

# The Way of Truth

Vol. 79

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

No. 6

## Water Saves, Yet Water Holds Us Accountable

See page 2.

July 2021



## A NATION THAT NEEDS HEALING

**I**N II Chronicles 7:11-14 we read, “Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord, and the king’s house: and all that came into Solomon’s heart to make in the house of the Lord, and in his own house, he prosperously effected. And the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

Let me begin by saying that I love the United States of America. I was so blessed to be born here and to enjoy the freedoms of citizenship. I still believe she is the greatest country on Earth. But it seems she is disintegrating right before our eyes. Who could have guessed that January 6 would see the Capitol broken into by an angry mob? How embarrassing to see riots destroying the peace of our major cities! It seems even nature is pouring out wrath with tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and destructive forest fires. Has God forsaken America—or has America forsaken God?

We read in the Bible that God’s people forsook their Creator time and again and bore the consequences. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed, “The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment” (Isaiah 1:1-6). What a sad state of affairs!

Reading on, I think we can see correlations between the moral state of Israel and the moral state of America.

Verse 7: “Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. ... Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah” (verse 9).

I realize that morality cannot be legislated. But after years of rejecting biblical principles in our laws, and permitting—even glorifying—immoral practices, our nation must bear the results of following such a

path. Throughout history, societies have risen only to fall and be destroyed by following the same trend.

Fortunately, there is a remedy. God cries out to fallen man—to fallen America. “Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it” (Isaiah 1:16-20).

As I said before, morality and righteousness cannot be legislated, but it is a fact that, “Righteousness exalteth a nation: But sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). We need to see a change in our land. It begins in the heart. “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7). God has promised not only to forgive, but to plant a new heart within us. “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

Here is a short list of what I think America needs in this hour of despair:

### GOD-FEARING LEADERS

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). We do not need more politicians—we need individuals with integrity in positions of authority.

### PEOPLE WHO LIVE OUT THE WORD OF GOD

We have plenty of Bibles in our country, but we need to read and study the Word, and then live it out in our lives! “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15).

### PEOPLE WHO HAVE COMPASSION

Americans must have compassion on one another. There needs to be a mutual respect for one another. No enmity between races or ethnicities can be tolerated. We need old-fashioned courtesy toward each other! “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous” (I Peter 3:8).

### PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEIR NEIGHBORS

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:10).

“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

### ABOUT THE COVER

On the cover is a shot of the Wenatchee River in eastern Washington state. The Bible has much to say about water. It is essential to life. Jesus spoke of “living water,” which is essential to the soul.

## THE WAY OF TRUTH

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Vol. 79

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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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### PEOPLE WHO CEASE TO DO EVIL

America needs people who have stopped sinning by the power of God and are doing what's right in the sight of the Lord. "But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:35).

### PEOPLE WHO WRESTLE AGAINST THAT WHICH IS WRONG

We need people with passion who are willing to take a stand for righteous principles. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

### PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO PRAY

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (I Chronicles 7:14). We need to have a burden for our country and take God at His Word.

### WHAT OUR NATION CAN BE

Right now she is a rebellious nation. As Jeremiah said concerning Israel (which can be applied to America), "But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the Lord their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth" (Jeremiah 7:28).

Listen to this promise: "At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their

evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them" (Jeremiah 18:7, 8).

O that we could see a change in our land! O that God would once again take His rightful place in the hearts of the American people! "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance" (Psalm 33:12).

May it some day be said of us, "Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God" (Isaiah 58:2). †

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

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## 2021 HAGERSTOWN SPRING REVIVAL

### REPORT

April 21-25

**W**E ARE indeed thankful to the Lord for making it possible for us to have our revival with Bro. Harley McClung as evangelist. He and his wife, Sis. Judy, were able to be with us, along with other out of state visitors.

The Lord met with us in every service which began at 7:00 each evening, and 10:40 on Sunday morning and at 6:00 p.m. We were blessed with His presence, for without His presence with us, our efforts would have been in vain.

Below is a brief report with excerpts from the messages:

Wednesday—Title: “The Crossroads.” Text: Proverbs 8:1-4. Excerpts: Solomon mentions the word *wisdom* 54 times in Proverbs. Where do we get wisdom? We need God, the wisdom that is from above. When we read the Word, we need to accept the wisdom. God doesn’t want us to be troubled and caught between decisions, not knowing what to do. The world wants us to believe that they have the answer, but many times they make it worse. At the crossroads, we have to make a decision. Man cannot direct his own way or reconcile himself to God. We will all face temptation, or a warning sign that we may be weak in. Turn to the Word so we can stay in the way. Moses was at the crossroads, but he chose to suffer with the people of God.

Thursday—Title: “Love.” Text: Romans 13:10-14. Excerpts: All in sin are against God, yet God loves the world. *Love*, “intense pleasure in someone,” is mentioned 310 times in the New Testament. It must be important. Paul said that it’s the fulfilling of the law that Jesus came to do. He improved the law by bringing a deeper meaning of love. The world is so unhappy. What the world needs is love! People don’t want God to tell them how to live; they want to tell God. God is the way to finding true love. God put love in action by sending His Son to die for us. When we have God’s love in our hearts, it is apparent. All the fruits of the Spirit happen because of the first fruit—love. We will never be one without love.

Friday—Title: “A Great Light in Great Darkness.” Text: Matthew 4:16, 17. Excerpts: Jesus taught as One having great authority. The people sat in great darkness, just as our world today. People in the darkness of the world today are working themselves to death. They don’t realize the great danger their souls are in. For there to be hope, they have to see the light. Beware of “adventures” the world offers. There are obstacles that keep people from escaping the darkness of sin. One of the greatest is the darkness itself. Many don’t realize how dark their darkness is. Hold on to truth because it can get away from us. The light becomes obscure when we get off the path and away from truth. There is no other true light than Jesus.



Saturday—Title: “Treasures Worth Searching For.” Text: Proverbs 2:1-6. Excerpts: A treasure is something of great value. Many are seeking just a moment of pleasure and value it. We need to put emphasis on the Pearl of Great Price. Many are enslaved by self and it’s difficult to reach them. They don’t believe they need anything from God. Man’s quest for treasure has taken him to many places. How can we put a value to spiritual liberty? *Salvation* means “complete and absolute freedom from sin, from self, from Satan, from the fear of tomorrow.” Salvation is free, but we must buy the truth and sell it not. God offers power to live the truth. The truth is one of God’s valuable treasures. There are benefits of a diligent search for the treasure.

Sunday—Title: “Water Saves, Yet Water Holds Us Accountable.” Text: Revelation 22:1, 2. This message is printed following this report.

The evening message was entitled: “The Conclusion of the Whole Matter.” Text: Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14. Excerpts: Everything concludes, everything has an end. Heaven is out there, but we still have some work left to do. God has given us all a purpose and we must face it with great passion. God put us here to fear Him, to give Him great respect. Who are we in comparison to the great Creator? We fear Him by applying His commandments to our daily lives. This is the “whole” duty of man. Love God with all our hearts. He must be first in every aspect of our lives. Gaining the world and losing your soul—what’s it worth? There will be no more opportunity at the conclusion of life. Part of our duty is to take a stand against the evil that comes against us. Truth is vital because no one wants to be part of something that is false. When we’re able to live a holy life, the world will take note and we’ll be in a place to win souls. †

## Water Saves, Yet Water Holds Us Accountable

2021 Revival Message by Bro. Harley McClung

**I** WOULD LIKE, by the help of the Lord, to call your attention to Revelation, chapter 22, verses 1 and 2: “And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” The title of the message is, “Water Saves, Yet Water Holds Us Accountable.”

We see here in our text that John was carried away in the Spirit to a high mountain. We all know that when we’re on an elevated position, it is easier to see than it is down in a valley. When God, by His Spirit elevates us, He raises us up so that we can sit together in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. We’re able to see more than we could when we were in the dungeons of sin. So John was in the Spirit, and he was able, in the Spirit,



to see something that was so glorious and precious. He was able to see a pure river. It wasn't just a little bit of water. It was a river of the water of life. It wasn't muddy. It wasn't something that was really confusing. It was clear as crystal. This water of life was the means by which man could have life.

Life, as we understand it, is a connection or a returning or a reconciliation to God Himself, who is the Spirit. So this water gives us the means by which we can have spiritual life. This spiritual life that this river, or water of life, offered to mankind was for the healing of the nations. If this nation will look and see what the Scriptures teach, how much healing for our nation could we observe and see, and how much is needed! John was carried away in the Spirit, and it is very important for all of us to be in the Spirit; not just any spirit, but the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of God. Why? Because what spirit a person is of, or is empowered by, will determine what a person sees or comprehends.

In Revelation 22:16, 17, we read, “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

We find, too, that John understood some things of this water and where it originated. It originated from the love of God, and he said, “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.” So whenever we think of John 3:16, we find there that there's an ingredient that is essential to you and me; and that is, believing.

We need to have faith. We need to really believe in what the Word of God teaches. Jesus said to the people who had followed Him out into the wilderness, that He was the manna that came down from heaven. He proceeded to tell them that His words are Spirit and they are life. So whenever we look at the water of life, we need to see that it is the words of Jesus Christ and believe them. There are people who read what the Scriptures teach and just simply will not believe them.

There is a doctrine that is quite prevalent in our land. It is the doctrine of Predestination, which teaches that God has only a select people that He has predestined to go to heaven or to go to hell. That is not what the Scriptures teach. The Scriptures teach me that Jesus Christ tasted death for every man. The scripture says, “The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” So water, whenever we look at it, is indispensable to human life. It's estimated that we can live about 40 days, or even as much as 50 days without food, but we can't live but just a few days without water. Water is absolutely essential to our physical life. Well, water is absolutely essential to our spiritual life. We have to have the Word of God in order to be spiritual, or to be connected to God Himself. The Word of God is absolutely essential to us being what God wants us to be and doing what He wants us to do in living this Christian life.

People have always understood the importance of water. As a matter of fact, there was a Spanish explorer

by the name of Ponce de León. His quest was to find “The Fountain of Youth.” He went sailing to find this means of perpetual life. Now, I don't know, but perhaps he might have had the Word of God in his cabin. He might have had the means of everlasting life in his cabin, but yet he was out searching for it here and there. People are searching for something other than the Word of God. As a matter of fact, when it really boils down to it, people just will not believe what the Bible teaches. So how much value then is John 3:16 to them?

Whenever we look into Ephesians, chapter 2, it tells us that we are not saved by works. Verses 8 and 9: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Unless we actually believe in this grace, unless we actually believe in God's mercy, unless we actually accept it and apply it, then the grace of God, or the water of life, doesn't benefit us. We need to have faith.

