. There were various teachings under the heading of Gnosticism, not all agreed. I will give a quote from the *New World Encyclopedia* that will give a little insight to the teachings:

“Central to many gnostic beliefs is a dualistic view of the universe, in which matter was seen as essential, illusory while spirit is the only true reality. ... Jesus, whom gnostics believe came as pure spirit [thus did not possess a physical body], is set in stark contrast to the Old Testament Creator—God, who as the ‘Demiurge,’ the source of the material world, is not the true God.

“Gnosticism was widespread within the early Christian church until the gnostics were expelled in the second and third centuries. Gnosticism was one of the first doctrines to be specifically declared a heresy” (End of quote).

“Many religions advocate that humans are to be blamed for the imperfections of the world. Supporting this view, they interpret the Genesis myth as declaring that transgressions committed by the first human pair brought about a ‘fall’ of creation resulting in the present corrupt state of the world. Gnostics respond that this interpretation of the myth is false. The blame for the world's failings lies not with humans, but with the creator. Since—especially in the monotheistic reli-

gions—the creator is God, this Gnostic position appears blasphemous, and is often viewed with dismay even by non-believers.

Demiurge: “Is a concept from the school of philosophy for an artisan-like figure responsible for the fashioning and maintenance of the physical universe.

“The term Demiurge derives from the ancient Greek ‘demiourgos’ meaning ‘artisan’ or ‘craftsman.’ In various belief systems this is a deity responsible for the creation of the physical universe.

“In Gnosticism the Demiurge (Creator) is by no means all-good, but a bungling and incompetent fool that creates the world as a spiritual prison.”—*From the Internet.*

What they are teaching is that God is so holy that He could not have created a world with evil in it, so a lesser god that was not altogether good created it.

I quote from Adam Miller's booklet, *Brief Introduction to the New Testament*, as he comments on The First Epistle of John:

“This letter is thought to have been addressed to some definite community of Christians, perhaps those in Ephesus, where the heresy [Gnosticism] John seeks to combat was becoming quite strong. But it is also likely he had in mind the other churches of Asia, which like the church at Colosse, would be influenced by the same heresy. ...

“At this period, one form of Gnosticism, known as Docetism was popular among the churches located in Asia Minor. The heresy affirmed that the Divine Nature—the Christ—came upon Jesus at his baptism, but left him before he endured his passion on the cross. This theory led them to say that the sufferings of Christ were not real, but only seemed so. From this is derived the name Docetists, or ‘Seemists.’

“This heresy grew out of the belief that the material universe is evil. Since God is wholly good, he could not come into direct contact with matter without being defiled. The incarnation of Christ was to them unthinkable, and they developed the theory that the incarnation was in appearance only and not real. There were a number of variations of this doctrine, and Cerinthus, who lived in Ephesus at the time of John, was the leader of one heretical group that taught this kind of doctrine.

“Some had reasoned that if the body were evil, as the Gnostics claimed, then it did not matter what they did with it. This attitude led to some of the most abominable practices.

“Another purpose of the Gospel John was to combat the Gnostic heresy, which had already made inroads into Christianity, even in Paul's time Paul wrote the letter to the Colossians to safeguard the church in Colosse. In John's time Gnosticism was making alarming progress. In one form or another this heresy denied the divinity of Christ and regarded him merely as a divine principle.

“The epistle is especially designed to combat this heresy. The author does this by first showing that the historical Christ was not just an appearance—he was real. He could be heard, seen, and touched (1:1-4). Christ had indeed come in the flesh, and unless one confessed that, he was not in fellowship with God.”



Characteristics of the New Testament Church

By the late Warren C. Roark

To deny that Jesus Christ came in the flesh is to destroy Christianity altogether! "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ... And the Word was made *flesh*, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-3, 14). The world the Word created was not evil. He said it was good!

In the First Epistle of John, we read, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the *flesh* is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world" (I John 4:1-3). Let me add to that, the Bible does not teach there will be ONE man who will be *the anti-christ* and rule the world.

In II John 7, we read, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, mothered by a virgin. He lived in Nazareth until He was 30. He was baptized in the river Jordan. He ate food, slept at night. He preached the gospel, healed the sick, cast out devils, was beaten by Roman soldiers, crucified on the cross, a soldier stuck a spear in His side and blood and water came out. He was resurrected on the third day. He ate with some of His disciples on a number of occasions. He prepared breakfast for Peter and others on the shore of Galilee. He instructed Thomas to put his fingers in His side and see the scars in His hands. That was not a spirit that did all those things! Jesus said a spirit does not have flesh and blood.

Anyone who does not believe that Jesus came in the flesh and did all, and even more, than I have just listed is an anti-christ and is not a Christian. †

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:38-47).

