

The Way of Truth

Vol. 79

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

No. 9

PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD

Message begins on page 12

OCTOBER 2021

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

JESUS said in John 14:1-3, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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.” A tall order in 2020 and 2021! Surely those words were meant for other generations in ancient times. The Master’s admonition could not be applicable for our present circumstances, could it? What with the troubles of today? Fires in California; floods across the midwest; multiple hurricanes rampaging the south; COVID-19 everywhere. In the midst of all this, Jesus says, “Let not your heart be troubled.” Those words are just as powerful as ever! What we need to realize is that we can live in times of trouble without our hearts being troubled!

Job declared in 5:7, “Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.” He backs that statement up in Job 14:1, “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.” This has always been the case. It is the human experience.

There are various things that trouble man as he journeys through life. The civil unrest of recent times is troubling to our national conscience. Again, Job speaks out: “As for me, is my complaint to man? and if it were so, why should not my spirit be troubled?” (Job 21:4).

There are the cares of life that wear on many a person. Just like Martha in the Bible who pled with the Master to command Mary to help her with the temporal burdens she was bearing.

“And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41, 42).

Broken relationships bring trouble to the family of man. There are any number of things that can produce this trouble and cause breaks within the family, the society, and even the church. When Christ was betrayed He was troubled. “When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me” (John 13:21).

Any bitterness can cause trouble. Hebrews 12:15, “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.” Trouble, trouble, trouble! Broken relationships can cause trouble and result in bitterness, which in turn accelerates trouble.

Other things that can cause a troubled heart are things we don’t understand. The disciples were troubled in Mark 6:50 when they saw Jesus walking upon the sea, “For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.”

When a person faces his sins, he is troubled—and he should be! Remember when Belshazzar saw the handwriting on the wall? “Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished” (Daniel 5:9).

The death of a loved one even caused the Lord to be troubled in spirit. “When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled” (John 11:33).

So there are many circumstances in life that have the potential of causing trouble and distress. But Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.” There is a remedy for those who are troubled. In II Thessalonians 1:7 we read, “And to you who are troubled rest with us ...” Rest with us. Rest is good! “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God” (Hebrews 4:9).

The first step in obtaining rest in this troubled world is coming to Christ and finding mercy. “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Salvation brings peace to the troubled soul. As Psalm 37:39 declares, “But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble.” Salvation brings deliverance to the troubled individual. As the apostle Paul testified concerning his lost condition before conversion in Romans 7:23-25, “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Then in Romans 8:1, he pens, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

The demoniac in Mark 5 was troubled to no end until he came to Jesus and was delivered. Then he found rest and was clothed and in his right mind.

Peace and rest replace turmoil when Jesus comes in to stay. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27).

Salvation doesn’t stop all trouble from pressing against you but supplies grace to overcome. “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed” (II Corinthians 4:7-9).

We, as Christians, have the Lord as our help in these troubling times! What a

ABOUT THE COVER

Time is quickly passing. The years go flying by. The one question we all must answer is “Am I ready to meet my Creator?” From time to time we are reminded of this and we must prepare to meet God. This is one of those times, as Bro. Terry Deville presents so effectively in his message beginning on page 12.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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

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works were finished from the foundation of the world” (Hebrews 4:3). “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it” (I Thessalonians 5:24).

Through peace of mind—“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” (Isaiah 26:3).

So let us hold fast to our Lord as the future unfolds, and let the world see that we can have peace in these troubled times because we believe in Christ.

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). †

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

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

difference He makes as we look to Him in the midst of a pandemic, a natural disaster, political upheaval, and spiritual decline.

“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock” (Psalm 27:5).

“Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday” (Psalm 91:5, 6).

How is this peace and rest administered?

Through comfort—“For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears. Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus” (II Corinthians 7:5, 6). He is the God of all comfort, according to II Corinthians 1:3, 4, “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

Through His presence—“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5).

Through prayer by casting all your cares on Him—“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (I Peter 5:7).

Through His promises—“For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the

IN THIS ISSUE:

The Poetry Page	Page 2
<i>Bible truth through rhyme</i>	
Are We Still Preaching the Gospel?	Page 3
<i>Full-length sermon by John Romero</i>	
How Wells Go Dry	Page 7
<i>Radio message by the late A. A. Craig</i>	
Shadows of Good Things	Page 9
<i>We begin the book by the late R. R. Byrum</i>	
Young People’s Page	Page 11
<i>“A Holy Life,” by Tom Harris</i>	
Prepare to Meet Thy God	Page 12
<i>Full-length sermon by Terry Deville</i>	
Bible Lesson of the Month	Page 15
<i>“Accomplishing Life’s Purpose”</i>	
The Question Box	Page 17
<i>Our monthly feature</i>	
The Children’s Corner	Page 18
<i>“Driving,” by Rebecca Bland</i>	
The Church is the Spiritual House for God’s Dwelling Place ...	Page 19
<i>Article by Richard Lehman</i>	
My Thoughts	Page 20
<i>By Darrell Sanford</i>	

THE POETRY PAGE

HE KNOWS

E. Margaret Clarkson

He knows it all—the winding path,
The sky o'ercast and gray,
The steepness of the mountainside,
The roughness of the way.

He knows it all—the haunting fear,
The doubtings that distress,
The wond'rings and perplexities,
And all the strain and stress.

He knows it all—each troubled thought,
Each anxious wave of care,
And every burden, every grief,
Or cross that thou dost bear.

He knows it all—thy weight of woe,
Thine often tear-dimmed eye,
The stabbing pain, the slow, dull ache,
And sorrow's broken cry.

He knows it all—but His to choose,
And thine to take His choice!
He knows it all! He planned it so!
Then trust Him, and rejoice!

HAVE YOU TAKEN IT TO JESUS?

Mrs. E. L. Hennessey

Have you taken it to Jesus?
Have you left your burdens there?
Does He tenderly support you?
Have you rolled on Him your care?
Oh, the sweet unfailing refuge
Of the everlasting arms;
In their loving clasp enfolded
Nothing worries or alarms.

Have you taken it to Jesus,
Just the thing that's pressing now?
Are you trusting Him completely
With the when, and where and how?
Oh, the joy of full surrender
Of our life, our plans, our all;
Proving, far above our asking
That God answers when we call.

Have you taken it to Jesus?
'Tis the only place to go
If you want the burden lifted
And a solace for your woe.
Oh, the blessedness to nestle
Like a child upon His breast;
Finding ever, as He promised
Perfect comfort, peace and rest.

SAFE HAVEN

Minnie Boyd Popish

Here is a thought to cherish close
The day that's past is gone,
And who's to say with certainty
Another day will dawn?
Since all we know for sure is now,
It's all we sure must face,
And for a life made up of now,
We never lack God's grace.
And even those who do not know,
God holds now in His palm,
Will find that facing only now
Will give them greater calm.

THE WEAVER

Grant Colfax Tullar

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me,
I cannot choose the colors
He worketh steadily.

Ofttimes He weaveth sorrow,
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I, the underside.

Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned. †

IS THE LORD HAVING HIS
WAY IN YOUR HEART AND
LIFE?

ARE WE STILL PREACHING THE GOSPEL?

2021 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. John Romero



WE WILL turn to Galatians, chapter 1, verses 1-12: “Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Paul, the great apostle, preached the Gospel and raised up many congregations of the early church. He had been all through Galatia and preached the Word of God. He helped people to get saved. In verse four of our text, he talked about Christ, “who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” So Paul had gone around and preached the Word of God. He saw what the Word of God was doing for people. He saw people getting delivered and being saved. They were coming out of paganism and false worship and all the different things that had been happening for the good of the kingdom of God. Paul also realized that it didn’t take long for the enemy to try to counteract the work of God and come against the things God was doing. God does a good work and the devil comes right behind Him and wants to counteract it. He wants to destroy it.

Paul was talking to the Galatian churches. He gave to us a nice introduction in talking to the brethren. Paul had a way of just getting to the point. He wanted to address some things. He says in verses 6 and 7 of Galatians 1, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.” And he says in verse 8, “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” Then he goes on to say in verse 9, “As we

said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

There is no doubt that Paul was very concerned about what was happening in Galatia. He was concerned about the outside influences, the things that were coming in that would affect and try to change the good work that the Lord had started through him. So he used words like “there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel.” Paul realized that there was a work going on that was undermining the good work that the Lord had done through him. He spoke about another gospel. There was something that was influencing the churches in Galatia right in the beginning. It didn’t take long. It didn’t take 100 years. Right away the enemy came and began to use certain men to influence the churches in Galatia. All of us know that there have always been false prophets. From the very beginning, the Lord warned us of such.

To get us on a good foundation, Matthew 24:4 tells us, “And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.” Be careful. Keep your ears and eyes open. Pay attention. Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.” Many shall come in Christ’s name, saying, “I am a Christian. I am a Christian preacher and I have a message.” Christ said the end result was that because people did not take heed or pay attention and would allow someone to come in the name of Christ, they would be deceived. Matthew 24:11, “And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.” So we know from the beginning that the message of Christ has been perverted and changed and deleted and added on to.

Paul was dealing with many false gospels and messages. Many had come against the church. We can read in the Scriptures of many places where Paul has talked about this. Different apostles have talked about false brethren, false teachers, and doctrines. Before Paul left Ephesus, he called the church and said, “Listen, feed the church because men are going to rise up from within and without and will try to destroy the good work that God has started.”

In Galatians, as I’ve read to you, we find a people who were established or beginning to be established in the Gospel, but were already influenced and removed unto another gospel. So these things are in the Word of God for us, lest we get at ease in Zion, lest we stop paying attention, lest we stop watching and praying, lest we stop being careful about the working of the enemy. We can sit comfortably in a convention, and if we’re not careful the enemy can pluck us right out of it, because we’re not taking heed to the things of God.

The fellowship is good. The friendship and the love are good, but the enemy is going to try to work. We need to make sure that we take good heed to the things that God wants to say to us in His Word.