We find faith in action when we look at Abraham. Abraham was a man of faith. When God called him to go out into a place where He wanted him to go, we find Abraham obeying God. He just did what he was told to do. Think about that for a moment. What if God called us to leave our country? Abraham didn't have a Denali car to drive in, or a Navigator. He didn't have a nice vehicle. He had camels to ride. We find that Abraham was so strong in his faith that God counted his faith in Him as righteousness. So faith is vital in believing what the Bible teaches.

One time Jesus said to His disciples, “I must needs go through Samaria.” As He came through, He came to Jacob's well. While He was there, His disciples went into town to buy something to eat. While they were gone, a woman came to draw water. Some have said that she was a woman of ill-repute. While she was drawing water, Jesus spoke to her. Apparently, Jesus had a great concern for this woman, because it seems like He went out of His way to talk to her and to offer her the water of life. While she was there, Jesus asked her for a drink of water. She said, “How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.” It is true that a lot of the Jewish people were very prejudiced people. Did you know that? Jesus wasn't prejudiced, and those that follow Him are not prejudiced, because prejudice comes from something other than love. Love dispels ill-feelings towards other people. If this woman was a woman of ill-repute, she needed this water of life. She needed something to help her.

As we look out into the world today, we find people going to and fro, living a life that is despicable, as it were, and they need our help. They need us to let our lights shine. They need us to put faith strongly on display. Jesus said to the woman at the well, “If you ask me, I will give you living water.” Now, I don't believe this woman understood what Jesus was talking about, but God doesn't say, “I want you to clearly understand everything.” That's not what He's saying. He said, “I want you to believe. Then whenever you believe, you'll come to the place where you will understand.” I don't believe this woman fully comprehended what Jesus was saying, for she went on to say, “How can you give us

something that our father Jacob couldn't give us?" But she said, "Sir, give me this water."

We find that when God created the world, sin came into the world through Adam and Eve. The generations that followed Adam and Eve grew evil all the while. Coming down to the antediluvian world, we find people there that had hearts and lives that were evil continually. Everywhere you look, the only thing that was on their mind was evil. They were doing the things they wanted to do and disregarding God and His Word all together. So God said to Noah, another man of faith, "I'm going to destroy the earth with water." Again, faith is paramount. When we read what the Bible teaches, we need to come to the place and find a way to absorb it and believe it with all our hearts. Well, Noah believed God, and when God told Noah that He was going to destroy the earth with water, He said, "I'm going to send down rain from heaven. Build an ark." Noah didn't even know what an ark was.

Sometimes we don't know what to do. What we have to do is to believe what God tells us. God has told us that the source of spiritual life is the Word of God. So we take the Word of God, apply it, live it, and when we really live it, we will understand it more and more. While Noah preached to the evil people of his day, he said to them, "God is going to destroy the earth with water. It's going to rain." "What is rain?" It hadn't rained before. So whenever Noah went out to tell the people what God said, they just simply wouldn't believe it.

If we tell some people things about the Bible and what it teaches, they just simply aren't going to believe it. "Like what, Bro. Harley?" Well, Jesus was born of a virgin. When you tell some people in the world today that Jesus was born of a virgin, in their mind's eye, this was impossible. A scripture tells us, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." I believe with all my heart that Jesus was born of a virgin. The truth is, whenever you tell people that Jesus was resurrected of His own power, it's difficult for them to believe it. Did you know that? As a matter of fact, there are people that would completely deny that there was such a thing as a virgin birth and such a thing as a resurrection from the dead. And yet, there are people that believe in water.

Now, how do we understand water? It's essential to our lives. Water is made up of two gases: two parts hydrogen, one part oxygen. Those are gases. When you bring them together, they become a liquid. This liquid is essential to our physical lives. With this liquid, you can actually freeze it and it becomes solid. You can drop it, or with this liquid, you could actually heat it up and it would return to a gas (vapor). People believe this, but they can't explain it. They can't understand it fully. So we need to believe the Bible, though we cannot fully comprehend it. The antediluvian world should have believed what Noah told them. They should have believed it to the saving of their souls, but they disregarded it, even though God gave Noah the opportunity to preach to them for a long time.

As I look back on my life, in retrospect, I disregarded God for a long, long time, but the Bible tells me that He is longsuffering. He's not willing that any should perish. I don't believe in any way that God wanted to see the antediluvian world perish. So He gave Noah

years to preach to them. Some have said that Noah preached 100 years. Some have said 120 years, but whatever the number of years, God was longsuffering. He gave them the opportunity.

The woman at the well didn't fully understand, but she accepted what Jesus said. She reached out and took His words and applied them. There was something great and miraculous that happened to her. She said to the people in the town, "Come, see a man who changed my life. Come, see this man that has told me He is the Messiah, and I believe Him. I don't understand it fully and completely, but He has changed my life. He has told me everything about my life." That's the thing that all of us need to comprehend about the Bible. The Bible will tell us all about our lives. When we read the Bible, we see our lives right in front of us. It's judging us. It's helping us to see just how we're standing before almighty God. That is a benefit and a great help to us. We need to see where we stand before God. The antediluvian world would have been able to comprehend where they were standing before God. We're living in a country today where so many people don't even believe in God and the miracles that the Bible speaks of. But a day is coming.

God told Noah, "Well, you have done what I've told you to do. Now, I want you to go into the ark." There were eight souls who went into the ark. Sometimes we look around and say, "Well, we're so few in number," and we are in Craigsville. Sometimes it can be a bit discouraging. Sometimes it can be a little bit wearisome when we try to teach and preach to people on and on, and they just simply seem to not want it. The Scriptures teach us, "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Thank God for Noah. He didn't grow weary in well doing. God was favorable to Noah and his family. Thank God that my family is saved. I'm telling you tonight, we need to really carry a soul burden for our families.

When Noah took his family and went into the ark, the Bible says that God shut the door. When God shuts the door, we're not going to open it. That's a warning sign that we need to take to heart. When God shut the door, not even Noah could open it for them. God had already given them 100 or 120 years to have their heart's door open to allow Him to come in, but they had sealed it closed. So at this point in time, when the preaching stopped and the mercy of God stopped, the door was shut. Whenever we look into the Word of God, we find mercy and grace there, but we also find judgment.

Paul understood the judgment. He said, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." Quite frankly here this morning, all of us being saved are a part of the Church of God, the family of God. I thank God that I am. I don't want to be a part of any other family. I don't want to be a part of any other organization. I want to be what God sent His Son to purchase, and that is, the Church of God. I'm not ashamed of that.

We've been given the definition of literal water, but what about spiritual water? "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega,

the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely" (Revelation 21:5, 6). What we find, relatively speaking, is very, very few people have an appetite for the Word of God. I wonder sometimes if we're making it look attractive enough. I don't mean to put a crush on any of us. We live the life, we let our lights shine, but somehow, somehow, we have to, by the grace and the leadership of the Spirit, help people to have an appetite for it. Otherwise, they'll never, never accept it.

In John, chapter 1, John was carried away and inspired by the Spirit to write, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." So whenever we look at the Bible and what it teaches us, we're actually getting a glimpse of God Himself. The conveyance that we get from the Word of God is a direct connection that God has given for us to be reconciled to Him. Jesus is the Word, or the truth, or the spiritual life. He said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." So we need to take all the words of the Bible very seriously. What part can we ignore? What part can we set aside? All of it is important.

It is important for us, as the Church of God, to lift up the words of the Bible and to preach the entirety of it; not leaving out a portion, or disregarding a portion. We are the pillar and the ground of truth. We walk on the truth. We hold up the truth for the world to see. If we hold it up, under the anointing and the unction and the Spirit of God, then it's going to be something appealing to the people, giving them an appetite for it. Paul said, "Preach the Word." Yes, we have to preach it under the anointing of the Spirit. Paul said we must preach the Word, but preach it in love. When we preach the Word of God in love, then we're doing that because we're carrying a soul burden. We're not to hammer or harm people. The Word of God does affect people. It does cause some people to be very, very uncomfortable. Someone has said, "The Bible may hurt you with the truth but it will never comfort you with a lie." Why? The Bible doesn't represent deception. It represents the truth. All of it.

When we read of what God told the men of old, He did it for their benefit. What Jesus told the woman at the well, He did it for her benefit. Her life was changed because she accepted His words and the water of life. Jesus' mere words caused her life to be changed. The Word of God will change your life. Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." So when God told Noah to go into the ark, He shut the door. All that Noah told the people started to come true. It didn't happen the very moment that the door was shut, but shortly thereafter. Someone felt a drop of rain. "What is that? Where did that come from?" Another drop, and another, and another. God doesn't tell lies. He tells the truth. Whatever God says will happen, it's going to happen. Suddenly, the heavens broke open and water came up from the ground.

Water is the means of our salvation, the Word of God. Water is the means by which we can obtain spiritual life, but it is the Word of God that is going to judge us. Bro. Junior once told a story of a man who

was driving across a bridge. As he was driving across this high bridge, he saw a man at the edge, getting ready to jump over to commit suicide. The driver stopped his car and got out and ran towards the man to try to talk him out of committing suicide, but before he got there, the man leaped. He looked down from the edge of the bridge and saw that the man was about to drown, so he jumped in and saved the man. He brought him to shore and the man's life was spared. After that, the man went into deep sin and committed some horrible crimes. Of those crimes, he was found guilty and brought before a judge to be sentenced. When he was brought to this judge to be sentenced, he looked at the judge and recognized he was the one who had saved him from drowning. He said to the judge, "Do you remember me?" He said, "Yes, I remember you. At one time I was your savior, but now, I'm your judge."

The Word of God saves us. It brings us to the place where we can accept it or reject it. The woman at the well accepted it. She was blessed and changed by it. The antediluvian world rejected it. They were judged by it and died by it. The Bible teaches us that we will all stand before Jesus Christ and we'll give an account of how we lived in this present world. All of us have been given a chance and an opportunity to taste of this river of life, because "the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." The gospel is available to one and to all in one form or another.

Paul spoke of people in Romans, chapter 1, that could look into the starry heavens and see all of God's creation. All of us can see God's creation. When people look up into the starry heavens, they can see that it just didn't get there by itself. There was a great Creator. He is the One we must give an account to. We were all created by this great Creator for His pleasure.

Paul said, "When we stand before this righteous Judge, we will be without excuse." The reason that we're going to be without excuse is because the Lamb's Book of Life will be opened. The only way to get our names in the Lamb's Book of Life is to drink of the water of life. When we drink of the water of life, the Word of God, then God writes in His book who has accepted the Word of God and has spiritual life. I am so glad that I don't have to depend on someone writing my name in a church book or taking it out. It's God that writes down our names. It's God that knows when we have obtained spiritual life or when we have it. There's no fooling God. So the Lamb's Book of Life is going to be opened by the Judge to see if our names are in there. Our lives will be revealed as to how we lived according to the teachings of the Bible.