IN THIS passage of Scripture, we have a description of the early apostolic church which was established at Jerusalem, and in this description we find ten characteristics of the early church which must be characteristic of every congregation if it is to represent properly the New Testament church.

The first of these characteristics is that of repentance and remission of sins. Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Not only a few, but everyone is to repent. The New Testament church is one in which every member has repented and has been forgiven of his sins. Repentance is man's part and the remitting of sins is God's part. The doctrine of repentance held an important place in the teaching of the early church. It began to be preached by John the Baptist, who used as his text, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." And after John was cast into prison, Jesus came preaching and saying, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Not only did Jesus preach repentance, but just before He ascended into heaven He commissioned His disciples to preach repentance: "Then opened he their understanding ... and said unto them ... that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:45-47). So from that day to this the true followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ have preached repentance.

It is impossible for one to become a member of God's true church, the church of the New Testament, without first repenting of his sins, because salvation is the only mode of entrance into God's church. We must be born into it by spiritual birth. Jesus said in John 10:9, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved," and in Acts 2:47 we read, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

POSTAGE RATES INCREASED ... AGAIN

As of January the Postal Service once again raised their rates. Hit hard were international rates. We have a vision to increase our readership, not cut back. But expenses continue to rise. It is important to hear from international readers once each year to remain on our mailing list.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

For many years, The Way of Truth publishing work has provided Church of God Sunday school literature for many congregations. If you would like a sample of Bible-based literature and a price list, please request it.

We have a six-year series of lessons. Each quarter we print quarterlies for Adults and Young People, Intermediates and Juniors. We also print leaflets for younger children. Write or call and order your sample today.

The second characteristic of the early church is that of baptism in water. "Repent and be baptized every one of you." Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward work. Romans 6:4 says, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." The going down into the water signifies the death and burial of the old life of sin, and the coming up out of the water signifies our resurrection as new creatures in Jesus Christ, to walk in newness of life. Baptism is not a saving grace as some suppose, but it is merely an outward symbol of an inward work. It is a public testimony to the world that we have taken our stand for Christ, and every Christian should make such a testimony.

Baptism also identifies us with the people of God. The early church understood it so and taught and practiced baptism, for we read in Acts 2:41 that "they that gladly received his word were baptized ... about three thousand souls." And in 8:12 we learn that the Samaritans believed Philip's preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God "they were baptized, both men and women." Thus they fulfilled Christ's commission found in Matthew 28:19 which says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

The third characteristic of the early church is that its members are all being filled with the Holy Spirit. "Repent ... and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." God intended that every believer should be fully sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2:16, 17 we read, "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." This is God's ideal for His church today. He wants us all filled with the Holy Spirit. If we are going to have the workings of the Holy Spirit we must have the Holy Spirit. No church [congregation] is properly set in order without the Spirit of God. It is the Spirit who sets the members in the body as it pleases Him. "By one spirit are we all baptized into one body." Now Holy Spirit rule does not mean that every person can do as he pleases, for if all are led by the Spirit there will be harmony. There is harmony in heaven because all the angels listen to the voice of God and do His will, and we are taught to pray, "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." Unity begins when the human will strikes the divine will. May we all be submissive to the will of God.

The fourth characteristic is that of constant adherence to the truth. The Bible says that "they gladly received the word," and "they continued steadfast in the apostles' doctrine." "But," says one, "we ought to leave doctrine alone and just preach Christ." Friend, that is impossible; we cannot preach Christ without preaching the doctrine for which He stood. The two are inseparable. People in the educational world are busy seeking facts and when they get them they form them into doctrines. Doctrines of psychology, of mathematics, doctrines of chemistry, etc., are formulated and accepted; but in the field of religion we are expected to

stay in doubt. Thank God we do not have to stay in doubt. All advancement is made on the ground of certainties, and if we want to find out anything we have a way of going about it. If we want to know how long a thing is, we measure it; if we want to know how heavy it is, we put it on the scales. So it is in the field of religion. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The apostles said, "We know." The Bible also tells us that those who love not the truth will believe a lie and be damned, and that to depart from the faith is to give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Brethren, let us cling to the blessed old Bible, the Word of God, and constantly measure up to all the truth that God sheds on our pathway.

Fifth, the early church continued steadfast in fellowship. Fellowship is a wonderful thing. I appreciate the confidence and fellowship of God's people. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." This fellowship is brought about by our constant adherence to the truth. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." The church is one great brotherhood. Talk about your fraternal brotherhoods—they are nothing compared to this great brotherhood called the church, which includes in its fellowship all the redeemed of earth. The church is a blessed brotherhood because of the love which the members have one for another. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." God's people love each other. That is why you cannot keep them apart. ... Thank God for His great brotherhood, the church.

