

# The Way of Truth

Vol. 80

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

No. 4

Are we still amazed at the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ?

GOD'S WAY AND GOD'S PLAN

Page 18

April 2022



## ARE WE STILL AMAZED AT THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST?

**W**E ARE all familiar with the glorious events surrounding the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His resurrection from the dead three days later. The thrilling account is recorded in all four gospels and is undeniably true. To any individual who has experienced salvation, these events are stamped in his heart with genuine amazement, knowing that the entire gospel hinges on the fact that Jesus rose from the grave. Mark 16:8 says, "And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid." **They were amazed!**

There are so many things about our God that are amazing and exciting. It is a shame that many who once believed and were filled with amazement have allowed the enemy to rob them of salvation and have returned to the beggarly elements of the world. Many are now empty and void of the wonder of it all.

The words of a song keep reverberating in my mind:

*You want to hear the story of how I made it through,  
When life is full of trouble, pain, and fear;*

*The answer may seem simple: though everything else crumbles,*

*One thing has remained through the years.*

Chorus:

*I still serve an amazing God,  
He's been with me every mile my weary feet have trod;  
He still cares, He still hears;  
He's still mending hearts and drying tears;  
This old world is about to change,  
But I'm glad I know the One who always stays the same,  
And my song will ever be,  
Amazing God, You're still amazing me!*

Amazing means: "causing great wonder; astonishing." So what is there so amazing about God?

The fact that He gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice and brought Him back to life again, then sat Him at His right hand in heaven is enough to amaze the entire world. But there is so much more!

Colossians 1:16 says, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him." *He created all things.* Amazing! He created the amazing universe. The Psalmist proclaimed in 19:1-6, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth

as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."

According to NASA, there are approximately two trillion galaxies. In our Milky Way galaxy, there are between 200-400 billion stars. Amazing!

Our amazing God created this amazing earth. I believe the account found in Genesis 1:1-3, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."

*You may feel like you're standing still, but you're actually moving—fast. Depending on where you are on the globe, you could be spinning through space at just over 1,000 miles per hour. People on the equator move the fastest, while someone standing on the North or South pole would be perfectly still. (Imagine a basketball spinning on your finger. A random point on the ball's equator has farther to go in a single spin as a point near your finger. Thus, the point on the equator is moving faster.) Oh yeah, and the earth isn't just spinning: It's also moving around the sun at 67,000 miles (107,826 km) per hour.—Selected*

In case you are not yet amazed, consider that God created an amazing variety of animal and plant life. There are in the neighborhood of 8.7 million species. Among bears alone: Black (American & Asian), Brown, Grizzly, Polar, Panda, Andean, Sloth, Sun (smallest). There are insects, birds, reptiles, mammals, fish and marine life. There are flowers, trees, fauna, grains, fruits, vegetables. And our amazing God created them all in a way that they can multiply.

Just look at the amazing human body. Psalm 139:14 declares, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

In 24 hours the average adult accomplishes much:

Your heart beats 103,689 times  
Your blood travels 12,000 miles  
You breathe 23,040 times  
You inhale 438 cubic feet of air  
You eat 3.5 pounds of food  
You drink 2.9 quarts of liquid  
You speak 4,800 words  
You move 750 muscles  
You exercise 7,000,000 brain cells  
*It's no wonder you feel tired!*

Genesis 2:7 says, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." So, it is a fact that in addition to the amazing human body, every man has an eternal soul! "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and

### ABOUT THE COVER

The miracle of the resurrection still amazes the believers of Christ Jesus today. The promise of life after death was confirmed when the stone was rolled away that day more than two thousand years ago. To God be the glory!

# 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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lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"—Matthew 16:26.

God has an amazing plan—He wills for all to be saved. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). He plans for us to be free from the power and bondage of sin—"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11, 12).

God's grace is amazing! Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." John Newton was inspired as he penned, "Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!"

Saul of Tarsus was a recipient of God's grace. Acts 9:21, "But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?"