What was the "other gospel" that Paul was warning the Galatian churches about? Let us look at Galatians 5. We want to lay some groundwork here just to show us that what happened in Galatia can happen anywhere. The enemy was effective in the Galatian churches. He has been in a greater way all through the time and ages of the Gospel. He was able to bring forth another gospel, a false gospel, a gospel other than the Gospel that came from God. Galatians 5:1-5: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith."

It was a fact that in the early church many of the Jewish converts could not let go of this thing of being circumcised. They went around to many places and told the Gentile Christians, "Listen, you can't be saved unless you're circumcised." They went everywhere and caused such a negative effect in the church that they had to have a ministers' meeting to deal with it. They had to straighten it out and make sure that they did not let this doctrine, this teaching that many of the Jews were trying to teach, to be brought back into the church. That was another gospel. That was something that was being put on the people of God beyond the teachings of the Word of God. Anything that is put on the people beyond the Word of God and the commandments of the Gospel is another gospel. I hope you'll get what I'm trying to say to you this morning. When men put things on the people of God other than the Word of God, more than the Word of God, they are personal rules and regulations and standards. That's another gospel. That is not what God wants us to do as the ministry of God and as the people of God. That was another gospel being put on the people.

Paul said to the Jews, "Listen, if you let yourselves be circumcised, you're a debtor to do the whole law. You might as well go back and live under the whole law." He said something very strong here. He said, "If you let this get into your life, if you let yourself fall into this, you're going to lose your liberty." There is liberty in salvation. There is liberty in living for God. There is liberty in obeying the commandments of Christ. There is liberty in serving God the Bible way. Paul said, "Don't be entangled again with the yoke of bondage." He also said, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." I know there are a lot of people who preach this other gospel that says, "Once you're in grace, you're always in grace." Well, Paul said, "Listen, if you go back to obeying the law and to letting yourself be circumcised, and observing days, such as the Sabbath, you're fallen from grace. You're not living by grace. You're living by outward works." That is another gospel, the gospel that

told them they could not truly be saved unless they were circumcised. It's not the Gospel that saved us and kept us and brought grace into lives.

Our thoughts this morning are entitled, "Are We Still Preaching the Gospel?" There is only one ordained message sent by God to this world. God only called His preachers to preach one thing and that is the Gospel. There is only one ordained message sent by God to save the world, to keep us, and that is the Gospel. There is only one Gospel. I know sometimes we are spoiled because we hear the Gospel, but we do not want to take the Gospel for granted. I believe God wants to challenge us a little bit this morning. Are we hearing the Gospel? Are we still preaching the Gospel?

Many are preaching, and they're preaching everywhere, are they not? They're preaching on every corner. They're preaching in every church and in thousands and thousands of other places. But I believe, and we know by experience and by inspecting the fruit, not everybody out there in the world is preaching the Gospel. A lot of people are preaching, but not everybody is preaching the Gospel. Paul said, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." There is only one Gospel.

As we consider the Word of God, it is a rich and an extensive deep source of study. The Bible is an amazing book. People who don't even know anything about God are all into the Bible. The Bible is full of an unending number of lessons, stories, sermons, doctrines, and poetry. We have the New Testament and the teachings of Christ. We have so many things in the Word of God. The Word of God is so rich and so deep, but not everyone that opens up the Bible is preaching the Gospel. There are a lot of things to say about the Word of God. I would say that there is no doubt in my mind that there are more pulpits being filled by people preaching things that they say is the Gospel that's not the true Gospel. The fruit bears record.

I have some titles of some sermons that were actually preached by some very well-known preachers. I'm not going to say their names. Here are some titles of what is being put out as the Gospel:

Miracles in Your Mouth

Something New Is Coming

A Fresh New Attitude

Stay Positive Towards Yourself

Can You Handle the Blessing?

You Are Enough

Something Good Is Going to Happen

Why Am I Miserable?

Don't Blow a Fuse

Those are being put out in the name of the Gospel to millions of people all across this world.

I'm going to read this other list. This is a partial list of sermon titles from the 1913 Anderson Camp meeting. Some of you are probably familiar with the book, *Camp-Meeting Sermons 1913*. This is what the Church of God preachers preached:

Pure Religion

How to Get Sanctified

The Spirit-Filled Life

Salvation

Evidences of Salvation

Divine Healing (I told the saints at home that we can't preach the Gospel and separate divine healing from it. All through the Gospel, they're tied together.)

God's Purpose to Save the World

God's Justice and Mercy

The True Standard

So you see, in the name of the Word of God, in the name of the Gospel, we can go from one end to the other end.

At times we need to look at ourselves and make sure that we are preaching the Gospel, the message of salvation—full and free—provided by the blood of Christ shed on the cross. The new birth, the kingdom of God, true holiness, and a hope of eternal life are all brought to us. They're not only brought to our ears and to our eyes, but brought right into our hearts, and also we must let it do the things in our lives that the Gospel is intended to do.

The preaching of the Word of God is the Gospel. We want to go over a couple of scriptures that talk about the Gospel. We can assure ourselves that we are indeed preaching the Gospel. In Romans 1:16, Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Paul recognized that God had given him something to give to the people that had power. There is no man in and of himself that has any power. No preacher has power of himself. He may think he does. He may think he has charisma and knowledge and all like that, but the only power that any man of God has is the power of the Gospel. "I haven't experienced the power." You have to believe first. You have to be a believer. You have to open your heart and say, "I believe; Lord, give me truth, give me the Gospel, and I will reach out for it and walk in it."

There is a power in the Gospel to save men. It is the power of God unto salvation. Thank God we're saved from sin. We are delivered from our old life. We've been delivered from the bondage and the power of that old life we used to live. In Colossians 13, it says that we have been delivered from the power of darkness. We had to be delivered. We couldn't get out of sin by ourselves. We needed something with power to get us out of the situation that we were in. Thank God for the power of the Gospel. It is the power of God unto salvation for those who believe.

Romans 1:17, 18, says, "For therein [in the Gospel] is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Thank God for the power of the Gospel.

The Gospel reveals to us some things. When we came and sat under the Gospel, we didn't know anything. We didn't know who we were, what we were, and what situation we were in. We didn't know that we were abiding under the wrath of God every day that we lived in sin. We didn't realize those things. Thank God for the Gospel! The Gospel enlightened us. The Gospel

revealed to us some things. The true Gospel will reveal two things to every soul. First of all, it will reveal the righteousness of God. When you come and hear the Gospel, you come to the realization that God is righteous and you need to be righteous, too. "I need to get right because I'm coming in the presence of a righteous God."

I think it was Isaiah who said, "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." Isaiah got a revelation. He saw the righteousness of God. What happened next? "Woe is me! for I am undone." Isaiah saw his own condition. The Gospel is a revelation of our condition before God. The Gospel reveals our need. It reveals who we are.

A church or a preacher can't make people be something they're not, but the Gospel can show them their condition. It can show them who they are. Listen, speaking of myself, I didn't feel so great about what the Gospel was showing me when I first came to the Word of God. I shook in my pew. God convicted my heart. That was just God showing me my condition. That was the Gospel. Thank God I came to the Church of God at 1863 Harmony Grove Road and a little lady got up and just preached the Gospel. She wasn't fancy. She didn't have a lot of different things to say. She just preached right from the Word of God and He honored that. God struck this twenty-one-year-old lost man and showed me my condition. That's the Gospel. The Gospel is the revelation of the righteousness of God. When you hear the Gospel, the Word of God will show you your condition.

The foundation of the Gospel is repentance. The foundational doctrine of the New Testament church is repentance. John the Baptist preached it. Jesus preached it. Jesus sent the twelve out and told them to preach it. He sent the seventy out and told them to preach it. Paul told all of those on Mars' Hill, "The times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to [do what? to join church? to turn over a new leaf? no!] repent." That means to turn away from sin with godly sorrow in your heart. True repentance will still change men's lives. It will bring them from the old life to the new life. Sometimes it's hard to get through to people, but I say this to them: if you've gone to any church and you've sat there for a year and never heard a message about repentance, you haven't heard the Gospel. There are millions of people joining church without repenting. They're told, "Sign a card, believe our creed, do this and do that." But I thank God for the Gospel and revealing to me my need.

There are a lot of scriptures that have the word *repent* in them. In Luke 13, Jesus asked, "Do you know of that tower in Siloam that fell on those men and slew them? Do you think that they were ungodly above all the ungodly?" He went on to say, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." All through the Word of God is the word *repentance*. The angels rejoiced in heaven. Why? Because a sinner repented. Are we still preaching the Gospel? Lord, help

us to remember what God wants us to preach and what He wants us to hear. That's the Gospel.

There are two parts to the revelation of the Gospel. The first part is the revelation of righteousness. The second part is the revelation of the wrath of God. These things are still in the Word of God. "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18). That's part of the Gospel; that's part of the Word of God.

Acts 24 talks about Felix having had Paul put in prison. Verses 23 and 24 say, "And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him. And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ." Felix had Paul locked away and so he said, "Well, I want to hear a couple things about the things of Christ." Felix didn't know what he was asking for, did he? There have been times when I said to myself, if I only get one chance, I'll make it count. Verse 25 says, "As [Paul] reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

Felix knew Paul was right. "I know I need to live a righteous life." When Paul got done with him, Felix trembled under the conviction of the Holy Spirit. He knew that was truth. Somewhere in there, the devil said to Felix, "Just tell him to go away and come back another day. After all, you can get saved some other time." Procrastination is the devil's best friend. I tell the saints back home that heaven is filled with people who did good and hell is filled with people who meant to do good. Paul preached the Gospel to Felix. That's all Paul knew how to preach. Everything out of Paul's mouth was the Gospel. Are we still preaching the Gospel?

I Corinthians 1:17, "For Christ sent me [Paul] not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect." Many of the best preachers that have ever preached the Gospel never had a college education. The original preachers of the Gospel were just poor fishermen. That's all they were. It's not about the wisdom of words. It's about the anointing of the Spirit. It's about having the message to give to the people.