This just and fair Judge, God, is going to look into our knowledge to see if we understood. Again, Jesus didn't require the woman at the well to understand. He required her to believe. He's going to look and see if we understood. There are people that do understand the Bible and disregard it. He's going to know that. Then we are going to be weighed in the balances. The balances are going to be fair and accurate. Our lives on one side and the knowledge of the Word of God will be placed on the other to see if there's a balancing.

When the king of Babylon, Belshazzar, did evil things with the vessels that were taken out of the temple of



the house of God at Jerusalem, he knew better. He knew he shouldn't have taken them to drink wine and praise the gods of gold and silver. Listen to me, God has made all of us vessels and we're going to be held accountable as to how we used the vessels God has given us. Whenever the king used those vessels in a way that was an abomination to almighty God, there was a handwriting on the wall. When Daniel interpreted the handwriting, he said, "O King, thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

Whenever God judges us, we have to be careful that we're not found wanting. God's grace and power are given to all of us so that we can live a holy life, no matter what we face or encounter. God has given us the ammunition and the artillery where we can fight the good fight of faith. We don't have any excuses and reasons. We have to give an account of every idle word and every secret thing. He will bring it all into judgment. God wants us to believe what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches us that God offers to one and all the water of life. God is offering us the words of eternal life.

If there is someone here that has not partaken of the water of life, you can do so this morning. God offers the opportunity to accept the words spoken and take the words of eternal life to heart. Taking them to heart means that you will have the power to live a holy life. The Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Living a holy life only comes from applying what the holy principles of the Word of God teaches us. Again, God doesn't expect us to understand it all, but He expects us to believe what we do understand. He wants us right from the beginning to believe that the Bible is the holy Script and it was inspired by Him. He will reveal the meanings of it as we are able to receive it. Isaiah said that we get a little bit here, a little bit there, until we get line upon line, and principle upon principle. God will bring that glorious understanding. It's an understanding that will paint the vision of a glorious, glorious world in this time world and through the ceaseless ages of eternity. Today, Jesus is our Savior. There's coming a day when He will be our Judge. If we don't fully understand or comprehend the Word of God, let us believe it. God bless. ✠

#### OUR SERVICES ON CD'S

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

- \_\_\_ CD #1228 Manna—Rebecca Bland
- \_\_\_ CD #1229 Mother's Day Service
- \_\_\_ CD #1230 Looking at the Souls of Men—Brian Richards
- \_\_\_ CD #1231 The Senses of the Inner Man—G. E. Tyler
- \_\_\_ CD #1232 The Greatness of God—Gregor Tyler
- \_\_\_ CD #1233 Manner of Life—G. E. Tyler
- \_\_\_ CD #1234 You Decide—David Martin
- \_\_\_ CD #1235 The Half Has not Been Told—G. E. Tyler
- \_\_\_ CD #1236 Ties That Bind—Paul Wilson

## WINNING A CROWN

By the late C. W. Naylor



### Part XXXIV

#### The Effect of Faith

Paul says, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith" (Hebrews 10:22). There are those who tell us that we can never know that we are saved, or in fact ever be very sure of anything in regard to our relations with God. Nothing could be more contrary to the teachings of the Scriptures. Faith brings knowledge. There is never a completed action by faith but there is an assurance that follows that action. It is the natural fruit of that action. Faith works with assurance. He who has faith draws nigh to God with expectation. He knows that God is true and that His promise is for him. He lays hold upon the promise because the promise belongs to him and because God is pleased to have him claim his rights in the promise. When he takes hold upon the promise, he is sure of the result. The only way to obtain a thing from God is through faith, speaking of those things which come to us through prayer. So whatever of this nature we get from Him, we must take by faith, but when we take it by faith, we have it. When faith once gets her hands on a thing, it is hers, but it is not hers until she has hold upon it, and when she has gotten hold of it, she has the consciousness of having it in her grasp, the same as we have the consciousness of having in our hands that which we have grasped.

Doubts may come from various sources. One source is a lack of knowledge of God's will. As long as we hold in question whether it is God's will to do a thing for us, our faith cannot be active and strong in its grasp. There will be an uncertainty about it all. We need to get this question of God's will settled first. Sometimes this is very hard for us to decide, but of one thing we may always be sure—that it is God's will to give us what we need and what we must have in order to serve Him successfully. God is willing to give. He does not have to be forced to give because He has promised. He does not have to be coaxed to give it nor wheedled into granting our request. He stands ready to fulfil His promises. Ordinarily, therefore, when a need is presented to us, we can take it for granted that it is God's will to supply that need, though He must choose the way in which He will supply it.

Doubts often come because we feel unworthy. We need something, and we desire it very much. We do not doubt that God would give it if we were more worthy to receive it. We could readily believe that He would give it to somebody else, but will He give it to us? If what we receive depended upon our worthiness to receive, we should certainly never receive very much from God, but it does not depend upon our worthiness. It depends upon His graciousness and upon His mercy and upon His kindness and upon His love. If we must wait until we are worthy of His blessings, we shall never receive them. It is often true that the most worthy



Christians, or those who are most godlike in their lives, are the very ones who feel most unworthy. This is so because they understand better and see more clearly the perfections of God. There are, of course, those whose lives are unworthy before God and who for that reason cannot have faith to receive, because their consciences trouble them. These must needs get a clear conscience before faith will take hold for other things. But those true Christians who seek things of God never have a strong feeling of their worthiness. It is true that they can often say, like Hezekiah, that they have lived perfect before the Lord up to all their understanding; but notwithstanding that, there is a sense of unworthiness before God, so that they do not base their faith upon their worthiness but upon the great loving-kindness of God.

In order for us to have the assurance of faith, the promises must come to mean us and mean us now. In approaching God for something, you ought to come to Him as though you were the only person in the world and that the promise was especially made for you. You should treat the promise just as though nobody else had a share in it. The promises that cover your needs are to you. They are to you and for you just as much as though God had spoken them directly to you personally and had included no one else. Look upon them in this way. Treat them this way, always bearing in mind that He must choose His manner of fulfilling them.

Assurance is not emotion. You may be sure that you own a farm. You may have a deed for it, properly recorded. There may be no claims of any sort against the farm. But though you know all these facts, such knowledge may not excite any emotion at all in you. You may be ever so sure of it, not question it in the least, and at the same time be perfectly unemotional about it. The same is true many times with the Christian experience. We may be perfectly sure about it and yet not be able to tell a thing about it from our emotions. The promises of God are true whether they excite in us any emotion or not. He has said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). This is true, no matter how lonely or deserted we feel, so long as we trust. Your part is to trust and obey. The rest belongs to God. Be concerned about doing your part, but throw all the responsibility for His part upon Him. Do not try to bear one bit of it yourself. Never try to help God. He is able to do His own part. Never worry and strain yourself trying to have faith. Just be easy and comfortable about things. When the responsibility of anything is thrown upon God, He will not shrink from that responsibility, neither will he fail to bear it properly.

A little incident from my own experience may help the reader to understand what I mean. I was once traveling in the evangelistic work with two helpers. We had arranged to go on Monday morning to a certain town some distance away to begin a meeting. We did not have the money to pay our railroad fare. On Saturday we made our arrangements to go and prayed the Lord to furnish the means which we needed. On Sunday morning we went to meeting and had a glorious service. I forgot all about money. On Saturday I had taken it for granted that the Lord would supply our needs at that meeting, but on the way home from the meeting,

something seemed to say to me, "Where is your money?" and I suddenly remembered that I had received nothing at all. I had asked the Lord for it and had expected it to come, but it had not come as I had expected. For a moment I did not know what to say. Then I answered: "Well, Lord, you will have to look after that. We are going to do our part." We went on a number of miles to stay all night and found that a meeting had been arranged for at that place; so I took it for granted that our needs would be supplied here. We had another very precious meeting, but it closed and the people went home. I was detained a little, but presently started for my stopping-place through the darkness. A voice seemed to say to me, "Where is your money?" Here it was late at night, and we were to start early the next morning. But my confidence was in God, and I threw the responsibility on Him, saying: "That is your business, Lord. We are doing our part, and we expect you to do yours." I went on my way not concerned over the matter, when shortly I heard a voice calling after me. I answered, and a man came running and put something into my hand. When I reached my lodging-place, I found that it was a bill sufficient to pay all the expenses of our trip.

Do your part, be sure you have done it, and then you can throw the responsibility upon God. You need not worry, you need not fear. He will not fail you. Cast all your cares upon Him, for He careth for you. Do not think that God will not attend to His business. Does He let the planets get out of their orbits? Does He let the sun cease to shine? Does He fail to bring spring after the winter? Does He fail to give seedtime and harvest? Be not fearful, but believing. He has said that heaven and earth should pass away, but that His Word should never pass away; that is, it is the most certain thing in existence. Plant your feet firmly on the promise. Count it yours. Rejoice in it.

### **The Relation of Works to Faith**

All Catholics and most Protestants trust in their good works more than in God for salvation. This may seem a strong statement, but many years of experience in dealing with souls have brought me to that conclusion. No matter how much the efficacy of faith is preached, when it comes to the matter of practical Christian living, most people trust more or less in their works to make them acceptable before God. They try to do something to merit salvation, and after they are saved they try to do something to merit God's approval. The ineffectiveness of such efforts is made very plain by Paul. He says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9). There is absolutely no saving merit in works. Salvation is a gift from God. Anything that is purchased is not a gift. Anything that is ours by right cannot be a gift to us. Salvation is called the "free gift." It can never, therefore, in any degree rest on our good works. Evil works cut us off from God and grace, and so God requires us to shut evil works out of our lives, but simply shutting these evil works out of our lives does not win for us salvation.

"I do right, therefore I am right," is the usual formula. This makes works precede faith, and makes faith

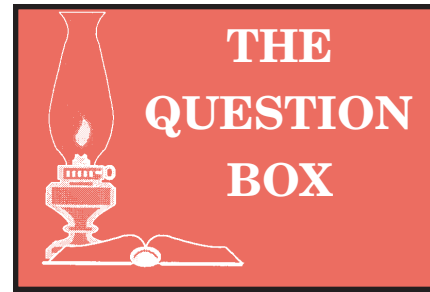
dependent on works. Those who base their standing before God on their good works instead of upon His grace, must continually question themselves whether their good works are sufficiently good to recommend them to God. If we could be saved in that manner, we would be saved by faith in ourselves, and not by faith in God. The true formula is, "I am right, therefore I do right." Acts get their quality from intent, and intent comes from the state of the heart. There can be no evil intent in a righteous heart, and hence no evil act in the life. If the fountain is clean, so is the stream; but if the fountain is unclean, nothing that we can do to the stream will cleanse the fountain. In Galatians 5:6 we read of "faith which worketh by love." Faith is therefore a motive power; and if there is true faith abiding in us, it will work out in deeds of love and kindness, of mercy, holiness, and truth.