God's love is also amazing! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (I John 4:10).

Consider His sacrifice. Hebrews 2:9 affirms, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." Also, Isaiah 53:10, "Yet it pleased

the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand."

He amazed many by manifesting His power. Mark 6:51 reads, "And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered."

Luke 4:36 says, "And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out."

But the crowning of all amazement was, "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words" (Luke 24:1-8). †

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# THE CHURCH

## AS TAUGHT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Radio Message by the late Bro. Alvin A. Craig

**O**UR SUBJECT for today's broadcast is, "The Church as Taught in the New Testament." Let me say right in the beginning: I'm not talking about a denomination. I'm not standing up for a denomination, for the church as taught in the New Testament is not a denomination.

We read in Matthew, chapter 16, where Jesus went into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, and there He questioned His disciples as to who men were saying that He was. Then He asked them, "Who do you say I am?" And Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus responded, "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell [or hades] shall not prevail against it."

Jesus was not saying that Peter was the rock on which He was going to build His church. He said to Peter, "You said that I am the Christ," and I said, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." So, Christ was saying that upon Himself, upon His teachings, upon who He was, He would build His church. We notice in our text of scripture, Matthew 16:18, that Jesus said He would build His church.

In the New Testament, we see His church in operation. In the New Testament, we get a picture, an understanding of the New Testament church and its operations.

First of all, we notice in Acts, chapter 2, verse 47 (after Peter had preached that powerful sermon on the day of Pentecost) that the Lord added to the church daily those that were being saved. So salvation makes you a member of the New Testament church. That's the only thing that will enable you to become a member of the New Testament church. Salvation makes you a member. The very moment that you are saved from your sins, the Lord makes you a member of His church.

Now repentance is required. It is not a matter of signing a decision card, it is not a matter of a congregation voting you into their fellowship. No! Repentance is required. Jesus said for them to repent, or otherwise they would perish.

We read in Acts, chapter 3, verse 19, where Peter said, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." That's why I said earlier in the broadcast that the only way that you can be saved is through the blood of Christ, "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works"

(Titus 2:14). So Peter said, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."

*Conversion* means "to turn; to turn away from sin and to God." So after a person has been truly converted, they need to be baptized as a testimony to the world that they have died to sin and been made alive to Christ.

Jesus said, "It behooves us to fulfil all righteousness" when John objected to baptizing Him. He said, "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it behooves us to fulfil all righteousness." So it is a righteous thing, a necessary thing for a person to be baptized after they have been converted.

The Bible also teaches us that we are to consecrate ourselves a living sacrifice to God. We are to be sanctified. We are to be filled with the Spirit. I'm not talking about some wild fire thing. I'm talking about receiving the Holy Spirit as an abiding comforter, a teacher, a leader, and a guide in your life.

Paul tells us in I Thessalonians, chapter 4, verse 3, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." Paul asked the disciples at Ephesus, whenever he met them, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" (Acts 19:2). I know some people teach that you receive the Holy Spirit when you're converted, but Paul did not teach that. If so, he would have known that these disciples had been filled with the Spirit or they had received the Holy Spirit. But he asked them, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" So sanctification is an experience separate and apart from conversion. Remember, "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." We're talking today about the New Testament church, the church as taught in the New Testament, and these are scriptures that tell us about the New Testament church and its operations.

God places the members in the body as it pleases Him. Paul tells us in I Corinthians, chapter 12, verse 18, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." You don't vote in and vote out people when it comes to spiritual offices in the New Testament church. The Spirit of God gives gifts unto men. We read about this in I Corinthians, chapter 12. The Spirit of God gives gifts, and those given gifts qualify people to fit in a given office or in a given place in the body of Christ. So God has set the members in the body as it pleaseth Him. Therefore, the church is divinely organized. It's not humanly organized, humanly operated, nor humanly directed. Oh yes, I know God uses the human instrument, but the church of the New Testament is divinely organized, and Christ is the One who governs the church. "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." Isaiah prophesied that the government would be on His shoulders.