Colossians 1:18, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." God used and still uses the foolishness of preaching, but it's not foolishness to us who are saved. It's foolishness to the world who have no time to consider the value of their soul. Thank God He helped us one time to sit down and hear the preaching of the Gospel. Paul specifically said here, "The preaching of the cross." We can never preach about the cross too much. Preach about the work of Christ and what He did on the cross for us, because "the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." Thank God we still love that old rugged cross. We love to sing about it. We love to talk about it. We love

to preach about it. Why? Because it was the spilt blood of Christ that saved us.

Let's look in Revelation 14. We're still talking about the Gospel. Are we preaching the Gospel? People are preaching everywhere, but we are not just anybody. We are the Church of God. We're called to preach the Gospel. Verse 6: "And I saw another angel [a messenger of God] fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." We now know from where the true ministry of God is supposed to get the message—heaven. The Gospel is the divine message of God. We need to make sure to keep it that way. God gave the everlasting Gospel to preach to who? You and me—to those of us who dwell on the earth. "Well, it's only for a certain segment of people." That's not what the Bible says. The Gospel is not just for white people. It's not just for black people or brown people. It's not just for a certain nation. The Gospel is for every soul, every person. Why? Because every soul has fallen into sin and need the Gospel. Christ sent His Son for the world because the world needed Him. The world needs the Gospel.

The angel came to earth and had the Gospel message. Revelation 14:7a, "Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him." Thank God for the Gospel. You see people today that claim to know God. God is their buddy, their friend, and He has been brought down to a certain level. Jesus is our friend, but we still fear God. The Gospel should instill a healthy fear of God in us. All the glory should go to God. There have been too many Church of God preachers patting each other's back as if they're something. We're nothing. All the glory for anything good needs to go to God. Give God the glory. Whatever happens in your life, be quick to give God the glory. Give God the glory that you're alive and you can breathe and think right. Just give God the glory.

There was a man in the Bible that gave a great oratory speech. So much so that God did not get the glory. His name was Herod. God struck him down. He said, "You're not giving me any glory." God might not strike us down, but we have to be careful we don't start withholding the credit to God that's due Him. Give God the glory. Revelation 14:7b, "For the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." I say that the true Gospel helps us and gives us the desire to put God in His rightful place. We are to respect Him and give Him the glory. We are to understand that there is a judgment to come. We need to live our lives accordingly.

As I mentioned before, the Gospel will bring men to true repentance. The Gospel will save and sanctify us. Ephesians 1:12, 13: "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise." After we believed it and it saved us, there was a second work of grace. There was a second cleansing. The reason that there was a second cleansing was because there was yet something for us to be cleansed of after God cleansed us from our committed sins. That's why there is the applying of blood, even in the work of

sanctification. The Word of God actually does teach it. I don't want to mess around with the work of the blood. The blood sanctifies us. There is a second cleansing. There are two works of grace.

We went to a Nazarene wedding in our area. We were out in the lobby and I was looking around and I saw some books. There was a Church of God book there on sanctification. It was published by the Gospel Press I think. It was a Nazarene book but it was the same as the one published. I picked it up and the pastor came and saw that I was looking at the book. I started to talk about it. He knew where I was headed. He cut me off and said, "Listen, we just call that *a second blessing* now." That's not the Gospel. That's not what was once taught. The Gospel is still the Gospel. It will still work in 2021.

There are some things that might be a little different about you and I in this modern world. This is a modern world. Sometimes reality hits us. We're in a strange, new world, but God still has a Gospel for the world. God still has the power to change men's lives. There is still a Gospel of full salvation. The Gospel will still save and sanctify men. It will save you. It will keep you. That's the Gospel. The Gospel doesn't just save people. If they receive the full Gospel, they can be sealed with the Holy Spirit and be kept. You can get saved and stay saved. I don't care if you're 80 or 8. You can get the experience. The world today needs the same thing the world has always needed—not new age this or that, but the Gospel.

There are many gospels that are promoted to be the Gospel but are not the Gospel. The fruit of it bears witness. There is an easy-believe-ism gospel. "All you have to do is just believe in Jesus and you're saved forever." No repentance, no changed lives, just believe in Jesus.

There is a prosperity gospel. "Give us your money and God will give you more in return." Basically, that's what it is. Believe in Christ and hold to the promises and He'll give you money, land, and riches because you're His children. Jesus said, "The poor have the Gospel preached to them." All kinds of things are going on in this old world.

There is a psychological gospel. It lets you feel good. "Let us calm your mind and your nerves." But the problem is not in the mind. The problem is in the heart. It never deals with getting people truly saved, but there's this comfort. There's this, "everything's going to be okay" that goes out there. "All your problems are just in your head. Just start believing in yourself and feel good about everything and we'll all be good." It's not that easy, is it? No. There is some heart work to be done. There is some digging in to do. There is some praying and getting some victory in our souls and getting some grace from God that helps us in every aspect in our lives.

There is a social gospel. "Let's just all get together and celebrate Jesus. We have the praise band going on. We have to roll and celebrate Jesus." That's one of the evidences of these false gospels. They don't sing about salvation and deliverance. They don't sing about being free from sin. They don't sing about those things, but thank God for what the true Gospel has done for us. Whatever happens, whatever direction things may go,

we need to still keep preaching the Gospel, hearing the Gospel, and obeying the Gospel.

Our last scripture is II Timothy 4:1-5: "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word ['Keep preaching the Gospel, Timothy.']; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." Paul was preparing Timothy for some things that were going to happen.


Do you know that there are some sharp edges to the Gospel? The man of God shouldn't be sharp in his spirit, but he has a sharp instrument called the Gospel. It's a two-edged sword. The Word needs to pierce, penetrate. The Word of God needs to do that. Paul said to Timothy, "Preach the Gospel because people are going to have itching ears. They're going to get tired and bored and they'll want to do something else. They'll want to change how things are to the extent of how you preach the Gospel."

Are we still preaching the Gospel? †

HOW WELLS GO DRY

Radio Message by the late Bro. Alvin Craig

(delivered 7/22/01)

 UR SUBJECT for today's broadcast is "How Wells Go Dry." We'll read as a text, Genesis 26:12-18: "Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him. And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him. For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth. And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we. And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there. And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them."

Now I don't want to take anything away from the man Isaac. He was an excellent man and a true servant of God, but I think I'm safe in saying that Isaac allowed the Philistines to do some things that Abraham would not have allowed. Isaac allowed the Philistines to fill those wells with earth and they told him to go somewhere else, so he went and found some other wells that his father's servants had dug but they had been filled up, too, by the Philistines. But I'm not thinking today particularly about literal wells.

When we speak about *how wells go dry*, we want to think about our spiritual wells and how they can go dry. Spiritual wells can go dry because they are neglected. Neglect is something that we have to be constantly on our guard against.

We read in the book of I Kings, chapter 20, verses 39 and 40: "And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king; and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver. And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be; thyself hast decided it."

We see from that passage that this man was given a charge. He was given the responsibility of watching after another man, but while he went here and there, doing this and that, the man walked away. He left him. This man who had the responsibility of guarding him and seeing that he stayed there until the king came back was the one that was held responsible.

So it is! We can get so busy about this and so busy about that, and we can go here and we can go there, and the first thing we know, our spiritual wells have gone dry. We need to put our priorities in the right place and we need to put the emphasis on the right things. We need to remember that Jesus Christ said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Another way that we can allow wells to go dry and become neglectful is by becoming prosperous. I know that does not apply to a lot of people in the world today because there is a lot of poverty in various parts of the world, but it's certainly true in America and many western countries where we are prosperous. God has blessed us with material things, but if we're not careful, we're going to neglect our spiritual wells and put too much emphasis on the prosperity of material things.

We read about a congregation in the book of Revelation, chapter 3, that was very well off materially. They said, "We are rich. We have need of nothing." But the Lord said to them, "You don't know it, but you're miserable, you're wretched, poor, blind, and naked." Christ was speaking about their spiritual state. They were talking about their material possessions: "We're rich. We don't need anything." But they did not realize that they had allowed their wells to go dry. Christ said, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich." So there are riches besides the riches of this material world. There are spiritual riches and we need to be careful that we do not allow our spiritual wells to run dry because of material prosperity. "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2). "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:20, 21). "Seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God" (Colossians 3:1).

It is all right to have a nice home, a nice car, and good clothes. There's nothing wrong with having those

things, but let's put the proper emphasis on the material and the proper emphasis on the spiritual. The spiritual is far more important than the material is.

King Saul was a successful king in the early days of his kingship and God blessed him and he won some outstanding battles, but because of his success, he became exalted and put confidence in himself rather than in God. He ended his life by committing suicide. So we need to be careful about material possessions. We need to be careful about success. I'm not telling you to be slothful or half-hearted or indifferent. "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men" (Proverbs 22:29). What I am saying is, do not allow your success to go to your head and become exalted and neglect your spiritual welfare or your spiritual realm.

We neglect our wells by leaving them. We go here and there. We have to do this and do that and keep up with the Joneses. "I have to get ahead in the material world. I have to become a boss or become a president. I have to get this and get that." Neglecting our spiritual wells.

We neglect our wells when we fail to use them. There are things we must do to keep our wells open and the waters fresh. We can allow our wells to run dry. We can allow them to fail by not using them. We need to make sure that we spend time in prayer, in the study of the Word, in meditating on the things of God, and in applying ourselves to spiritual things. Spiritual growth does not come by accident or by inactivity. We must be about our Father's business, as Jesus said at the age of twelve. So we need to seek first the kingdom of God. We need to put God and the things of God first in our lives. "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). Use those wells. Work at your salvation. Enjoy your salvation. Keep it up-to-date. Keep the water fresh.

Our wells are neglected when they are left unprotected. We must guard them. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). So our wells are neglected when we fail to guard and protect them. The enemy can come in and sow tares if we are not careful, watchful, and prayerful.