We should remember, however, that it is not these deeds that make the faith nor preserve it, but it is the faith that makes the deed. James makes works the evidence of faith; that is, faith is the tree and works are the fruit. It is quite true that the fruit is of the same character as the tree, but the fruit upon a good tree is often marred by insects or drought or damaged by the weather. The fact that damaged or imperfect fruit is taken from a tree does not prove that the tree is not all right. It may only prove that circumstances prevented the proper development of the fruit. So the fruit of our faith may not always be perfect. We may now and then come short of our expectations. There may be things in our lives that we should like to see better. We may be prevented by circumstances from reaching the full development of our lives and fruits as we should like to have them developed. But nevertheless if we are God's, the true life-power is working in us. Judging ourselves solely by the fruit that we bear under unfavorable circumstances is no more fair than judging the tree by the imperfect fruit that may grow upon it. I am not arguing in favor of wrongdoing. By no means. If God is in us, our lives will be pure and our deeds will be pure. The point that I wish to emphasize here is that our faith should be in God and not in our works. He who trusts in his works may have righteousness, but it is wholly a self-righteousness; but he who trusts in the righteousness of Christ imparted to him by the Holy Spirit has the righteousness of God, which is the "righteousness of faith." We are righteous because God makes us righteous. We remain righteous because He keeps us righteous. Oh, that men would trust Him to be their righteousness instead of going about to establish their own righteousness! †

## REMINDER TO OUR READERS

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

- Bible concordances, dictionaries, atlases, commentaries, pictures, calendars etc., nor offer correspondence courses
- Names of persons for pen pal correspondence
- Videos, cassette tape and video recorders
- Scholarships for the training of students in the United States or any other country
- Financial support for individuals



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



**QUESTION:** We know that the Church is being governed by the Holy Spirit and not by a democratic way. How can a certain congregation know their spiritual leader and in what way?

**ANSWER:** The Church of God does not believe in voting in and voting out people when it comes to spiritual offices. Only those who have the spiritual gift for the office can properly fill it. So the leader of a congregation needs to have the gift of pastoring. Not all preachers have this gift.

In some cases, as a pastor gets older, there will be a younger minister coming on in the congregation that can accept the pastorate when the older minister dies or gives up the responsibility because he is no longer able to carry the load.

There will be times when a pastor, for some reason, feels his labor in a given place is finished, and will move on to another field. If there is no minister in the local congregation to take his place, the congregation will have to look outside their congregation for someone to lead them. They need to pray very earnestly about this, and if there are other true ministers in their area, or that they know, they may seek advice from them.

This is an important question, and a flock needs to be careful to be sure they get the mind of the Lord.

**QUESTION:** Some churches claim that God will turn His back on the Gentiles and return life to Old Testament Jews. Is this truth?

**ANSWER:** Paul asks the question as to whether the Hebrews were better than the Gentiles, then he answered it! "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin" (Romans 3:9).

"There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5). The Hebrews can be saved only through Christ, and the same is true for the Gentiles.

Spiritually today, the saved are "Jews" and all unsaved are "Gentiles." "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:28, 29).

This is the way it is under the New Covenant, and the New Covenant will be in effect until the end of time.



**QUESTION:** What is Babylon the Great?

**ANSWER:** Various teachers, including Martin Luther, has applied this to the church of Rome.

F. G. Smith, in his book *Revelation Explained* wrote, "This name is derived from ancient Babylon. This city was the center of the earth's idolatry and stood first of all as the direct enemy of God's people. So, likewise, this church is the center of earth's spiritual idolatry. There are other harlots, or corrupt churches, in the world beside her; but she is the mother of them all."

**QUESTION:** In Revelation 13:10 it speaks of "he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword." Does it have a spiritual application? Does it mean that if we tell someone of the truth of the Bible (someone that is saved) but they choose not to measure up on these truths, that we are killing them spiritually?

**ANSWER:** For a Christian to come to the knowledge of truth on some point and refuse to measure to it after he really sees it, he would be rebelling against God, and rebellion is sin which brings death to the soul. But that is not what Revelation 13:10 is about. Earlier in this chapter we see where "the dragon gave him [the beast] his power, and his seat, and great authority" (verse 2). The beast symbolizes the large religious organization that followed Paganism, with its "seat" in the same city. This was a persecuting power just as the dragon was responsible for many being put to death. Verse 10 is telling us that this religion would lose its world-wide hold on the people and would be dealt with in some respects the same way it had dealt with others.

The *sword* in this verse is not to be understood as symbolizing the Word of God as it does in Ephesians 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12.

**QUESTION:** What are the meanings of Luke 17:32, John 11:25 and John 13:10-14?

**ANSWER:** Luke 17:32—This verse says, "Remember Lot's wife." God had told Lot and his family in leaving Sodom not to look back. Lot's wife disobeyed; she looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. Since the Scriptures were written for our benefit, we are to be warned by this and not look back, not disobey, but to do whatever the Lord's will is for us.

John 11:25, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." A sinner is dead in trespasses and sins; for him to hear the gospel, believe and obey, is to be saved, to be resurrected. This is the first resurrection (see John 5:25-29; Ephesians 2:1-6.) This resurrection was made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, for spiritual life is found only in Him. Then Christians as well as sinners die physically. Even so, at the end of time they shall be resurrected. This is the second resurrection, and all the dead shall come forth at the same time. The bodies of the righteous will be changed into a spiritual body like Christ's, and will be with Him eternally. The bodies of the wicked will also be changed and will be lost eternally.

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John 13:10-14—In verse 10 we understand Jesus to be speaking of spiritually clean and not literal washing. He knew that Judas at that time was not "clean" in heart. As verse 11 says, "For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean." The next verses refer to Jesus washing the disciples' feet, and telling them, since He their Master and Lord had washed their feet, "ye also ought to wash one another's feet." This is not a choice! Christians ARE to wash the feet of fellow Christians. This is usually done before taking part in "the Lord's Supper." †

## BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

### **PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING** **LIVING FOR CHRIST IN THE MIDST** **OF MODERN FASHIONS**

**Scriptures:** I Peter 1:24; Genesis 3:21; I Timothy 2:9, 10; I Peter 3:3-6; Deuteronomy 22:5.

I Peter 1:24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away.

Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

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

10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

I Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

Deuteronomy 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.

**Memory Verse:** Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

—I Peter 3:3, 4.

**Aim:** To show how God expects a Christian to dress.

### **INTRODUCTION**

It may seem to the average person that today's lesson is of little importance, but it is a sad fact that most people are held fast by the god of fashion. A woman

does not want to appear on the street unless her lips are painted; she feels embarrassed if her hair is not in the latest style. Her dress must not be different from the latest fashion, and “whatever the Joneses do,” that is the order of the day. It is sad that people are in such a state; however, we see that this spirit constantly tries to entangle everyone who is free from it and living for God. A sanctified man or woman has set his whole affection on God and must watch with diligence that he be not deceived by modern fashions.

## MEDITATIONS

**THE FRAILITY OF FLESH—I Peter 1:24—Flower of grass**—Vegetation endures for the shortness of a fleeting season, then withers away to make room for new vegetation in a new season. So it is with man! How short is his span of life, and how vain it is to put trust in his weakness, or to seek the favor of man! He who is a slave to fashion is a slave to the whim of man that so soon fades and dies.

**GOD ORDAINED CLOTHING—Genesis 3:21—Did ... God make coats**—In the beginning God did not clothe Adam and Eve; they were in a state of complete innocence. But with the arrival of sin and guilt came clothing. Note the purpose of God in clothing the first pair was to provide a covering, and not an ornament. Highly ornamental clothing proceeds only from a proud and vain heart.

**MODEST APPAREL COMMANDED—I Timothy 2:9—Women adorn themselves**—It was not long after the fall until women found they could attract added attention to themselves by the clothing they wore. It gained such universal practice that it became necessary for God to give instruction on the matter in His written Word. Modesty is the rule. One who is truly modest does not seek to put self on display and is not trying to get the praise and admiration of the world. Christ is the One who must have first place, and His graces and beauties alone must beam forth from the Christian. This teaching is repulsive to the sinful and unregenerated heart, but it is the way of life. The wearing of gold as an ornament is forbidden; likewise, any other thing that is added solely for the purpose of bringing attraction to the person of man. The heart of sinful man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; therefore, it is necessary that the Christian closely guard his. **Verse 10—Professing godliness**—Godliness is what everyone should seek for, men as well as women. A woman who professes to have the nature of God must not seek to give place to herself.

**PETER’S INSTRUCTION—I Peter 3:3—Outward adorning**—Why should we seek to glorify the flesh when it is only a house of clay and soon will perish? Many have lavishly provided themselves with many changes of apparel. This is for the glory of man and not the glory of God. If a man seeks to honor himself, it is always in competition with someone else and is certain to gender strife.

**MEEKNESS, DEATH TO PRIDE—I Peter 3:4—Meek and quiet spirit**—The man on the inside of the house of clay is the important one, and it is he whom we should seek to adorn. He cannot be adorned with

material things. His adorning is with moral values. If he is properly adorned with the graces of heaven, it will be an easy matter to adorn properly the outward man. God values highly the proper adorning of the inward man.

**OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLE—I Peter 3:5—After this manner**—Regardless of how meager may have been the light that shone upon their pathway, the Old Testament saints walked with a good enough example that the New Testament saints are referred to them and admonished to follow in their steps. Today women are throwing themselves in great disfavor with God by their refusal to be subject to their own husbands.

**DAUGHTERS OF ABRAHAM—I Peter 3:6—Daughters ye are**—If the women of today follow the example of Sarah, they are declared to be the daughters of Abraham, and, consequently, heirs according to the promise that was given unto Abraham. She who follows the fashions of the day is not the daughter of Abraham, but the daughter of Belial.

**DECLARED AN ABOMINATION—Deuteronomy 22:5—Abomination unto the Lord**—This command is more transgressed by women today than by men, for women are seeking to fill the place of men more than ever before. God designed that women remain in the home and take care of the home duties. We need to consider well this admonition, for no one can afford to be an abomination unto the Lord. Modern life demands that woman fill the place of a man, but modern life is far from the will of God. Let us carefully consider the Word of God on this point and be instructed by it.

## CONCLUSION

It is easy to follow the trend of affairs in life and to drift with the tide. The devil is a real artist in making it appear as if it is all right. He who makes heaven his home and inherits an eternal reward will do so because he has given heed to the Word of God and lived according to the divine will. So, in this age of great darkness we who are saints must walk according to the brilliant light of the truth of the Word of God, regardless of what the world may say or do. Modern fashion seeks to aggrandize the man, giving no place or glory to God. Every thinking person can readily see that such practice can lead only to the bottomless pits of eternal hell. Therefore, it is of the greatest importance that we be moved by the Word of God on this subject and seek God’s help in making it real in our lives, for he who misses heaven misses everything good.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Do you consider today’s lesson of importance? Give a reason.
2. Why did Peter say that all flesh is as grass?
3. Why were Adam and Eve clothed?
4. For what purpose were the first clothes made, and of what were they made?
5. Who is it that receives attention by immodest clothing? (Consider I Corinthians 10:31.)
6. What is the meaning of shamefacedness? †



# CHRIST IS ENOUGH

Message by Bro. Mick Akers, delivered 03/21/21



**I** WOULD LIKE to read two portions of scripture. The first one is Acts 18:1-10—"After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean; from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles. And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue. And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized. Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city."