The sixth characteristic of the early church is that of fellowship in the breaking of bread. There are two kinds of breaking of bread mentioned in the Scriptures. One is in connection with the assembling together of God's people to partake of an ordinary meal, while the other is in connection with the observance of the Lord's Supper which was eaten in honor of Christ's death and suffering. It is this latter observance that we are largely concerned about. In Acts 20:7 we read, "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow." They came together to "break bread" in honor of Christ's death and suffering, for he had said, "As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come." Not only did Jesus institute the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, but in the thirteenth chapter of John we learn that He had risen up from supper [before they started eating], He laid aside His garments, took a towel, and girded Himself, and after that poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, and after He had finished with washing their feet, He said unto them: "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." And that is not all, for in the seventeenth verse He says, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

The seventh characteristic of the early church is that of continuing constant in prayer. They were a praying people, and their prayers came from the heart

and brought results. We read in Acts 4:31, "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together ... and they spake the word of God with boldness." Get the church to obeying and then get them praying and something will happen. When Peter prayed, God gave him a vision of his duty to Cornelius. When Paul prayed, God sent Ananias to him to pray for him, who laid hands on him and he received the Holy Spirit. When the Church at Jerusalem prayed, God sent His angel and delivered Peter from prison. When Paul and Silas prayed in the Philippian jail, God sent an earthquake and set them free, and not only set them free but brought about a great revival in which the jailer and his whole household were saved. The prayer of faith will bring about the same results today.

The eighth characteristic of the early church is that of many wonders and signs being done by the disciples. Obstacles were overcome, the sick were healed, the blind were made to see, deaf ears were unstopped, devils were cast out, and the lame were made to walk. It is our privilege to have the same power with God today, for in Mark 16:17 Jesus is recorded as saying, "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

The ninth characteristic of the early church is that "they loved their neighbors as themselves." This is made plain in Acts 2:45 which says that they "sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need." They believed in social justice and they were right. This thing of one man having a thousand times more than he needs and another man suffering for want of food and clothing is wrong and contrary to the Scriptures. No doubt if Jesus had His way He would say to many rich men today as He did to the rich young ruler of His time, "Go, sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven." What we need in this country is a greater equality of wealth, and when men learn to love their neighbors as themselves such a happy condition will be brought about.

And tenth, the early church was a soul-saving church. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." And why not? A congregation that preaches and practices the whole truth will be a soul-saving church, for whenever and wherever the gospel is preached in its purity it is bound to bring results. By the grace of God we shall be such a church, and we shall do it by clinging to the one foundation which is Jesus Christ. †

—First printed August 23, 1941

ENJOY OUR WORSHIP SERVICES LIVE!

As many of our readers know, we can be found on the internet at www.wayoftruth.org where in addition to reading past issues and other information, you can view our general services every Sunday LIVE at 10:40 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. E.S.T. Enjoy Spirit-filled singing and preaching. Also, our mid-week service at 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays is aired live.



Dear Young People,

Life passes so quickly! Time continually ticks away while we are hurled toward eternity. The twenty-first century is well under way, and if Jesus tarries, it too, will funnel into oblivion. So what's life all about? We MUST prepare for that great and final day when

all souls whoever lived must give an account to God. Jesus reveals the scene in Matthew 25. According to that vivid text, part of the criteria by which we will be judged is our conduct towards our fellow men. Our conduct towards God and His Word is the ultimate measure. However, to me it is plain to understand the importance of our relationship with humanity as it pertains to the judgment. We are to love the Lord with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. I am so moved by the great scene in Matthew 25 that I was inspired to describe the event through poetry below and trust it will be a blessing.

Please consider this page as a place of expression for Christian young people. Send me your testimony, poetry, admonition, etc. Write: The Way of Truth, Young People's Editor, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741 U.S.A. I look forward to hearing from you!

The wise man penned, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

Unworthy servant of God,

Bro. Greg Tyler

THE GREAT SEPARATION

(Based on Matthew 25:31-46)

G. E. Tyler

When the Son of man shall come in His glory,
And with Him the holy angels be,
Then shall He sit upon His throne,
And all people will certainly see.

For before Him shall all nations be gathered,
A great separation shall all know.
As a shepherd divides his flock, good and bad,
Sheep on his right, on his left goats go.

Then to them on His right hand shall say the King,
"Come, ye blessed, the kingdom inherit,
That which was prepared from the world's foundation,
For this reward you surely merit.

"For I was an hungered, and you gave Me meat,
When dry, you quenched My thirst.
I was a stranger, ye took Me into your house,
I was naked and you clothed Me first.

"I was sick and alone, and you visited Me,
I was in prison, to Me you came."
Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying,
"Lord, when did we do all the same?"

Then the King shall answer and cry unto them,
 "Verily, verily, I say unto you,
 Inasmuch as you've done it to the least of these,
 Unto Me all you did truly do."

Then shall He say also to them on the left hand,
 "Depart from Me into eternal flame,
 A place prepared for Satan and all of his host,
 Not for man, but you are to blame.