We may neglect the wells by failing to keep out false doctrines and heresies. False doctrines and heresies will lead us away from God and rob us of spirituality. Do not neglect your spiritual well and allow false doctrines and heresies to come in and replace the truth of the gospel. When we fail to learn doctrine, we can neglect our spiritual wells. Whenever we lose our spirituality or do not have a vision of God's true church, we can allow our wells to go dry. So we need to have a true vision of the gospel and a true understanding of the Word of God. Then having a knowledge of the Word, we need to apply it to our hearts and to our lives. We need to live it in our daily lives.

Our wells may go dry because of underground changes. Notice that thought: *our wells may go dry because of underground changes*. What do I mean by that? Well, we may shift our position off of truth and our wells go dry. Many people have done so. The apostle Paul, in his day, prophesied that some would depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits

and doctrines of devils. Many have gone back, many have moved, many have shifted their position off of the truth, and their wells have gone dry. Many times by shifting their position off of the truth, they accept error, false doctrines, and heresies. Our wells can go dry because of underground changes. We need to make sure that we do not move off of the truth, that we do not remove the ancient landmarks, but that we stand by, and stand for, the gospel of Jesus Christ. We may shift our position off of truth and our wells go dry.

The underground shift may be that some do not believe what they profess. It can affect the well. It can cause it to go dry by not believing what you profess. There are many people today who profess Christianity but are not really living it in their lives. So the underground shift may be that some do not believe what they profess to believe.

We may no longer believe the standards that the church and the Bible have always taught. How many times have congregations made spiritual shipwreck? How many times have individuals made spiritual shipwreck because they no longer believe in the standards of the church and the Word of God? The standards of God's Word are the standards of God's true people. They are identical. They are one and the same. Do not move off of the standards. Do not change the standards. You cannot, in reality, do so. You can do so in your own heart and in your own mind in what you believe, but you can't really change the standards of God's Word. God's Word is forever settled in heaven. It will not change. Therefore, we should believe and stand for the standards of the church and the Word of God. We should endeavor to hold to them, as Jude said: "Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Outward holiness is important. I do not deny that. You can be dressed ever so modest and act so sanctimonious, but it takes more than outward holiness to be holy. It must be inward holiness as well as outward holiness. Yes, I believe in modesty. I teach it and preach it. I believe in holy living, as far as outward appearance and outward things are concerned, but holiness of heart is what really counts. If you have holiness of heart, it will indeed show on the outside. "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). Guard your heart and make sure that you don't have a mere outward form of holiness or godliness or Christianity. Make sure it's in the heart. When it's in the heart, it will indeed be on the outside as well.

Our wells may go dry because of the actions of others. An example are the wells that Isaac's father's servants had dug and the Philistines filled them with earth. So our wells may go dry because of the actions of others. Others will lead us away if we are willing to follow them. There is a lot of pressure in the world today brought against Christians to try to get them to lower the standards and to move off of the truths of God's Word. Our wells can go dry by the actions of others if we allow them to influence us and to lead us astray.

We need a love for God that supersedes all other love and friendships. Some will do things to block your well. They'll put things in your way. Many in the world today will put road blocks in your way. They'll do all

they can to turn you aside. They'll mock you, ridicule you, lie to you and about you, but Beloved, we need to be like the apostle Paul when he said, "None of these things move me."

Jesus said in Revelation 3:11, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Do not allow your well to go dry by your own neglect, by departing from the truth or by the influence of others. Do not allow your well to go dry. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26:41). Keep your well cleaned out and the water fresh. †

SHADOWS OF GOOD THINGS

By the late Russell R. Byrum

(Part I)

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MOSES

THE GLADDEST message ever proclaimed to a world of sinners, was the angel's announcement on Bethlehem's plains that a Savior is born. But the angel's proclamation on that wonderful night was not the first time the glad tidings of salvation had been preached. Centuries before God's holy seers with prophetic eye had foreseen in the dim future, beyond the miseries of many generations, the coming of Christ and His great salvation. Not the least of these was Moses.

We often speak of the gospel according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John, and sometimes we call Isaiah the "evangelical prophet," but too often we pass by the "gospel according to Moses." Yet according to the true meaning of the term "gospel," Moses wrote it as truly as did any of the four evangelists of our New Testament. The gospel is the proclamation of a way of salvation for sinners, the announcement of grace to the guilty, of Christ's love for the lost. Matthew wrote the gospel by relating the life story of Jesus. But Moses wrote it at greater length, more systematically and in greater detail in types and shadows. Moses' writings are as much about Jesus and His salvation as are those of the four New Testament evangelists.

Moses sets forth the same great fundamental facts of true religion as are given in the New Testament. He continually holds before us under various symbols—by veils that bar the sinner from God's holy presence, by the sprinklings of blood for cleansing, and by different representations of ceremonial uncleanness—the awful fact of man's sinfulness and depravity. He also vividly sets forth the glorious truth of salvation by God's free favor through the vicarious death of Christ, under the type of the sprinkling of the blood of animals on God's altars.

Mosaic Rites Were Typical

Those who see nothing more in the elaborate ceremonies at the tabernacle of ancient Israel than an expression of natural religion or meaningless forms with no significance for us today, will doubtless find but little interest in reading that portion of Scripture which so minutely describes them. Alone it will be dull and uninteresting. But when it is read in the light of the Epistle to the Hebrews, in the New Testament, it sparkles throughout with dazzling gems of truth.

Our authority for believing in the typical element of the Pentateuch is no less than Jesus and Paul, the Son of God and His greatest apostle. Jesus Himself said: "Had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me" (John 5:46); "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17). And to the two sorrowful disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus, "beginning at Moses and all the prophets, ... expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). And shortly after, when He appeared to the disciples in Jerusalem, Jesus said, "All things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me" (Luke 24:44). Jesus was able to preach the gospel from the writings of Moses. He positively stated that He is the center of all the Scriptures, including those of Moses. He is their alpha and omega—their beginning and end. Paul also commonly taught the gospel according to Moses. When he arrived at Rome and the Jews came to him, he "expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the Prophets, from morning till evening" (Acts 28:23).

We may get a good idea of what these great exponents of Christianity taught from the law of Moses in the interpretation placed upon it by the inspired writer to the Hebrews, and in other more specific statements of Paul. The great apostle says, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: *which are a shadow of things to come*; but the body is of Christ" (Colossians 2:16, 17). This important statement is very definite and clear, and is conclusive proof that the Mosaic rites, those outward forms of religion, were typical. They were a shadow, or, as the original word, *skia*, implies, an adumbration, a faint sketch, a dim transitory outline of a real substance to come, which is said to be Christ.

Fully as definite and in much greater measure are the many positive statements in the Hebrew letter. The priests of the tabernacle are said to "serve unto the *example* and *shadow* of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the *pattern* shown to thee in the mount" (Hebrews 8:5). Here the tabernacle and all connected with its worship are said to be an "example," or, according to the American Revised reading, a "copy," a "shadow," and a "pattern" or type. The inspired writer is here definitely arguing to convince his Jewish brethren that all that ancient worship of theirs was typical and that Jesus is the great Priest "of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Hebrews 8:2).

In the ninth verse of the ninth chapter it is said of the first tabernacle, "Which was a *figure* for the time then present. ... But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building." The original word here, *parabole*, from which we translate "figure," is that from which we commonly get "parable." The twenty third and twenty fourth verses are especially definite in showing that ancient

worship was typical. "It was therefore necessary that the patterns [copies, A. S. V.] of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures [pattern, A. S. V.] of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." And again this same writer reiterates in the beginning of the tenth chapter, "For *the law having a shadow of good things to come*, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect."

Doubtless the texts already cited sufficiently prove the typical element in the Mosaic institutions; but a good foundation is important, and inasmuch as our future argument is to rest largely upon these Bible statements of this fact and for the sake of cautious or skeptical persons we shall call attention to one other biblical proof. The first given and one of the greatest of all the Mosaic institutions was the Passover. Paul plainly shows the typical nature of this in these words, "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even *Christ our Passover* is sacrificed for us" (I Corinthians 5:7).

If it were necessary, many other proofs of this point could be given; but these are evidence that the good things of Christ's salvation were portrayed in the Old Testament types. These types all pointed forward to Christ and His salvation, to the Priest greater than Aaron, the Prophet like unto Moses, the true King of Israel.

Types Deserve Our Study

A considerable portion of the Bible, especially Exodus, Leviticus, and Hebrews, is devoted to the subject of types. This is just as much a part of God's Word as is any other part of the Bible. But this, and especially the books of Leviticus, is about as little read as any part of the Bible. The grand truths taught there deserve more earnest attention than most Christians give them. God doubtless means that we should explore its deep truth that we may the better understand the way of salvation. Probably in no part of the Bible is the method of salvation so systematically and vividly set forth as here.

God has been pleased to reveal His salvation in various forms: John presents it in letters of love; while Paul sets it forth in profoundest logic. The evangelists describe it in historical form by simply relating the facts of that greatest life earth has ever known. Prophets tell it in poetry; and the Psalmist utters it in song. The Revelator takes us up into heaven and pictures mysterious visional symbols; and Moses by an extensive series of material symbols or practical hieroglyphs depicts the same great truths.

But why study types and shadows when we have the substance? Were not these things written for generations long dead, and not for us? A New Testament writer answers, "Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures, might have hope." The implication here is clear that these things were not only intended for us, but that we can under-

stand and learn from them. Also types give a more vivid presentation of truth very much as do the parables of Jesus. Illustrations are important in God's message to give interest and force to it. The human mind is so constituted that it gets a clearer understanding of truth if presented in a concrete rather than in an abstract form. For this reason Bunyan's allegory, *Pilgrim's Progress*, is one of the most enlightening and useful religious books that have ever been published.

Another very important reason for our being familiar with Old Testament types is that they furnish us much of the background of the New Testament phraseology, expressions so familiar to us but which would be quite unintelligible except for their Old Testament usage in connection with the types. Examples of these are "the Lamb of God," "washed us in his own blood," "the blood of sprinkling," "the washing of regeneration." †

(to be continued)



Greetings! In today's world, it is especially rare for young people to see the value of living holy. Ungodliness seems to abound and saturate our society in a way like never before. I trust this article from Bro. Tom Harris, from our local congregation in Hagerstown, will be an encouragement.