The second portion of scripture that I'd like to read is First Corinthians 2:1, 2—"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

Can you imagine stepping out into uncharted territory? Stepping out on a new, what we might call, adventure? It's daunting, isn't it? There are times in our lives where each one of us knows what we're talking about. If you are a child, it might be the first day of school. If you are a young person, it might be the first day of college, maybe the first day at a new job, or maybe it's stepping into a new occupation. There are unknowns.

Well, when we think about the gospel work, there are some things we would like to accomplish, but in doing those things, I confess that there are some unknowns. I think I can speak from a little bit of experience in saying that stepping off into the unknown takes some confidence and some faith in God in order to know what He wants us to do. If you'll read through the chapter of Acts that I read, I think it's just a snippet of what really went on. You might think, *Well, it's the apostle Paul. He went there and the Lord used him as He planned to use him. Those people gave their hearts to God and the Spirit worked and the congregation grew.* But really, when you jump over to the second chapter of First Corinthians, Paul was afraid a little bit. He

said, "Brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." But listen to what else he said here in verse three: "And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling." Is that the apostle Paul we think of? It's not, is it?

When we think of the apostle Paul, we think of someone almost a superhuman individual, don't we? We don't think it in the way the world thinks of a superhuman, but you know what I mean. Someone that's above the normal fears. Someone that has above normal boldness or above normal faith. But the scripture in First Corinthians 2 says that Paul was with them in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. Verses 4 and 5—"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

Think about the logistics of simply taking a trip like Paul did in that day and age. Almost going with no contacts. Consider how Paul went to some places. Maybe he didn't know anyone or very few people, but he stepped into the synagogue there and preached. It was really Paul's desire and prayer to see Israel saved. He said that in Romans. But when they turned on the gospel and blasphemed God, he said, "OK, I've done all that I can do. I'm not going to waste time going over already plowed ground. There's nothing left here. I'm going to go on and preach the gospel."

Maybe Paul had some idea of what Ananias told him while preaching the gospel to the Gentiles. In Ananias' vision from God, Paul was going to be a special vessel to the Gentiles. So maybe Paul had some idea of that being his true calling. I don't know. I know this: you can have an idea that God has a plan for you and realize that there are a lot of unknowns out there, whether it's traveling, or how you're going to eat, and where the funds are going to come from to support this ministry, etc. All of those are unknowns that can cripple the spiritual mind. It's easy to say, "Yes, I'll go. Here am I, send me." When we're here among ourselves and all of a sudden God says, "OK, go," that can be quite daunting. It's a reality check God has, but Paul went although he had some fear and trembling.

We face fear and trembling a lot, even in our own mission work. I say that because even in our day-to-day lives, when we meet people, we have fear in witnessing the gospel to them. We don't know how they're going to really receive it. But Paul had certain confidences, didn't he? I think we should also have those same con-

fidences, because we have the same experiences Paul had. He was determined not to know anything among them. Not one other thing—just Christ. That's where we have to be. The experience that Christ gave to Paul gave him enough confidence, enough faith to take that bold step to sail or to travel from Athens to Corinth to start a work there. The boldness and faith in God that he had was enough. The gospel principles were what the Corinthian people needed. That was enough to motivate Paul. That was enough to give him the courage. That's where we need to be, Saints. Do we really believe we have the best thing in the world? Do we have the best thing in the world and live for God and He lives in us? Do we have the gospel in our hearts?

We were lost and undone. Look at the world out there. Except for the gospel, except for the blood of Christ, there we go. Everyone of us could be out there. You can name the different sins that's going on out there in the world. Sin is just an anchor to mankind. It's dragging them down, almost as if they had their legs tied to an anchor and thrown into the deep end of a pool. They're struggling and can't get anywhere. That's what sin does to mankind. It drags them down. It causes people to debase themselves. It causes people not to value another the way that they should. If we truly believe the gospel makes a difference, that salvation can grab an individual, clean him up, release that anchor and bring him to the level that God intended, I think we can have some confidence in Christ. We can have some confidence in the mission work we're going to do. I'm trying to encourage you tonight.

Do you know Paul said that he didn't rely on his intellect or his education? He didn't rely on those. He didn't rely on his personality, his charm, and his looks. Well, people advance things in the world through different ways, don't they? You don't see a makeup ad with someone who would be relatively unattractive. They usually use attractive people in ads to sell you clothes and things of that nature, don't they? That's what they do. There are different ways in promoting things. I'm not saying don't use what you have, but Paul didn't use his intellect. He was a Pharisee of the Pharisees, the strictest sect there in his lineage in the nation of Israel. He didn't claim that. He just simply preached Christ.

When you stop and think about it, the gospel is a simple thing. People make it complicated. If we're not careful, we can make it complicated. The fact of the matter is this: men, by committing sin, have regenerated a debt that they cannot pay for themselves. They generate a sin debt or a blood debt to God through Him being grieved by their actions and choices that they cannot pay for themselves. Jesus Christ came and freely offered Himself on the cross, taking the burden of sin and paying the debt through His death for us. He did that for everyone of us, whether we were far deep in sin or not, whether we grew up in this congregation, or the congregation in Patton, Pennsylvania, or in Louisiana, or wherever, Christ had to pay the debt for us. He paid it for us. The gospel is that simple. We can have that same confidence in knowing Christ only. Christ is what the world needs. They do need Him. Let's not be ashamed or backwards with the message.

Paul did not seek out connections or those with powerful influences. He didn't change his message to fit the Corinthians. He didn't change it. I heard a song, which says, "I don't want to change it, rearrange it; I love it just like it is." It brought joy to my life. Don't you love it like it is? Don't you love the gospel? Don't you love God? Don't you love what He's done in your life? Don't you love His faithfulness when you step out for Him, and His faithfulness from day-to-day? He's good. It's good to serve God. It's wonderful to serve God. It makes life worth living. I believe it! Don't you believe that? I know you do. I'm not doubting you by questioning you, but I'm trying to instill some reaching out and some confidence in the gospel and in yourselves through Christ, so that you can step out and witness for Him. It doesn't necessarily mean that we all are going to be the apostle Paul. No!

I told the saints this morning that they can brighten the corner where they are. That's about all that we need to do, isn't it? We can brighten the corner where we are. We can be a light. We should be a light, "a city that is set on an hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14). Isn't that true? God didn't light our candle so we could put it under a bushel. These are things we think are for children, but they're for us. They're for all of us. I got a lot out of Sis. Rebecca's children's lesson this evening. I wish I could talk to children like she did, or to anyone else. If I could talk like that, I feel like I could win someone to the Lord a lot better, because what she said was biblical and done with such kindness and tenderness. I'm just telling you, Christ is enough and the gospel is enough.

There were some things that Paul didn't rely on, but there were some things that he did rely on. He relied on his unshakable belief that the Corinthian people needed Christ. Don't you think that motivated him a little bit? We have to have some motivation ourselves. We have to have some spiritual motivation ourselves. If we're not careful, we can wait and wait till we feel like the Spirit is trying to kick start us, but the reality is, there are some things we already know to do. It's in the Word: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." That's part of it. There are some other parts of the gospel: showing love, kindness, having patience, helping people, taking care of widows and orphans. All of those things, but you don't need the Spirit to tell you those things. I'm not undermining the leadership or the authority of the Spirit, but you don't need the Spirit to get you to do those things. You should be thinking about them yourself. You should be a self-motivator. Motivate yourself to do some things. Do you think Paul was a self-motivator?

The message in Patton this morning was about Spain. Paul said that he left the church at Achaia. When he left the church at Achaia, he was going to gather the offering that they gave and he was going to take the offering to those in the area of Rome. He wanted to make sure he had seen sealed fruit. I like that phrase. Maybe one of these days I'll have a message coming from "sealing that fruit." Your pastor wants you to seal fruit. He wants to help you lay up treasures in heaven. We should want that for each one of us. Anyway, Paul



told them, in writing to the Romans, that he had planned to go to Spain, but he never made it that we know of. At least, there's no record of it. The point I'm saying is, Paul was motivated in his own self. He had some motivation. He wanted to see the gospel move forward.

We need to see the gospel move forward as well, Saints. We need our own motivation. We need to work on it ourselves. We don't necessarily need the pastor to constantly move us forward. We have to motivate ourselves. We have to get up and get ahold of ourselves and reach out to God. Let's have some spiritual ambition, some spiritual plans to do something for God. Time is passing. Tick, tick, tick! just like that. Someone said, "I'm not as young as I once was." Well, none of us are as young as we were one time. It takes a little more to recover. Youth and time are fleeting. To this point, you feel like you haven't reached out if you haven't been motivated enough. The real problem is: when you recognize the problem and you stay right where you are and refuse to do something about it. When it comes to spiritual things, that can be a big problem, no matter what it is. If you recognize any problem in yourself and refuse to do something about it, that's a quick trip of going into a backslidden state.

The message of Christ and what He did for the world is sufficient. We don't need to add or to take away from God's Word. We don't need another book. The Mormons have *The Book of Mormon* that was supposedly given to an angel on golden plates and the revelation of it was given to Joseph Smith for the people of this hemisphere. The blood of Christ is good for the western hemisphere—the eastern hemisphere—good for all people! It doesn't matter a bit what events took place in the country of Israel or in the Mediterranean area. It doesn't matter at all. The sacrifice that Jesus paid was enough.

Paul also believed that knowing just Christ and allowing the message of Christ to be used by the Spirit was enough to be effectual. That's enough! Most importantly, I think Paul believed that what God had called him to do, He would help him to do. That's a message for us. What God has called you to do, He will help you to do it. It doesn't matter how weak you feel or how little value you place on yourself, just don't confuse that with what God can do through you. That's a mistake we all can make.

If we just have an average day in our experience where we don't really feel opposition or we're not struggling, we're not doing that by ourselves. We talk about coasting. There's really no such thing as coasting. You may think you're coasting, or maybe think you're drifting, but until the moment that God says that He can't go any further with you, He's really giving you the grace and the power and the strength to help you more than you recognize. So even on our best day or our average day, the grace of God is what allows us to execute the life of a Christian. It's God's grace. We have the will to do it, but He gives us the power and the grace to execute that which we would do. I think that's a wonderful thing for us to consider. Leading up to the message, I mentioned earlier that Jesus said His grace was sufficient and that His strength was made perfect in weakness.