Paul tells us in Colossians 1:18 that Christ is the Head of the body, the church. Some people ask the question, "Well, where is your church's headquarters?" Well, the only answer I can give in regard to that is, heaven, for that is where Christ is. That's where the





Head is. That's where the Governor is. Oh, yes, I said God uses the human instrument, but Christ is the Head of the church. The government is on His shoulders, and the Spirit of God is the One who divides to every man severally as He wills. Paul tells us in I Corinthians, chapter 12, about various gifts: apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, evangelists, etc. He emphasizes the fact that there are diverse gifts, yet they are given by one and the same Spirit. Yes, I have said that there is that human element in the church.

We read in Acts, chapter 20, verse 28, where the apostle Paul said to the elders of the Church of God of Ephesus, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." There are a couple of points here in this verse of scripture that I'd like to emphasize. First of all, the word *overseers*. Don't take that to mean that they are lords over God's heritage, and don't take it as being dictators. They are overseers placed there by the Spirit of God. Again, not by voting. You can't vote people into spiritual offices. They have to be given a spiritual gift to be qualified to fill a given office. Paul is speaking here of overseers of a congregation. Let me say this: you can be a pastor without having the gift of evangelism, and you can have the gift of evangelism without being or having the gift of pastoring. You can be a minister without having the gift of pastoring. Pastoring is a specific work, and a pastor is one who oversees a flock. He's not an overlord, and he's not a dictator. He is a servant to the flock.

The second point I want you to notice from Acts 20:28 is, *a pastor is to feed the flock*. He's not to feed them hotdogs. No, that's not what Paul is talking about. He's talking about feeding them on the Word of God. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves." Be an example to the flock. Live the life before them. Be consecrated and dedicated to God yourself. Don't expect more of members of the congregation than you expect of yourself. If you call on your congregation to fast, fast with them. We're not talking about lords over God's heritage, but we are talking about pastors who are overseers of the congregation. They are to feed the flock, and they are to feed them the Word of God. The apostle Paul, in his writings to the young man Timothy, said, "Preach the word." I don't find any other instructions in all of the Bible where we are to feed them anything else but the Word of God. Feed them the truth. Error will deceive souls. Error will kill souls. Truth will liberate if obeyed and carried out. Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." So a pastor is to feed the church on the Word of God.

Members are to obey those who have the rule over them, for we read in Hebrews, chapter 13, verse 17, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Again, I want to emphasize: the pastor is not a lord over God's heritage. He's not a dictator. He loves the flock. He's an undershepherd, and he loves the flock. He will not do things to hurt or to harm them, but he will preach

them the truth. A preacher who compromises the gospel and doesn't tell the people the truth doesn't really have a love and a burden and a concern for their souls. Yes, the members are to obey the overseers. The word *overseer* means "one who sees over; one who leads the flock; one who governs the flock under Christ's government." So "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." It will be unprofitable for you, if you do not obey those that have the rule over you.

Again, I say, ministers are to preach the Word. They are to preach sound doctrine, according to Paul in Titus 2:1. The New Testament church has doctrine, and the New Testament minister is to preach sound doctrine.

Members of the New Testament church are to live holy lives. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). You are saved through the blood. That's what makes you a member of the church. To continue your membership in the New Testament church, you must live a life that is free from all known sin. Members of the church are to live holy. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." I Corinthians 15:34, "Awake to righteousness, and sin not." I John 3:9, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." So those who are members of the New Testament church are to live holy lives.

God said to Moses in Exodus 32:33, "Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." God adds your name in the Lamb's book of life when you are saved, and it remains there as long as you live a holy, consistent Christian life. You want it to be there whenever you arrive at the judgment bar of God, for as many as are not found written in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

When we talk about living a holy life, this includes separation from the sinful world. Jesus said in John 17, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." Saints are to love God with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength. They're not to love the world. John said, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Saints of God are to assemble together with other saints of God for divine worship. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25). We gain strength by meeting together with other Christians and worshipping the Lord in the beauty of holiness and in Spirit and in truth.