This was written for *The Young Christian* in a 2020 issue. Thank God He still has a people who have a vision and understanding of the importance and benefits of living a holy life.

Blessings,
Bro. Doug

A HOLY LIFE

By Bro. Tom Harris

Exodus 19:4-6, "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." Additionally, we read in Exodus 22:31, "And ye shall be holy men unto me ..." So it is clear that God desired the people themselves to be a holy nation.

Secondly, God required that everything in His tabernacle or temple be sanctified and holy. The tabernacle was the dwelling place of God in the Old Testament. It was the physical dwelling place in which His Spirit would come and commune with the priests. His presence or Spirit would reside above the mercy seat, within the inner most part of the tabernacle called the



Holiest of Holies (Exodus 25:21, 22 and Exodus 26:33, 34). God commanded everything in the tabernacle to be hallowed and holy: Exodus 40:9, "And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy." This sanctifying of the temple in the Old Testament was a foreshadowing of what God wants from His people today. It was not the ultimate will of God to meet with His people in a physical place.

In Ezekiel, we read of the ultimate will of God concerning His people: Ezekiel 36:27, "And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." It was ultimately God's will that His Spirit would reside within the heart of every believer. In other words, it was God's plan that we would be His temple. This is just what Paul told the Corinthian church: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Corinthians 3:16). "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (I Corinthians 6:19). If we are now the temple of God, it is God's desire that we be holy—as it was His desire for His tabernacle and His people in the Old Testament. Indeed, we read in I Peter 1:16, "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." Where was this written? In the Old Testament! Leviticus 11:44, "For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy ..." (See also Leviticus 19:2).

The Old and the New Testaments do not conflict with one another. God wanted a holy people back then, and He desires a holy people today. In Ephesians 5:26, 27, we read, speaking of the church, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." What is "the church"? It is the group of people who are saved, those who have the Spirit of God dwelling in them. God desires His church—those who have been saved—to be holy. Additionally, in Romans 12:1, we read, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Paul states that it is our reasonable service to present ourselves to God as holy individuals. In fact, holiness is so important to God that He says we cannot see Him unless we are holy: Hebrews 12:14, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

How is it possible to live this holy life? It is obviously required by God, but is it possible? Of course. In John 1:12, we read, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name ..." Living a holy life isn't something that comes natural to the human race. A holy life requires power, and God has made this power available to those who believe on Him. God does not require unattainable things from us. He does not ask us to live a life that is impossible to live. He gives us power to do those things which He requires of us. †

Prepare to Meet Thy God

2021 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Terry Deville

OUR MESSAGE is taken from Amos 4:12—“Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.” This message is for everyone, saved and unsaved: “Prepare to Meet Thy God.” As we get on with the message, you’ll understand where I’m coming from when I say *for the saved as well*.

In presenting this message, I want you to think with me. We can’t help but wonder how many people are prepared tonight to meet God or how many are even considering it or how many think they’re ready. They profess that they know God, but in their works they deny Him, being disobedient. Do you know what *disobedience* is? “Sin.” So we wonder how many are really prepared or even considering getting prepared to meet God. When we gave our hearts to God, we got prepared to meet Him, but our lives are a continual preparation. Think about what I’m saying.

Our lives are a continual growth or movement or building. As long as we build it according to the Pattern, we’re going to be prepared. Do you know some people get away from the Pattern? They really stop preparing. So many people want to do as the people did in Judges. When it was such a dark time, everyone did what was right in their own eyes. That spirit is really prevalent today.

Believe me, Dear Ones, there are great reasons for us to get prepared to meet God. But let the Scriptures say it. Ecclesiastes 12:14, “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” It will make you think—“every secret thing.” It’s all recorded—“whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” Romans 14:11, 12, goes along with that scripture: “For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” It didn’t leave out one person, did it? Everyone will give account of themselves unto God.

Do you realize that there are over a billion people believing that if they’re not really prepared in this time world, they’ll get another chance in purgatory? If not fully prepared, they’ll go to purgatory and there God will finish the work of preparing them. Did you know that? Now they don’t say this too much, but it’s the truth: there’s a price to pay. Of course, the more wicked a person is, the more it would cost to get the person cleansed and purified in purgatory as the priest prays for him. We would think that common sense would tell people that that’s not going to prepare anybody. That kind of teaching and people believing such is not going to prepare them to meet God. Some other false teachings that they believe are: confessing their sins to a priest, supposedly eating a wafer, which they say is the literal body of Christ, and if they eat it, it becomes a

part of them. I could go on and on and list more, but in reality, their false teachings do not prepare anybody to meet God.

I want you to realize how dangerous this is: you can sin more or less every day. Does that prepare people to meet God? That teaching does not prepare anybody to meet God. It deceives people in to thinking that they’re ready to meet God, when in reality, their sins have separated them from God.

Eternity security is a damnable, deceptive teaching. Even if people have an experience with God, believing that false teaching gives place for the devil to cause them to yield to temptation. After all, you can’t lose out with God. You’re still going to heaven. Those kinds of things do not prepare people to meet God.

Let me tell you some things out of the Word of God that will prepare people to meet God. “Repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15). That’s really the heart foundation of the gospel message. Jesus said, “Repent ye, and believe the gospel.” Repent and forsake. Consider this question: If people try to get saved and they believe that they’re going to sin more or less every day, how can they truly repent? Think about what I’m saying. If they are going to continue doing what they’re doing, where’s the godly sorrow? Those damnable teachings do not prepare people to meet God, but millions and millions are basing their salvation, their eternal souls on false teachings.

It is best to go with what Jesus said. He said, “Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” Then Jesus goes on refuting beautifully the teaching of eternal security by saying, “He that endureth to the end shall be saved.”

John said, “We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not” (I John 5:18). How much plainer could he get? “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him” (I John 3:6). Now who are we going to believe tonight, Dear Ones? We better believe Jesus and the apostles who made it very plain. I didn’t even go to Romans 6. Those scriptures I just read will get you prepared for God and keep you prepared for Him. “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (James 1:12). There is some enduring, Saints. There is some fighting.

Everybody here is going to stand before God and give an account of what they believed and how they lived. That’s why the Bible says, “Buy the truth, and sell it not” (Proverbs 23:23). Love the truth. Live the truth. Paul said, “For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth” (II Corinthians 13:8). We can’t



do anything against the truth. It's that powerful. We have been blessed to have been brought up in the truth. My brother, Danny, and I went far out in sin, but we had a mother and a father, a grandpa and grandma, a great-grandfather and a great-grandmother who served God. We were taught the truth from our youth.

Paul said to Timothy, "Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them." When we receive and learn the truth, there is an assurance that comes with it, Dear Ones. Those who get away from the truth and don't endure sound doctrine, they're going to stand at the judgment, too. If I understand right, they'll be judged very harshly. They had the truth, but they walked away from it.

Demas is going to be at the judgment. This was a critical time for Paul. He was getting close to his departure. Paul knew his departure was at hand. He was pouring out his heart and soul to Timothy who went with him from Lystra and stayed with him the rest of his days while preaching the gospel. But Paul said something else. He said, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." Demas is going to be at the judgment. Can you all visualize that? Demas had been working with Paul and building up a reward. He probably had a good reward waiting for him, but at the critical time when Paul needed him and a critical time in the church when there was a great apostasy going on in Asia, Demas forsook him. Paul wanted to pass this on to the next generation. That's what Paul was doing to Timothy. He was passing this glorious gospel, which will get people prepared and keep them prepared for the judgment.

One of the things that's encouraging to me is to see how God is blessing our children and young people. I tune into your services all the time. Of course, I go to church at home, but during other days, I tune in because that's what I love. I love the gospel. I love the truth. I love to feel the presence of God, even over the internet. I was listening to Bro. David Martin. That's the first time I heard him speak. Just a few weeks ago, he was speaking on "Decisions." I was so blessed that I said, "Lord, I have to go to Hagerstown." I got inspired. Of course, I also hear Bro. Doug, Sis. Rebecca, and all the others, but God took that message Bro. David preached and gave me an inspiration to fight against my sickness, and it helped me to make up my mind to come to camp meeting. Dear Ones, that's pretty special to me.

Have you noticed how the children and young people have been coming to the altar? These children are preparing to receive the torch so that they can sound the gospel message, "Prepare to Meet Thy God." It's getting them prepared. There's no greater joy than to know one of your children and grandchildren is prepared. Nothing compares with it. So it's encouraging to see the next generation letting God prepare them. It encourages us, the older ones.

As Paul passed the torch to Timothy, he said to him, "Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. Only Luke is with me, for Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." Demas was with Paul. He saw all the great works of Paul, yet the devil and his craftiness was able

to get Demas' eyes off the Lord and on to this present world. Let me tell you, the devil is powerful. He's deceptive. He's real. He's your adversary, and he is really going about as a roaring lion, seeking to devour even the children, much less us. He's seeking to devour us. He is cunning with his lies and deception. Demas did not take heed to himself. He let down somehow. What a strange time for him to leave! I don't know if it was because of Paul's situation, but when Demas stands before God, there will be no excuse.

Bro. Doug preached a good message recently on "Excuses." I don't care what has happened or what's been done, there is no excuse for not serving God or staying true to God. No excuse! As a matter of fact, God is not going to listen to it. The reality of what has happened will be so real that you won't even try to make an excuse. The truth of the matter, people need to face things now before they stand before God and have to face them then. That's why I pray for my loved ones earnestly all the time.