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I'll say this: if you start considering all the negative aspects or all your weaknesses in stepping out to do something for God, you're going to just turn yourself away from doing something for Him. You're going to talk yourself right out of doing something for God, but if you acknowledge the fact, "I have weaknesses, I'm a precious stone, but I'm not as polished as I could be, or I can't do this or that," you need to just take those things to God. No wonder the Bible tells us to confess our faults. There is something in confessing our faults to God as well, and confessing our weaknesses. There's nothing wrong in confessing those things to God and allowing Him to help you. In the same way, if you say, "Lord, I want to do something, help me to do it," I believe He's faithful in providing the help and the grace to help you. I believe that this evening or I wouldn't be up here speaking.

I'm pretty sure I could speak for Bro. Brian and Bro. Doug, too, when they first started speaking. Maybe I could speak for some of the singers that said they could never get up here and sing in front of people. I could name other things that people in themselves never thought that they could do, but God has helped them. God can use hearts like that. Listen to me, Young People, God can use a heart that is willing. Older People, God can use a heart that is willing. He needs willing vessels. The fact of the matter is, people are not turning themselves over to God as they should. Would you deny Him a vessel? Take the confidence that God can use you and that Christ is enough. He can work in and through you. As a matter of fact, that's the order it has to be. God has to do the work in you before He can do the work through you. Paul kept pressing, didn't he? He kept doing the work that God wanted him to do. It seemed dark at first.

We all say that there are dark times, but there are times where we make an effort to do something and we struggle and struggle within ourselves. Sometimes you struggle because of the lack of seeing results. You feel that burden and calling, but there's a period of struggle. You feel the desire to see God work and move, but sometimes when you take that first step into an unknown territory, it can be a struggle. It takes time for the seeds that you are planting to grow. That's the time you need to turn to God and encourage yourself as David did. Allow God to encourage you. Trust in Him.

We read earlier where Paul worked for some time, perhaps with the Jews, and ending up with the Gentiles. It wasn't right away that everyone started getting saved. His message wasn't received very cheerfully, we might say. If you stop and consider, in Paul's time, sometimes life was taken away for preaching or teaching certain things. Life was on the line. There were serious consequences at that time. So we have to consider, in those dark times, we just have to know that Christ is enough, the message is enough, and the truth of the gospel is enough. What God wants to do is enough.

After the storm, after the difficult times, after the efforts and the dark nights, then things start breaking free and you see some things accomplished. It's that way in spiritual work. It doesn't always happen as you envision it in your mind when you start. Sometimes it does and sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes it takes

longer to see the result and the fruit of your efforts. Those times can be discouraging. Christ is enough to get you through those times. Christ is enough for the world and enough to keep us and to hold us. He's enough to encourage us in whatever our work is. We can't allow fear to make us pause or avoid concentration. The fact of the matter is, there's only one way to get to heaven and that is believing in Christ and asking Him for forgiveness. Let's give it all to Christ. He is enough. I remember Bro. Johnny Bowers singing the song, "He's More Than Enough." When those moments are dark and you have questions and doubts, sometimes it feels like Christ is just enough, but He's more than enough. He really is enough for us.

I appreciate you all, Saints. I know you have a burden for the gospel work. I know you have a love for Christ. I believe that the people we fellowship with around the world have a love for Christ and the gospel work. The disciples were told that those days they were in were the last days, but how much more so are we in the last days today! Many have said and heard that, but the fact of the matter is, it's getting closer to the return of Christ. He's going to come. Whether we walk the vale with Him, or meet Him in the air, we will meet Him one day. We have to give an account to Him, but we want to take as many as we can with us to heaven. †

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## **MORE TRIBUTES TO SIS. AMANDA EVANS**

### **Tribute From the Catadupa Church of God to the late Minister, Amanda Mellorah Evans**

It is with great sadness that our church congregation in Catadupa, St. James, mourns the death of one of our most highly beloved and respected leaders, Minister Amanda Evans nee Brissette. Having gotten saved at the young age of seventeen years old, she spent more than sixty years working tirelessly in numerous capacities for her congregation and the Church of God as a whole. While still a young woman, her work included many visits to Sunday schools across various communities, teaching children about God. Her warm and friendly disposition and great knowledge of the Word brought joy to the hearts of the children.

In 1961, Sis. Amanda became the wife of the late Pastor Felix Evans and bore nine children, eight of whom were girls. Her duties in the church increased, and without murmur, she filled the positions of deaconess, superintendent of the Sunday school, minister, acting pastor, organist and secretary of the Church of God in Jamaica. In addition to these duties, she regularly visited the sick and other needy people in the community and elsewhere while organizing activities for the young people.

Sis. Amanda or "Mam" as she was affectionately called, began traveling overseas to other congregations for conventions. She began visiting Grand Cayman in 1972. She also traveled to conventions in the United States, starting in 1988, and she did not miss any conventions until she suffered a stroke in 2016. Sis. Amanda was truly an exemplary woman of God with a sweet

disposition and warm welcoming personality. She possessed a truly kind spirit that was noticeable by everyone she came in contact with. She was a champion for the truth and she loved the church wholeheartedly. Her legacy truly lives on.

Sis. Amanda was a special lady to me (Bro. Hezekiah) from my childhood days. She was the person who named me Hezekiah. She was also my mother-in-law. I can remember so many good days we had together. Sis. Amanda loved and cared about people. She was one of the pillars in the church here in Jamaica. During the conventions, she tried to ensure everyone was comfortable and fed. Having completed her race on this earth, she looks to the hope of her eternal reward of life everlasting. She was a dear saint of God! Her memories live on!

—From Bro. Hezekiah Lamey and the congregation,  
Catadupa, St. James, Jamaica

*(Special thanks to Sis. Chantol Malcolm for her kind assistance in composing this tribute.)*

## **SISTER AMANDA**

As I reflect on my memory of this dear saint, yes saint, for she was a saint in every sense of the word, I'd like to pay the following tribute to her:

I was first acquainted with Sis. Amanda sometime in the 1980's, but it was in the 1991 convention at Cornwall Mountain that I became aware of just how special this child of God really was. She was so lively and full of energy. I could tell that she was a pillar in the Church of God there in Jamaica. She loved her Savior and the truth of the gospel. She was a pure example of what a true Christian really is. She loved her earthly family and her spiritual family passionately and gave the greatest portion of her life to her Lord.

Sis. Amanda's demeanor was bubbly, sweet, and as pleasant as anyone I've ever seen. She smiled and made you feel so welcome and important. She was active in the kitchen during conventions, but she gave her complete heart to the worship of God in the services. She inspired us to pray and exercise our faith in God.

Before Sis. Amanda had her debilitating stroke, she called me often just to talk in her pleasant way. She would say, "It's so good to talk to you, Bro. Harley," and you could tell that she really meant it. She made me feel special, but it was her that was so very special.

When given money or a gift, Sis. Amanda appreciated it and expressed thanks again and again. She told me that one of the highlights of her life was when she was able to come to Craigsville to visit and stay in our home. The delight was totally mutual, for Judith and I were richly blessed to have this special friend in our home.

God blessed Sis. Amanda with a long life so that she could bless other people she came in contact with and knew her best. But now, without a doubt, our loss is heaven's gain.

Sis. Amanda, enjoy your eternal reward!

—Bro. Harley McClung  
Craigsville, West Virginia †



# THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



## THE TRUE LIGHT

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"How is your biology project coming along?" asked my dad. "Are you going to get enough bugs in time?"

"Dad!" I protested. "They're not bugs! They're insects!"

Dad laughed. "Ok, 'insects,'" he said. "How are you doing on your collection?"

For weeks I had been running through the pastures with a butterfly net, and hanging over the stream with a jar, trying to capture as many different species as possible. I had even asked my father a couple of times to help me reach a high-flying insect. He knew how important it was to me to find the required number of specimens before the project was due to my tenth-grade teacher.

"I hope I find enough different species," I told him. "I keep finding the same kinds of insects over and over again."

"Well," said my dad. "You should probably be looking for insects at night, as well as during the day."

"How would I see them at night time?" I asked.

"All you need is a light," said my dad. "You put up a bright light, and they'll come."

"Really?" I asked.

"Of course," he replied. "Haven't you ever noticed all the moths that fly around the porch light at night?"

I nodded slowly. Of course he was right. Why hadn't I thought of it before?

"Tell you what," my dad continued. "Why don't you take your net this evening and wait by the pole light next to the driveway? You might be surprised by what you'll find."

Just after sunset that evening, I took my insect net and stationed myself by the utility pole at the edge of our yard. I looked up. Already a few small moths were circling the bright light at the top. I hadn't been there long when an enormous insect buzzed past my head. With a startled yelp, I swung at it with my net. After a few swishes through the air, I had captured an amazing insect—one I had never seen before. I ran into the house with it to show my father.

"What kind of critter is that?" he asked.

"I don't know, but I'll find out!" I said. My fingers trembling with excitement, I searched through the insect field guide until I found a drawing that exactly matched the specimen. From its long, curved pincers to the tip of its silvery, black-spotted wings, it measured four inches.

"It's a dobsonfly!" I cried in triumph, showing my father the picture in the insect book.

"A dobsonfly, is it?" said my father, looking at the picture and shaking his head. "Never saw one of them before in my life."

"Well, if you hadn't suggested using the pole light to look for insects, I would probably never have seen one, either," I told him.

A thought struck me. "What is it about the light that makes insects come around?" I asked my dad.

"I really don't know," he said thoughtfully, "but it doesn't get them anywhere—at least not anywhere good. The light doesn't do anything for them except make them visible to their enemies."

"Have you ever heard the saying, 'The moth is attracted to the flame and is burned'?" asked my dad.

I shook my head.

"Well, that's what happens," Dad continued. "For some reason, insects are fascinated by the light of a candle or a lamp. They come closer and closer. At last, they touch the flame and are destroyed."

My father was silent for a few moments, and then he said, "It's like that with some people. Their curiosity drives them to mess around with things they have been told are bad for them. In the end, they are destroyed by those very things that tempted them."

I looked at the enormous dobsonfly I had caught in my net. He may have been fierce and strong, but he was lured by the light, straight into my trap. Now he lay lifeless before me.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 6:23, which says, "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life." It is always safe to follow the light of God's commandments. God's light will never lead us into destruction. However, we must always be on the lookout for the glittering temptations that would lure us into evil. We must ask God to help us stay away from things He has told us not to do, no matter how inviting they may appear. They will only lead us into trouble.

### Activity

Jesus once gave His disciples a "model" prayer to teach them how they should talk to our Father in heaven. You will find the prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Which part of the prayer asks God to help us when we are tempted to follow the wrong path?

### Answers to Last Month's Activity

1. "Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor" (Zechariah 8:16).
2. "A faithful witness will not lie" (Proverbs 14:5).
3. "He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness" (Proverbs 12:17). †

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Greetings!

This month's article is an excerpt taken from the book, "Food For Lambs," written by the late Charles E. Orr. May you find encouragement, and be challenged by his thoughts on diligence.