"For I was an hungered, and you gave Me no meat,
 I was thirsty, and to Me gave no drink;
 As a stranger you ignored Me and went your way,
 Naked, and you gave Me not a blink.

"Though sick, and in prison, and forsaken I was,
 Much too busy so you never came."
 Then shall they also answer Him, saying aghast,
 "Lord, when did not we all the same?"

Then the King shall answer and say unto them,
 "Verily, verily, don't you now see?
 Because you have not done it to the least of these,
 Through neglect you did it not to Me.

"And these who so sadly abused their fellow man,
 Eternal punishment shall be their end;
 But the righteous reward shall eternal life be,
 Their voices with the angels shall blend." ✠

Radio Log

The Way of Truth Broadcast

Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

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

(Aired on Sundays unless otherwise noted.)

Arkansas, No. Little Rock, KMTL 760, 10:30 A.M.
 10,000 Watts—Heard in part of AR, MO, TN, MS and LA
Listen live—Go to www.kmtl760am.com

Illinois, Carmi, WROY 1460, 9:00 A.M.
 1,000 Watts—Heard in part of IL and IN

Kentucky, Lancaster, WKYY 1280, 7:00 A.M. Sat.
 1,000 Watts—Heard in part of KY

Kentucky, Prestonsburg, WDOC 1310, 7:30 A.M.
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Louisiana, Ball, KWDF 840, 9:00 A.M.
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Maryland, Denton, WKDI 840, 2:00 P.M. Sat.
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Oklahoma, Sulphur, KFXT-FM 90.7, 8:30 A.M.
 7,000 Watts—Heard in part of OK

Pennsylvania, Altoona, WFBG 1290, 9:00 A.M.
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Pennsylvania, Martinsburg, WJSM 1110, 11:03 A.M.
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Virginia, Roanoke, WKBA 1550, 5:30 P.M. Sat. & 6:00 A.M. Sun.
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 10,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA and NC

West Virginia, Summersville, WCWV 92.9, 8:30 A.M.
 50,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA and WV

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PHILIPPINES, Malaybalay, Valencia, Bukidnon, Mindanao
 DXWS-105.3 FM, Saturdays at 1:30 P.M. & Sundays at 2:30 P.M.

PHILIPPINES, Baguio, Luzon, DZBS-1368 AM, Sunday 7:00 A.M.
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WINB, Red Lion, Pennsylvania 9.320 on SW band
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Church of God (Universal) James Arch, Pastor
 Radio Cayman 1:30 P.M. Sun. Grand Cayman

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

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A PRAYER REQUEST

Every year about 150,000 professing Christians are killed. Religious freedom is being denied more and more to people in various countries of the world. Here, in the United States, there are forces at work which would deny us of some of our religious freedoms. Every Christian needs to pray about this effort of Satan to rob people of hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

—Bro. Alvin

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COMING MEETINGS

2014 HONDURAS CONVENTION

Coxen Hole, Roatan

April 1-6, 2014, Lord willing

Sis. Ethlyn Soto, Host Pastor



2014 INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION

12819 Point Salem Rd.

Hagerstown, Maryland U.S.A.

July 1-6, 2014, Lord willing

Bro. Alvin A. Craig, Host Pastor

THE PASSING OF BROTHER J. GRANT

I have received a call from England informing me of the passing of Bro. J. Grant who was the pastor of the Church of God (Universal) in Aston, Birmingham. We pray the Lord will comfort the flock that he has left behind.

I first met Bro. Grant when Bro. Ollen Craig, Bro. Samuel Keaton, and I spent part of a day with him in London when we were headed to the Bible Lands. Later, I spent two weeks with him and the congregation in a three day convention, and Bro. Grant and I visited a number of congregations that were getting Way of Truth material at the time.

We also had the privilege of having Bro. Grant with us in one of our conventions here in Hagerstown. My last visit with him was when he came down from Birmingham to spend a short visit with us at the London Gatwick Airport when Bro. Ollen and I were on our way to Nigeria, West Africa.

May the Lord help the dear ones Bro. Grant has left behind to hold high the banner of holiness and carry on a true work of the Church of God.

—Bro. Alvin

REVIVAL SERVICES

Essex, Maryland

April 2-6, 2014, Lord willing

Bro. John Romero, Evangelist

Bro. Doug Koerner, Pastor



Craigsville, West Virginia

April 22-27, 2014, Lord willing

Bro. Alvin A. Craig, Evangelist

Bro. Harley McClung, Pastor



Jonesville, Louisiana

May 1-4 A.M., 2014, Lord willing

Bro. James Arch, Evangelist

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



Deville, Louisiana

May 4 P.M.-7, 2014, Lord willing

Bro. James Arch, Evangelist

Bro. Terry Deville, Pastor

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