I know that the prayers of my mama and my daddy are the main reason why I'm saved. No doubt about it. They were saved when I was born. I had a wonderful mama and daddy. You don't appreciate them till they're gone, it seems like. Daddy loved what he did. You could see it on his face. He wasn't so talented, but God can take a heart that loves God and He can make it a blessing to people. Daddy wasn't so talented, but he could write some good songs. I had a mother that was the wisest woman I ever knew. She could discern some things. I was able to go to her with issues and problems. What I appreciated about my mother was that no matter what, she told me the truth and what was right. One time, as her pastor, I had to tell my mother that there was something that was not giving a good appearance. She said, "Thank you, Son." Why? She had a heart that wanted to please God. She didn't want to give the wrong perception. She just wasn't thinking about it, but she took what I said gladly.

Dear Ones, where are people going to be who will not take any kind of counsel? Let me tell you, stubbornness is a bad weakness. Some people have it. Saul is the best example of stubbornness in the Bible. Saul is going to be at the judgment, too. His own words will judge him. "I have played the fool."

Pontius Pilate will be at the judgment. Pilate's own words will judge him. Do you remember his words? "I find no fault in him." The people threatened to report him to Caesar, but to appease the people, he released Barabbas instead of Jesus. I don't know if you know this, but it wasn't long after all of this that took place, Pilate committed suicide. I don't think he could live with the reality of what had happened.

What about Judas? Now we can really use our imagination. We're going to all be at the judgment. Can you visualize Judas there? Jesus said of Judas, "He that delivered me unto thee [Pilate] hath the greater sin." The real story behind this is this: Judas really did think that Jesus was going to escape like He did many times before. The reason I know this is that Matthew 27:3, 4, says, "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the inno-

cent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that." He threw down the thirty pieces of silver and went out and hanged himself. That's exactly how he's going to stand before the One whom he kissed and betrayed.

Think of the billions that will stand before God. Those that think there's no God—the atheists, the agnostics—all will stand before Him. But the point is, we individually will all be there. Visualize yourself being there.

There's a scripture in II John. This is a scripture we all need to give some heed to. This is talking to the people of God. Verse 8, "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought [or worked for, but can lose], but that we receive a full reward." I don't know about you, Dear Ones, but I want to receive a full reward. I don't want to just get by. I want to make sure that every loose end is tied up. Do you know what I'm saying? The Lord has helped me to understand some things recently.

As you look back over your life, look to yourselves. I wish that there was a 100% assurance in everything I decided to do or not to do. Sometimes it's only 80% or 90%. Following me? It's a gray area there and you're not quite sure which way to go. The wisest thing is not to do anything until you really know what to do. Sometimes under the pressure of some things or in a situation, human beings make a decision, but there's a 10% there that they're just not too sure they did right. Years go on like this. Do you know what? If you'll look to yourself and be honest with yourself, God will show you.

God has given us an opportunity to go back and do what we can to rectify our account. We'll erase some things on our account. Are you following me? It could be something that would go against our reward. We'll all be rewarded according to our works.

The Lord brought this to my mind. First, here's the key: a willing mind. Some things we probably just can't redo, but God looks at a willing mind. That's always a step in the right direction. Lord, if it's wrong, I don't know what to do, but I'm willing to do something. The Lord made it possible for me to do something. It gave me peace in my heart. Maybe I'm the only one that makes mistakes occasionally, but if you'll look to yourselves, you may find yourselves wishing that you had not said something or wishing you had done something else.

Dear Ones, the Bible says that we're going to give account of every idle word, but again, we're going to get a reward if we give a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple. That's a small deed, but if we do it in love, we'll get a reward for that. I believe God will help us to rectify things that we wished we had done better. Whether you agree or not, it's the truth. "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

If I get too close to you, forgive me, but the truth is, I want you to receive a full reward. As a preacher, I have to point out some things. Bear with me now. There are a lot of things said in secret, maybe about a brother or a sister, and later on we realize it wasn't quite the way we thought it was. Every secret thing! I don't know

about you, Dear Ones, but I don't want anything in my account that I can rectify here on Earth. I'd rather face it here than at the judgment. I don't want anything to take away from my reward. As Christians, I think we want to do that anyway.

There is an enemy called *self*. I wonder sometimes if people really recognize that. It's not always selfishness or maliciousness. If you look in the dictionary, it has a long page of things that involve self. Do you know what the Bible tells us? "Deny self." An example is, Peter said, "Lord, you can't go to Jerusalem and die," but he was looking at it from a human standpoint. The Lord rebuked him saying, "You savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." Then He goes on to say, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Sometimes we can look at things differently and not see them as clearly, but when we get an understanding, Dear Ones, that's when the rubber meets the road, so to speak.

Do you know it's a serious thing to tear down somebody's reputation? It happens. That's why the Bible says, "Let thy words be few. Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." Words spoken in anger worketh not the righteousness of God. "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God" (James 1:20). Sometimes even the people of God don't realize that they're being influenced by another spirit. Does that excuse it? But when we look for it and examine ourselves, we have a chance to rectify it, to correct it, and build up our reward forever.

"Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11). "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Remember what I said earlier: look at yourselves; not with a critical or a judgmental attitude. Do you know some people can get critical and judgmental? Do you know Jesus said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged"? Whose responsibility is that?

The point is, Dear Ones, God has a beautiful way, and when we live according to the Pattern, we're building up a beautiful, long-lasting reward. When we make mistakes, error of judgment, error of mind and not error of heart, God has a way of rectifying it. But it's up to us to rectify it. Confess your faults, etc. This is a life to live because we're going to face how we lived at the judgment. Every secret thing shall be revealed.

The blood of Christ washed away the old record, Dear Ones. The old account has been settled and we've begun a new record with God. My record is in heaven and my witness is on high, but it does matter how we live. God looks on the heart, and everyone will face Him at the judgment.

Has your old account been settled? Is everything clear with God? I know I got real close to some things in this message, but that's what the gospel is supposed to do. The good news is, we can identify where we can improve and make things right. The gospel is a beautiful way. We shall all stand before God and give an account. Is there any hidden thing we don't want to be told or read there?

I'll say this in closing: let's face things now. I don't want to face things at the judgment that I can rectify

and face now. Believe me, the devil knows your weakness. The Lord does not like excuses. It made Him angry one time. The truth of the matter is: we're going to give an account for the things we have done in our body, whether it be good or bad. There will be no excuses.

I believe in getting everything cleared before God and with everybody. Don't let things linger. Don't you know things come up among brothers and sisters and in families? Dear Ones, how can we walk together unless we be agreed? We have to make sure we're in agreement with God and as much as lieth in us, let us live peaceably with all men. Do you still love me? I still love you.

Don't forget, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10). Prepare to meet thy God. Keep preparing. Keep building according to the Pattern.

The reason why the early morning church failed is because they got away from the Pattern. The reason people fail is because they get away from the Pattern for their lives. The reason a congregation fails is because they get away from the Pattern that God has given for every congregation. We will never fail, we will never be defeated, as long as we stay with the Pattern that God has given. The devil can't defeat us. He can't deceive us as long as we stay and keep building according to the Pattern for our lives, for our congregation, for the whole movement of the Church of God.

Every eye shall see Christ, even those that pierced Him. In one group, there will be weeping and wailing. The other group will be rejoicing. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

The Lord bless you. †

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING **ACCOMPLISHING LIFE'S PURPOSE**

Scriptures: John 17:18; Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 1:8; Ecclesiastes 9:10; John 4:34; 6:26-29.

John 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which

endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Memory Verse: Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.—John 6:27.

Aim: To point out the true purpose of living.

INTRODUCTION

Doubtless, we all agree that God is a God of order, and everything that comes from His hand is a part of a definite plan. So we may say with safety that God has a definite plan for each one of our lives when He created us; and if we will find out what it is and live according to His teachings, we will have a life that is full and complete and satisfactory in every detail. But few people find what their purpose in life is, and spend their lives in riotous living; in many instances interfering with those who would do the thing that God would have them to do. Again, it is necessary that men be taught what is expected of them and how to arrive at the accomplishment of what is expected. Confusion comes from Satan; order comes from God. So wherever we find confusion, we may always be certain that Satan has the upper hand, and his wicked devices are being accomplished. In all that we do we must work toward the goal of eternal life, for this is the final reward of living.

MEDITATIONS

THE HEAVENLY CALLING—John 17:18—I also sent them—Everyone naming the name of Christ should feel the weight and purpose of the last commission of the Lord, when He said to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Not everyone can go across the sea, nor can everyone preach; but everyone must learn what he is able to do and what God expects him to do in this great undertaking, and then perform it faithfully. We all find ourselves in a world that is very sinful and among people whose purposes are bent, not upon accomplishing the will of God, but in realizing as much pleasure in the flesh as possible. He who denies himself for the cause of Christ is an oddity and target for ridicule and persecution. So right in the start we can see that the purpose God has in mind for each one of us is that we be faithful witnesses of the cross.

TEACHING ALL NATIONS—Matthew 28:19—Go ye therefore—Marching orders are given as soon as the recruit is made. It may not be to the pulpit nor to a foreign land, rather it may be to the place of prayer, to the sickroom, or the jail, or to some discouraged, down-and-out soul. The life of a Christian is not a life of idleness, but one of tireless and continual service. We cannot be partial in the spread of the message. Everyone in the world needs it, and we must sow beside all waters, trusting God to give us the increase. Again, teaching is the great method by which the story shall

be told. Every Christian is either a home or a foreign missionary.

WHAT SHALL WE TEACH?—Matthew 28:20
—Observe all things—Our work by example and precept is set forth to the world in the life and work of Jesus Christ, not in a sectarian way, but under the direction and leadership of the Spirit of God. The sectarian plan and principle has done much harm to the kingdom of God, for it has given to the world the wrong impression of Christianity. This serious error must be corrected, and we cannot correct it by going along with it; we must set the true example along beside error so that the world may see for itself. We have this marvelous promise from the Word of God that Jesus Himself, by the Spirit of God, will be with us, even to the very end. If we have Christ, we are certain of success.