Blessings,  
Bro. Doug

## DILIGENCE

"O for a closer walk with God!" This is the inward pleading of many a precious blood-washed soul. I beg leave to tell you that that fullness of God, that deep and perfect satisfaction of soul, that sweet feeling of deep reverence, that hushed and sacred feeling of awe, that close walk with God, is *obtained* and *retained* only by the *utmost* diligence. Slothfulness in the Christian life is a sure source of degeneration. Too frequently when saints reach "fair Canaan's happy land" they think they have nothing now to do but to sing and shout and praise God and go to heaven "on flowery beds of ease." To every newly arrived Christian in Canaan is given the command, "Go forward and possess the land." To do this, battles must be fought, giant foes must be defeated, and the greatest diligence must be practiced. God promised ancient Israel to drive out all the nations of Canaan from before them, and that every place whereon the soles of their feet should tread should be theirs, if they would diligently keep all the commandments that the Lord commanded them, to love the Lord, to walk in His ways, and to cleave unto Him. See Deuteronomy 11:22-24.

If we will diligently obey God and go forward at His command He will lead us where the milk and honey flow, and where the pastures are green. Our walk with Him will be sweet and our souls perfectly satisfied. Since the term *diligence* is so frequently used in Scripture and such emphasis placed upon it, it is well worth our time to learn its meaning. We often, among the saints, hear testimonies like these: "I am living up to all the Word of God"; or, "All the Bible requires of me, I am doing"; "I love God and find delight in doing all His will," etc. Such expressions are very full of meaning and may sometimes mean more than the witness comprehends. Let me ask you, Are you as diligent in every respect as the Bible commands you to be?

Diligence implies an earnest and constant effort to accomplish a desired end—a carefulness, a heedfulness, an industry, a close and fixed attention.

Many a heart has been robbed of the love of God because it was not kept by diligence. Many a beloved saint can look back to a few years ago when his soul was more fully satisfied and his heart abounded more in the love of God, and all because diligence was not given to "keep the heart." In Joshua 22:5 the commandment is to take diligent heed to love God, to walk in His ways, to keep His commandments, to cleave unto Him, and to serve Him with all the heart and with all the soul. May the Lord help the reader to comprehend

the strength of this commandment. O how precious! To take diligent heed to love God, implies a careful avoidance of everything that would have a tendency to suppress His love in our hearts and to eagerly seek all possible means of increasing that love. All company whose spirit and conversation have a tendency to destroy love is avoided as far as possible without violating the command, "Be courteous." Reading amusing stories; telling amusing, worldly incidents, the happenings of bygone days; fondness for the general news of the day; gossiping; admiration for the pomp and show of the world; careless, idle thoughts; fondness for society—all serve to extinguish the love of God in our hearts. Talking with others about God and His works, reading His Word, meditating upon Him, praying, attending meetings, doing good to all men, giving of our means to advance His cause—all these increase the love in our hearts toward Him. To be diligent, to serve the Lord with all the heart and with all the soul, is to be industrious in doing all we can for Him; seeking opportunities of doing good, carefulness in obeying all His commands, testifying to the works of God, and showing forth His praises continually.

Your soul may long for a closer walk with God, and well that it does; but if you do not keep your heart with all diligence from the world, you will never enjoy the blessed experience. But by giving diligence you can have such a walk with God as to fully satisfy your soul. †

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## OVERCOMING OVERWHELMING SECULAR DEMANDS

*Radio Message by Bro. James Arch*

**I** AM GOING to speak today on "Overcoming Overwhelming Secular Demands." In other words, doing everything possible to enhance the spiritual life.

I am going to read a passage of scripture taken from Psalm 42, verses 1 and 2—"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" Also, Romans, chapter 8, verse 5—"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."

I'm very thankful today for the mercy of God and the love that He bestows upon us all the time. I'm so thankful for His keeping grace and power that has enabled me to stand the test of time since I've been serving Him. I'm still willing to go for God. I thank Him for the wonderful peace that He has brought into my own heart that I can witness and tell others about His great love.

As Christians, we must always remember that we are on a journey. The Christian life is a journey and the natural life is a journey as well. Sometimes on this journey, the Christian life attracts criticism and ridicule





and all the persecution that goes along with it. That has been common down through the ages and it is still pretty prevalent in the world today.

The Christian life also attracts temptation. If you're not strong and courageous, you might succumb to the tempter. It is a journey that demands our very strict attention or diligence to the very fullest. That's why the Bible tells us to be sober and vigilant. The Bible is very clear and straightforward. It is a wonderful Guideline. If we'll follow it, we will never go wrong.

The Christian journey is one that will, at times, require some reproach. We will have to defend ourselves. We can't live a Christian life without bearing some reproach for Christ. That's a part of it. We're not alone on the road though, for the Bible tells us, "I am with thee." Who else really matters if we know that God is with us? The Bible also tells us, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Those are some strong words, and we need to stand on those words. Jesus said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

We find in the book of Romans where the flesh is continually at war with the Spirit. One of these will win out. There are two powers (forces) in the world. "They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit" (Romans 8:5). Jesus Himself said, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." This requires some renewed determination each day. Every day is a part of the journey. We're traveling along this beautiful way and going with the Lord. There are people who say, "Come what may, I mean to be true." Well, sometimes that "come what may" comes. That's when we have to prove true and loyal to God and stand the tests and storms of life.

*Got any rivers you think are uncrossable?  
Got any mountains you can't tunnel through?  
God specializes in things thought impossible,  
He does the things others cannot do.*

The same God on the mountain is the same God in the valley. Sometimes when we get down in the valley, it makes us better Christians. We learned some lessons that we, perhaps, needed to learn. Sometimes we need to pause and look at our own lives. We need to take stock and see where we are, slow down, and give God a little bit of our lives. The Psalmist said, "Be still, and know that I am God."

The scripture that I read earlier in Psalm 42 refers to the hart that panteth after the water brooks. A *hart* is a male deer. They were plentiful when this Psalm was written. A part of the daily meal at Solomon's table was the deer. They weigh as much as 300 pounds and they have a six-pronged antler. Their habitat differs from other animals for they require more water, so they stay very close to the stream. No wonder the old blind hymn writer, Fanny Crosby, wrote the hymn, "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross." She went to write a hymn but couldn't at the time. Then she remembered she hadn't prayed and stayed close enough to the cross, so she got down on her knees and prayed, and as fast as the words could come, they came to her heart and she

wrote them down: "Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain; Free to all, a healing stream, Flows from Calv'ry's mountain." It taught her a lesson that we can't do anything for the Lord without keeping in contact with Him, keeping close to Him, and keeping on our knees. Although prayer meeting is not the most popular service today, it's a meeting that people should attend. Let me tell you, if you have any depth of spirituality, you would want to be in prayer meeting.

The hart (deer) feels the need of water. When you're thirsty, you're going to look for water. The hart begins to search for the stream. They look around until they find the water. You see, the wear and tear of life cause the soul to sometimes be drained and it gets thirsty. We need the stream to pacify our spiritual thirst. The Psalmist said in Psalm 46, "Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early."

I said I would speak on "Overcoming Overwhelming Secular Demands." Life has become very demanding—in today's world—in today's lifestyle. It's not like it was 100 years ago, or even 50 years ago. We're living in a real, real world. We have to keep our spiritual appetites up, for Jesus Himself said in the fifth chapter of Matthew, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." We get what we look for and what we go after. If we want the Lord, we can go after the Lord. We'll find Him and find what He has for us. Thank God, we can keep our appetites up. All kinds of things can replace the reading and studying of God's Word. Everything is so demanding today: phone calls, e-mails, the use of cell phones, etc. Everything seems to keep everybody so attracted and moving today. We need to take a little time and do what the Psalmist said—"Be still, and know that I am God."

We must see our spiritual survival as the most important thing in life. Who wants to start out with God and drop out along the way? It doesn't make much sense to fall away from God and miss the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Thank God the spiritual side of us will reach out for communion with God. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." Nothing else can satisfy the soul of a man than that which is spiritual. Another Psalm says, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. ... He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

The spiritual side of us will desire some time for worship. There is a scripture in the eighty-fourth Psalm that is used most of the time for dedicating church buildings. "How amiable [pleasant] are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." It's wonderful to be able to go to the house of the Lord, where there's peace and quiet

and worship the God of heaven and earth. Another Psalm says, "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple."

The spiritual side of us will seek to know as much as possible about the God that we serve. Explore this hidden life in Christ. It's a wonderful life! It's very interesting. The Bible is interesting. The gospel is interesting. Salvation is interesting. It's something to think about. It's a mystery. The Bible tells us that the new birth is a mystery. Paul said the gospel was a mystery as well. Psalm 27:11 says, "Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path."

*In shady, green pastures, so rich and so sweet,  
God leads His dear children along;  
Where the water's cool flow bathes the weary one's feet,  
God leads His dear children along.*

*Some through the waters, some through the flood,  
Some through the fire, but all through the blood;  
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,  
In the night season and all the day long.*

If we would like the Lord to lead us, we have to stay close to Him.

The spiritual side of us will be edified by spiritual songs, too. Paul said in Ephesians 5:19, 20, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." The preceding verses say, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." So whatever we can do to enhance our spiritual well-being, it's very wise indeed, for it wouldn't make much sense to live a life for the Lord for 10, 15, 20, 30, and 40 years, and then fall away and miss reaching the goal.

There is a goal to reach, My Beloved Friends, a goal that is set. The final resting place will be heaven. Heaven is a place filled with glory and with grace. What a place that will be! There will be no more problems, no more pollution, sin and evil. Could God do any more for us than He has done? Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2, 3).

I trust you have found some encouragement from my thoughts and that you will hold on to Christ. Don't refrain and hold back, but allow the light to shine through you. Let Christ witness through you. It's our desire to see the church grow. It takes two types of growth: inward and outward. If you want to see outward growth in the congregation, you have to have spiritual growth in yourself. I thank God for the reality of salvation and for living for the Lord. In this very demanding time, we can still set aside a little time and live a victorious Christian life for the Lord. †

# TRUE FORGIVENESS VS. A RELIGIOUS PRACTICE

By Richard Lehman

**S**O FUNDAMENTAL to the Christian life is forgiveness, that when Jesus was asked about how to pray, He included it as the fundamental principle that must exist for any spiritual communication to even be heard between God and the individual. "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."—Matthew 6:9-15. This is why Jesus in another place plainly states: "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."—Matthew 5:7.

True forgiveness produces a true change in the individual. One primary reason why: because the individual has come to deeply realize that he is blood-guilty before almighty God and that his only hope is that the same One he is guilty before, will have extraordinary mercy upon him. "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."—Psalm 51:1-3, 7.

As is shown in the scripture above, the stain of their sins is not something that can be removed by their works, nor by any procedure or religious practice. Therefore, later in the same Psalm, he plainly states: "For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."—Psalm 51:16, 17. Only the same almighty God that they have deeply offended can cleanse them and make them clean. This is why he throws himself upon the mercy of God and states: "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."

When God washes away your sins, the reality of this mercy received, causes the individual to not only change spiritually, but also in the way he thinks and acts. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we



are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."—II Corinthians 5:17-20.

So transformational is this forgiveness of the soul, that the individual now becomes a representative messenger for the One that forgave him. He becomes an ambassador for Jesus Christ, and the power of His love that works through the kingdom of God. But Satan has created his religious form to counteract this power of forgiveness. And that religious form broadly is described as "paganism." Many years before Jesus came down to Earth, paganism had already deceitfully changed the notion of forgiveness into a religious practice. It teaches that man constantly goes back to sin of some kind; and so he constantly comes back and asks for forgiveness over and over again. Consequently, man never obtains complete victory over sin. So forgiveness becomes a religious practice: a special license or privilege to continue in sin. You believe that your religious practice cleanses you of your sin, over and over again. Furthermore, paganism set up special people for man to confess his sins to. And through that knowledge of his sins, these people would leverage the shame of that knowledge to manipulate and control.

The Catholic Church incorporated these same paganistic practices into their belief-control religious system. They misused scripture to justify the Roman Catholic hierarchy, teaching the same sin and confessional practices.

Later on, Protestant churches would start to do the same thing, but in different ways. They would teach—sin you will, and sin you must. Therefore, Jesus is like a forgiveness trash can for sin. You can daily dump your sins on Him by asking for forgiveness daily, but you never will be completely changed in your heart. Therefore, spiritually you are transformed into a messenger for Satan's paganistic message: sin you will, and sin you must. Just continue to ask for forgiveness over and over again as a religious practice. A practice that becomes hardened and indifferent to the severity of the personal sacrifice Jesus suffered to not only pay for your forgiveness, but also to deliver you completely from all sin!

Allowing forgiveness to become a religious practice can harden anyone. Let us look in the scriptures at what happened to a man named Saul, who later would be more commonly known as Paul. Saul became very hardened and indifferent towards God, even though he sought forgiveness from God regularly, as a religious practice that was specified in the law. So through what we read about Saul we learn that before we can be forgiven from the throne of God, we must be fearfully awakened to our sinful condition before God's presence. God Himself, through His Holy Spirit, must have convicted us of our desperate sinful condition!

When Saul was persecuting the church, he had absolutely no conscience that what he was doing was wrong. A religious practice of seeking regular forgiveness had caused him to become so hardened that he could not recognize the Spirit of God pricking at his conscience. Later on, Jesus told Saul that what he was doing was "kicking against the pricks."

Saul conspired with the Jews that persecuted and martyred Stephen. And all the Jews were pricked by

the witness of God through Stephen. "And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel."—Acts 6:15.

This witness of God through Stephen was so tormenting to them that they lost all sense of proper and fair judgment. So they ran with a frenzy upon Stephen. "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."—Acts 7:55-60.

So Saul continued in his hardened heart and sought further to persecute all the church. If forgiveness is nothing more than a religious practice, then when we are troubled by the full gospel, we also will fight the truth and we also will despise and persecute those who live the truth of the full gospel. "And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."—Acts 8:2, 3.

None of the cries of the Christians, nor the martyrdom of saints, like Stephen, were breaking through to Saul's conscience. How could Saul become this way? He was raised around the Scriptures and could expound upon them. The reason why is because of the deceitfulness of sin. "For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me."—Romans 7:11.

The law highly recognized the need for forgiveness and it had a method for forgiveness. But the law went no deeper than that. It created an inconvenience for sin. A recognition of the seriousness of sin. But the law did not create the ability for the heart to receive the full power of forgiveness. That power only became possible through Jesus Christ! "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."—Romans 7:7.

Because modern-day Christianity has made forgiveness a religious practice, it takes a strong shaking message to awaken people to their need for true forgiveness. Saul also had to be seriously shaken. He needed to be awakened to his need for Christ to forgive him and deliver him. "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou,

Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? ...”—Acts 9:1-6.

When we truly comprehend how our sin is directly against almighty God, it will cause us also to greatly fear! Saul suddenly realized that God's own Son had died for his sins and that he now had been boldly sinning against God himself! Saul was terrified! "And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink."—Acts 9:6-9.

When Saul eventually realized the witness of forgiveness for his sin, he did not treat being forgiven lightly! And when any of us truly comprehend the seriousness of sin, and then find forgiveness straight from God's throne, we also will be very serious, and not treat it lightly. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter."—II Corinthians 7:10, 11.

Saul did not fully realize that he was covering his own sin by a religious practice until the Lord awakened him spiritually. But there have been others who served the Lord, who later fell into sin and chose to cover it up. When this happens, it takes a true man of God, led by the Holy Ghost, to pull the covers off and to awaken the hypocrite to their awful spiritual condition.

This severity of gospel judgment is necessary, because it is very difficult to spiritually awaken a hypocrite, especially one who has accepted forgiveness as just a religious practice. If David was not corrected, others would be inclined to follow his horrible example. But trying to awaken someone out of hypocrisy, or trying to restore someone who has fallen into sin, is a ministerial work that takes spiritual maturity. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."—Galatians 6:1.

Now, not only does God forgive, but God expects us to also forgive others, even if that other person does not acknowledge the wrong that he has done. The ability for us to forgive another is actually the greatest power that God has ever granted to mankind! Only God can forgive sins against Him, but He has granted to us the ability to forgive someone who has personally wronged us. And if we are not willing to forgive another, our Lord has plainly told us that He will not forgive us. "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until

seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."—Matthew 18:21, 22.

Then Jesus went on to tell a parable to clearly emphasize God's expectation that we always forgive. "Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."—Matthew 18:23-35.

Just as the servants in this parable were grieved when their fellowservant was not willing to forgive another, the Holy Spirit will be greatly grieved when forgiveness is not practiced among those claiming to be His people. "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."—Ephesians 4:30-32.

So does God's forgiveness remove accountability for our sins in this life? "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."—Galatians 6:7. Even though the Lord forgives you, it doesn't mean that you won't have to pay a price for your sins in this life. If you have committed a crime, and they have arrested you and placed you in jail, you can pray to God to change your heart and forgive you of your sins. But that does not remove your jail sentence. God is a God of justice and mercy. Often we must suffer the justice of righteous judgment in this life to deeply learn our lesson. In addition, other people need to see that God is a righteous Judge in this life. This is so that they will fear and not do the same sins that others are doing.

Ultimately, God holds us all accountable for our actions. In other words, we are held responsible to operate with integrity relating to the change that God has done in us. And others have a right to hold us accountable for our past actions and to see over time that we have really changed. They will not be able to necessarily trust us right away. We must earn their trust, especially if we have wronged them. Forgiveness and trust are two different things. Just because someone has forgiven you, doesn't mean he has to trust you.



You need to earn trust by a consistent behavior that shows that you have really changed for good and that you are not treating forgiveness as just another religious practice.

Finally, forgiveness is one of the principle doctrines of the church. And as such, we must continue to forgive others for the rest of our lives. Being willing to forgive others will create an attitude of true love and longsuffering with one another in the church. This is critical for our success and unity among those who believe the full gospel. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."—Colossians 3:12-14. †

## THE POETRY PAGE

### JESUS IS THERE

Mrs. E. E. Byrum

Never a dark night so dreary,  
But Christ thy Redeemer is there,  
Never a burden so heavy,  
But Jesus thy Savior will share.

Never a whirlwind of sorrow  
That grows to a hurricane strength,  
Never a rampage of waters,  
But Jesus will help thee at length.

Never Gethsemane's suff'rings  
But angels will come to thy aid,  
Jesus will succor, will help thee,  
When thou art lone and afraid.

Deep in the dark, dreaded silence  
When draped in the myst'ries of night,  
God giveth strength for thy weakness,  
His Word as thy shield and thy light.

### GATHERING SHADOWS

Julia Ann Janney

Shadows gather 'round us,  
The night is coming fast;  
Let us work for Jesus,  
Ere light of day is past.  
The moaning of the lost  
Must fill us with dismay;  
Help us, Lord, give us strength  
To work while yet there's day.  
Darkness gathers swiftly,  
But, Christian, never fear;  
We'll meet Him in the morning  
Where shadows disappear.

## THE CHIMES OF HEAVEN

W. O. Moon

Hear the chimes of heaven ringing  
Far across its vast domain,  
Praising Him to all the ages  
Who shall never cease to reign.

Hear the blessed, holy angels  
Strike their harps of purest gold,  
As they praise our great Redeemer  
And His love to man untold.

Wafted on the vernal breezes  
To the chambers of my soul  
Are those strains of sweetest music  
Heard by saints in days of old.

I shall go and join their number  
When my work on Earth is done,  
There to sing His praise forever  
In the land of fadeless sun.

### BE NOT WEARY

Frances Ridley Havergal

Yes! He knows the way is dreary,  
Knows the weakness of our frame,  
Knows that hand and heart are weary;  
He "in all points" felt the same.  
He is near to help and bless;  
Be not weary, onward press.

Look to Him who once was willing  
All His glory to resign,  
That, for thee the law fulfilling,  
All His merit might be thine.  
Strive to follow day by day  
Where His footsteps mark the way.

Look to Him, the Lord of glory,  
Tasting death to win thy life;  
Gazing on "that wondrous story,"  
Canst thou falter in the strife?  
Is it not new life to know  
That the Lord hath loved thee so?

Look to Him who ever liveth,  
Interceding for His own;  
Seek, yea, claim the grace He giveth  
Freely from His priestly throne.  
Will He not thy strength renew  
With His Spirit's quickening dew?

Look to Him, and faith shall brighten,  
Hope shall soar, and love shall burn;  
Peace once more thy heart shall lighten;  
Rise! He calleth thee, return!  
Be not weary on thy way;  
Jesus is thy strength and stay. †

**Church of God (Universal), Inc.**  
**The Way of Truth**  
**P. O. Box 88**  
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## **RADIO LOG**

### **The Way of Truth Broadcast**

**Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister**

(Aired on Sundays unless otherwise noted.)

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

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

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

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

**North Carolina**, Mooresville, WHIP 1350-AM, 99.3-FM, 6:00 A.M.

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

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

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

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

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

**Virginia**, Christiansburg, WKEX-FM 105.9, 8:00 A.M.

**Virginia**, Roanoke, WKBA 1550

Fri. 1:30 P.M., Sat. 12:30 & 4:30 A.M.; 5:30 P.M.

Sun. 12:30, 2:00, 6:00, 11:00 A.M.; 5:30 P.M.

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

### **SHORTWAVE**

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

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## **2021 INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION**

**12819 Point Salem Rd.**

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**June 29-July 4, 2021, Lord willing**

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