RECEIVING POWER FOR SERVICE—Acts 1:8—Receive power—The scripture is wrongly interpreted by many these days, and we deeply desire that the right understanding proceed from these pages. The power received is the Holy Spirit of God or the Spirit of Truth. The power that He imparts is the power to live a holy life at home, among the neighbors, and in foreign fields. At no time does anyone receive power for the purpose of putting himself on exhibition by lying unconscious on the floor, and many like things that are done today in the name of religion. We are to have power also to represent Christ in the proper way. The Holy Spirit is the Master of every situation of life and can be relied upon, even as Paul relied upon Him in the Philippian jail and was miraculously delivered.

DILIGENCE REQUIRED—Ecclesiastes 9:10—Whatsoever—All things that are done for Christ must be done with the whole heart. There is no time to play religion. The devil is on the job day and night and never loses an opportunity. So must we never lose an opportunity, and what we do, we must do heartily as unto the Lord. Our lifespan will soon end, and the chance of doing good will soon be ended; therefore, Solomon wisely admonished us to do with our might all our hands find to do. We must find a joy in defeating the powers of darkness and doing things for our God.

CHRIST'S PURPOSE—John 4:34—My meat—Jesus at all times put first the work that His Father had given Him to do. If it were mealtime and He had a task to perform for His Father, He did it; material things could wait. How often have we pushed the things of life aside to accomplish something for ourselves? Then it would seem perfectly in order to make the things of life second in our search for the accomplishment of the will of God! As the Father had assigned to Jesus a certain work to do, so has He assigned us a work to do. May we be able, when it comes our time to leave this world, to say as Christ said, "I have finished the work that Thou gavest me to do." He who enters wholeheartedly into the work of the Lord, laboring in the place that Christ has called him, has the "meat to eat that the world knows not of."

WRONG OBJECTIVES—John 6:26—Ye seek me—Jesus could read their hearts. He knew that these people were interested more in getting something to

eat than they were in receiving the hidden manna that came from heaven. Today, some say they do not care who heals them, God or Satan, just so they can be well. The purpose of being well is for the purpose of reaping pleasure from the flesh. If it should be such a thing that we know God does not want to heal us, then we should seek help neither from the physician nor the devil. The rule is, however, that God desires to heal all. Unbelief stands in the way except, perhaps, in a very few cases.

RIGHT OBJECTIVE—John 6:27—Meat which perisheth—No man may devote the whole of his energy and time in the quest for the things that satisfy the flesh. We must labor for these things enough to satisfy the needs of the flesh, and the rest of the time must be put into looking after the needs of the spirit. This is the advice of Jesus, who certainly knows what is best.

RESPONSE TO TEACHING—John 6:28—What shall we do?—Too often, when men get interested in the work of the Lord, they reserve the right to go as far only as is convenient to the desires of the flesh. This is not acceptable with God, for He requires that we go all the way.

THE ROCK OF OFFENSE—John 6:29—Believe on Him—He was too humble for the proud Jews, and so He is today for the high-minded man. It is true that a few of the Jews did receive the Master when He came, but the great majority of them rejected Him. They are still rejecting Him, declaring Him to be an imposter and thus bringing upon themselves the damnation of eternal hell. Believing Him does not mean a mere head belief, but the believing in the heart that brings about a new life.

CONCLUSION

The true purpose of living is little realized by the great multitudes of the earth. How often has it been uttered by a bewildered soul, "What is it all about anyhow?" Such statements point out ships without rudders, sailing an uncharted sea. Such can never reach the haven of rest, but rather are headed for the rocks of destruction. The responsibility for such a situation can be placed squarely upon the faithless sectarian ministers who have divided and scattered God's people for the purpose of personal gain. It is the duty and purpose of life, in part, for every true child of God and every God-called minister to cry aloud and tell the world the state of false religion. We could be more happy in our life of holiness if more and more poor lost souls were made to see the light and glorious freedom that is in Christ Jesus.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Have you considered the fact that God has a definite purpose in your creation? Have you found that purpose?
2. What is every man called to do?
3. What shall the Christian teach?
4. To whom are we to carry the message?
5. For what does the Holy Spirit empower our lives when He comes in?
6. In what manner must we apply ourselves in working for the Lord in His great kingdom? †



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

QUESTION: What was the early church's custom of dying off to self?

ANSWER: Did they have a "custom"? Dying out to self was accomplished by being saved from a life of sin and then making a complete, full surrender to the will of God. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed [pattern after] to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1, 2). "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Corinthians 6:19, 20).

QUESTION: In Judges 21:21; Job 21:11; Psalm 149:3; Psalm 150; Ecclesiastes 3:4; Isaiah 13:21; Jeremiah 31:13; and Lamentations 5:15 is the term *dance*. The word *chiyl* means to twist or whirl, to dance, to writhe in pain. The word *machowl* means a (round) dance (cing). Why is dancing forbidden by the Church of God?

ANSWER: Adam Clarke says in regard to *machal* and *machalah*, "I know no place in the Bible where [these words] mean dance of any kind; they constantly signify some kind of pipe."

Where you do find a scripture where dancing is meant, it was not men and women together, and it was not in a church service; it was more of a leaping for joy.

The Church of God stands against it, as practiced today, because it is "of the world" and has no place in a Christian's life.

As for dancing in a worship service, you do not find one New Testament scripture that speaks of it being done. Paul said, "Let all things be done decently and in order" (I Corinthians 14:40). This teaching about "dancing in the spirit" needs to be understood as dancing in "A" spirit and not THE Spirit.

QUESTION: Was Halloween once known as All Saints' Day?

ANSWER: No. Halloween is celebrated on October 31, which is one day before All Saints' Day. "The Druids, an order of priests in ancient Gaul and Britain, believed that on Halloween, ghosts, spirits, fairies, witches and elves came out to harm people. They thought the cat

was sacred and believed that cats had once been human beings but were changed as a punishment for evil deeds. From these Drusidic beliefs comes the present-day use of witches, ghosts and cats in Halloween festivities.

"In the 700's the Roman Catholic church named November 1 as All Saints' Day. The old pagan customs and the Christian feast day were combined into the Halloween festival." *The World Book Encyclopedia*.

The word *Halloween* is said to mean hallowed or holy evening because it takes place the day before All Saints' Day. But as you know, there is nothing holy about it. The Druids called their festival *Samhain*—pronounced *SHAvin*.

QUESTION: What is the difference between a mistake and a sin?

ANSWER: A mistake occurs when you honestly think something is true, or right, and act upon it, only to find out later that it was not correct.

Imputed sin involves a person's will: you knowingly do wrong, or you fail to do that which you know you should do. One is the sin of commission, the other is the sin of omission.

QUESTION: How do we adorn the hidden man?

ANSWER: This question comes from the scripture found in I Peter 3:4. To adorn anything is to make it more attractive by addition of something. So to adorn the hidden man of the heart would be to add to it something that would increase its beauty. In I Peter 3:4 we are told to adorn the inner man with a meek and quiet spirit. In other words, meekness and quietness are becoming to the Christian. He that is meek will not be found taking undue honor to himself. He will be preferring others before himself; he will always acknowledge God as the sovereign of his own life as well as the sovereign of the universe. Quietness is a God-given grace and is characteristic of the Christian soul. Then other adornments are given in Galatians 5:22, 23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." These fine qualities beautify the inner or hidden man and anyone can have as much as they desire.

QUESTION: Is the day of the Lord the same as the second coming of Christ, or are they two separate events?

ANSWER: The expression, "the day of the Lord," is used in different ways in the Bible. In some Old Testament scriptures it speaks of a time the Lord would punish Israel for their wrongs, etc. Malachi 4:5 speaks of John, the forerunner of Christ. In I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Paul speaks of the coming of Christ and the resurrection of the dead; then in 5:1, 2, he speaks of "the day of the Lord." It seems he is still speaking of the event described in chapter 4.

Peter speaks of "the day of the Lord" coming as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise" (II Peter 3:10). Revelation 20:11 says "the earth and the heaven fled away" when Christ came to sit on the great white judgment throne. †

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



DRIVING

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

“Daddy, could I please help you drive?” I asked. It was a cool autumn evening, and we were headed home from church. We had left the lights of the town behind us, and now we followed the quiet road that curved over the rolling hills of the countryside.

There was very little traffic on that road at night, and so sometimes my father allowed me to sit beside him and pretend to handle the steering wheel of our car.

My father was silent for a moment. “I guess so,” he said at last. “I’ll pull over and you can come up and sit in the front seat next to me.”

My face broke into a wide grin. I was only eight years old, but I was going to help drive the car!

I squeezed in between my father and my mother, who held the sleeping baby in her lap. Seat belt laws had yet to be written, and our car—like many of the cars of that time—didn’t even have seat belts.

“Now be really, really careful,” said my father. “Stay on the right-hand side of the road. Don’t go over the centerline on your left, and don’t go over the right-hand line onto the shoulder of the road.”

I grasped my side of the steering wheel with one hand and carefully guided the car down the country road. I pretended not to notice that my father’s hand still held the left-hand side of the steering wheel. In my eight-year-old mind, I was driving that car.

The car slipped smoothly over the moonlit road for several miles. By now I was feeling confident. *How exciting!* I thought. *It won’t be long until I am driving a car all by myself!*

“Am I doing a good job?” I asked my father.

“You’re doing fine,” my father said, “but you’d better look out. We will soon be coming to a stop sign.”

“But I don’t know how to stop!” I said. “I can’t reach the brake pedal!” As I spoke, we crested a small hill and I saw the stop sign up ahead.

“There’s the stop sign,” my father reminded me. “Time to stop!”

“I can’t stop!” I said again, my voice rising in panic. “I can’t reach the pedal!”

My father chuckled and pressed his foot on the brake pedal. We came to a gentle halt at the intersection. It was then that I realized my father had been teasing me. Of course, he knew I couldn’t stop the car. I hadn’t even been driving it. That would have been against the law.

But there did come a day, many years later, when I was old enough to drive a car by myself. My father sat in the passenger seat, and I sat in the driver’s seat, taking control of both the steering wheel and the brakes. In my wallet was a permit that gave me per-

mission to drive, so long as a licensed adult of a specific age was sitting next to me.

I looked at the key in the ignition. I looked over at my father. I remembered the times that he had let me pretend to drive. This was different. This was the real thing. I remembered his words from long ago. “Now be really, really careful,” my father had said. “Stay on the right-hand side of the road. Don’t go over the centerline on your left, and don’t go over the right-hand line onto the shoulder of the road.”

I took a deep breath, started the car, and pulled out onto the road, being very careful to stay within the lines. With my father there to instruct me, I knew I could safely drive to my destination.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 16:9, which says, “A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.”

Each of us has a life to live. Your life is like a journey. You don’t ride in a car on this journey. But you travel through time, day after day, as you grow older. Every decision you make helps to determine where your life is heading.

When you are very young, your parents make most of your decisions. They do their best to keep you safe, and they give you wise instruction. You would do well to listen to that instruction and take it to heart. It will help you when you reach the age when you must make your own decisions.

But there is Someone who is even wiser than your parents. It is God. He wants to walk with you down the pathway of life and help you make the right choices.

Our scripture from Proverbs reminds us that the Lord will direct our steps if we ask Him to do so. Just as there are traffic laws that new drivers must learn to follow, so there are laws God expects us to obey. These laws are for our own good. They will help to be successful on life’s journey. If we try to find our own way and do as we please, we will wreck our lives, and we will fail to reach heaven.

Be sure to ask Jesus to come into your heart. Then you can kneel each morning and ask Him to guide you through the day. Ask Him to help you make the right choices. You will never be sorry you asked Jesus to travel with you through the journey of life.

Activity

Below are excerpts from three prayers. Each prayer is asking God for guidance. Can you think which Bible character prayed each prayer?

1. “Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?”

2. “Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed ... and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!”

3. “Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth.”

Answers to Last Month’s Activity

1. Joseph
2. Moses
3. Daniel
4. Timothy †

The Church is the Spiritual House for God's Dwelling in the Earth

By Bro. Richard Lehman

IN THE MIDST of a world that's full of sin and evil, God has always had a specification for a house for Him to dwell in—a place where God's people could meet with Him. In the Old Testament, it first was in the tabernacle and later in the temple within Jerusalem. In the New Testament, His dwelling is His people, the true church.

In the Old Testament, when all things were properly set in order according to God's direction, then, and only then, would God come down and meet with His people there. And when He would meet with them, He would always manifest His presence in the cloud.

As an example, when properly dedicated, God's presence filled the tabernacle (See Exodus 40:17-35).

“And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle” (Exodus 40:33-35). Additionally, the cloud appeared again at the time of the dedication of the new temple in Jerusalem. “And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord” (I Kings 8:10, 11).

So in like manner did the Holy Spirit dedicate His New Testament house, the church, on the day of Pentecost. And on that day the Lord created His cloud of witnesses so that His presence could be felt and realized by His people.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God” (Acts 2:1-11).

The cloud of witnesses not only included the 120 that were up in the upper room. But also, the cloud instantly grew, as 3,000 souls were added in one day. “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).

We are clearly instructed in the Word that this is still the way that the Lord comes and meets with His people on Earth. It is through the cloud of witnesses of His New Testament church. “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (Revelation 1:7).

Hebrews the 11th chapter describes to us a historical cloud of witnesses, as it identifies many of the faithful throughout history. And then after describing this list of faithful saints, it specifically goes on in chapter 12 to further describe them part of this cloud of witnesses, and that “we also are compassed” by this cloud. “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

So the church today is supposed to be the house of God that witnesses to the powerful presence of God in the earth. Jesus told the high priest that he personally would see this cloud of witnesses himself, in his own lifetime. “But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven” (Matthew 26:63, 64).

Jesus often spoke of His coming being in the clouds of heaven. And this is how He spoke of the house of God in the earth. “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled” (Matthew 24:30-34).

It is very clear in this scripture that this would start happening in the same generation that lived when Jesus was on Earth. And so this gathering of God's people together would start happening through angel messengers. The word *angel* means “messenger” in the original language. And that includes human preachers and teachers in the definition of a messenger. This account in Matthew chapter 24 is reflected almost word for word in two other gospels: Mark 13:26-30 and Luke 21:27-32. And also note that when it speaks of “the clouds of heaven” it is speaking about the heavenly condition in the church, because wherever Jesus is, it is heaven there. That means the will of the Father is

done in His people, just as it is done in heaven. The heavenly condition in the church is a spiritual condition, because Jesus is loved and obeyed among His true people. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Ephesians 1:3, 4).

The church today is no longer a physical tabernacle made of stone and wood, etc. But it is a spiritual house that is made up of people who have been saved and made holy. They are the dwelling place of God in the earth through the Spirit of God. "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:18-22). This is the divine order that God has specified for His New Testament church.

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building" (Hebrews 9:11). It is not a temporal physical house, but a spiritual house made up of all the saved. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (I Peter 2:5).

This order produces a holy people, living in unity, and under the direction of God's holy Word. Because Jesus Christ is the foundation of this church, and the true ministry are careful to only build according to God's Word. "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Timothy 3:15).

This New Testament Tabernacle is the true light for the world to be saved by. "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Hebrews 8:1, 2).

The church is you and me living free from sin in this earth. Being obedient to the Spirit, we are also called into unity and the fullness of the truth, and to declare this bright and shining light of the true church to a lost and dying world.

The book of Revelation is designed to bring back the true vision of the church as the spiritual house of God in the earth. The true church is a spiritual house made by God. She, as the bride of Christ, came down from heaven to Earth through Jesus Christ. "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that

great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God" (Revelation 21:9, 10).

And if we read further in Revelation chapter 21, we see clearly that God Himself is that spiritual temple. It is the presence of God Himself in the church that makes the church who she is. "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:22-27).

It is quite clear that only that which has been made holy is allowed in the church. We are talking about the spiritual household of God in the earth. There may be physical buildings in the earth where the church will meet. Additionally, in the same building it is intended that sinners would come also. The purpose for the sinners to come is so that they can hear the gospel and be changed. But no sin, nor sinners, are part of the spiritual house of God in the earth, the Church of God. †

MY THOUGHTS—Bro. Darrell Sanford

"And he [Jesus] said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

"And now, behold, I [Paul] go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:22-24).

Neither the darkness of the times or the wickedness of mankind affects the mission of the church. It's purpose remains constant: preach the gospel and obey the Word. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." If we cannot obey and live the Word we preach, how can we expect anyone else to be drawn to it? The power and grace given to us to "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Peter 1:16) is imperative, if we are to be set apart from the world.

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world" (John 17:14-18).

Jesus preached the truth, He loved His own and the lost, and He gave Himself for the cause of God and good of mankind, regardless of the consequences. May the Lord help us, for His church can do no less. †

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE

Quotes from *The Bible Illustrator*

“WE’RE RID OF WYCLIFFE!”

You and I have an English Bible in our possession largely because of a man named John Wycliffe. He was known not only as a builder, producing the first English text of the Bible, but also as a fighter. What a leader! When he died, his enemies burned him at the stake and took the ashes of his body and sprinkled them over the Thames River in London. “Forever, we’re rid of Wycliffe!” his enemies must have thought. They were wrong. The product of his labors, the English Bible, is with us today because he did more than fight. He stayed at the task.

A LOST DAY

George Mueller said this about God’s Word: “The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life and thoughts. I solemnly state this from the experience of 54 years. The first three years after conversion I neglected the Word of God. Since I began to search it diligently the blessing has been wonderful. Great has been the blessing from consecutive, diligent, daily study. I look upon it as a lost day when I have not had a good time over the Word of God.”

GATHERING APPLES

Luther said he studied his Bible as he gathered apples. First he shook the whole tree that the ripest might fall; then he shook each limb, and when he had shaken each limb, he shook each branch, and after each branch, every twig; and then he looked under every leaf.

Search the Bible as a whole, shaking the whole tree. Read it rapidly, as you would any other book. Then shake every limb—study book after book. Then shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters when they do not break the sense. Then shake each twig, by a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences. And you will be rewarded if you look under each leaf, by searching the meaning of the words.

ONLY ONE HOUR

Reading the Bible is vital for every Christian. How can we learn about God or grow spiritually if we do not spend time studying the Book in which He has made Himself known to us? Taking a few minutes each day to read a chapter is a good way to start. But we should also block out extended periods of time for exploring God’s Word and reflecting on what He is saying to us.

The importance of spending much time with something of great value and beauty is illustrated by a quote from the *National Geographic* magazine about Carl Sharsmith, an 81 year old guide in Yosemite National Park. “Carl was back at his tent quarters after a long afternoon with tourists. His nose was flaked white and red with sunburn; his eyes were watery, partly from age but also from hearing again an old question after a half century of summers in California’s Yosemite National Park. A lady tourist had hit him with a ques-

tion where it hurt: “I’ve only got an hour to spend at Yosemite,” she declared. “What should I do?” “Where should I go?” The old naturalist-interpreter-ranger finally found voice to reply. “Ah, lady, only an hour.” He repeated it slowly. “I suppose that if I had only an hour to spend at Yosemite, I’d just walk over there by the river and sit down and cry.”

A whole lifetime is not long enough to appreciate fully the beauty and learning and value of the Bible. That’s why we must take time to study its truths and make them real in our lives.

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Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

(Aired on Sundays unless otherwise noted.)

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THE CHURCH OF GOD STANDS FOR

An eternal God	Psalm 90:2
A divine Christ	John 1:1, 14
An infallibly inspired Bible	II Timothy 3:16
Salvation from sin	Matthew 1:21
The new birth	John 3:1-7
Entire Sanctification	Ephesians 5:25, 26
A holy life	Titus 2:11, 12
	Hebrews 12:10-14
Unity of God's people	John 17:21
	I Corinthians 12:13
Divine Healing	James 5:14, 15
The ordinances	Matthew 28:19, 20
Eternal life	Matthew 25:46
	John 3:15; 6:54; 10:28
Eternal punishment	Mark 9:43-46
	Revelation 20:15

YOU SHOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CHURCH OF GOD

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

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