The church has a work to do. We are saved to serve. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:19, 20). I believe this commission that Christ gave the early morning church is still incumbent upon the church today. We have the responsibility of going into all the world and preaching the gospel and teach-

ing all nations to observe all things whatsoever Christ commanded. Teach them to obey the Word of God. Teach them to live the gospel out in their lives day by day. This is the responsibility of the New Testament church yet today. Each individual member of the body of Christ has a work to do. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). In the home, on the job, wherever you go, let your light shine. Be a witness for Christ.

The church is the light of the world, the salt of the earth, and God's dwelling place on Earth. The church is God's temple today. Don't look for a temple in Jerusalem. God's church is His temple today. It is His dwelling place on Earth today. Thank God for that blood-bought church. Are you a member of it? †



Dear Young People,

John 13:35 tells us, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." As we read and meditate on the thoughts that Bro. Alan Richards has to share with us this month, take the time to really think about the testimony that shines out

from a life lived with true love for others. Truly, Christianity is special, and the solution to the great needs of the world today. May we commit ourselves to having a close relationship with our God, that we overflow with the love of God to others that inspires them to truly believe in our wonderful Savior for themselves.

Blessings,  
Bro. Doug

### *My Thoughts* *Bro. Alan Richards*

**G**OD HAS said that as Christians, we will be a peculiar people. We will be peculiar because we will obey His commandments while everyone else is doing whatever they desire to do. Some, however, will obey a set of commandments that are very similar to the teachings of Jesus, but they err on key doctrinal issues. It can be difficult to find these errors, and at a glance some groups look quite similar to us. So how can we show that we have the truth? One key way is by the love that we show. We are filled with the love of God so our love will be Christlike, while the love that others show will be humanistic and shallow, guided by that person's goals and sense of duty. An excellent example of this is the reciprocity teaching of Confucius and the Golden Rule teaching of Jesus.

While taking a world religions course in high school, I came across this excerpt about Confucius and his



teachings: "A disciple of Confucius, Zi Gong, asked, 'Is there any one word that could guide a person throughout life?' The master replied, 'How about [reciprocity]? Do not do unto others what you would not want others to do unto you.'" A more modern phrase, which I heard often as a child, is, "Treat others the way you want to be treated." It is many times used as a more concise version of Jesus' Golden Rule. As a child, treat others as you want to be treated, meant not grabbing the biggest slice of pie, not butting in line, not being rude, not hitting a sibling, etc. I needed to understand that there are things I should control myself from doing, however, as we get older, our view of the Golden Rule needs to be more than just, "do not ..." Confucius' reciprocity teaching is one of self-control and duty. It is refraining from doing something we want to do but know we shouldn't. Self-control and duty are important and necessary, but the Golden Rule requires more.

In giving His "Sermon on the Mount" Jesus said in Matthew 7:12, "Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." The wording is so similar to Confucius' words that someone might think that it is a different version of the same teaching, however, there is a stark difference between the two. In Matthew 22:39, 40, Jesus also said that to "love thy neighbour as thyself" was "all the law and the prophets." By these two teachings, it is clear to see that Jesus is commanding love in both. As Christians, we will not just refrain from bad behavior because we feel a sense of duty, but because "love worketh no ill to his neighbour." The Golden Rule is more than a command to refrain from bad actions, it is a command to do good actions. Jesus was essentially saying, if you would want someone to do that to you, do it to someone else. An example of this was when Sis. Julie's grandfather passed, and the young people sent flowers. That was not done out of a sense of duty or expectation of return. Duty requires respect in the presence of someone who is grieving, while love wants to help ease that grief. My cousin, David, once sent me a text of encouragement while I was at work. That was not done as a duty either. Duty requires you to attend church and stay saved yourself, but love reaches out during the week to encourage others to stay strong. The Golden Rule was a commandment—to love—from a God of love.

God desires a peculiar people; not peculiar as in weird or odd, but different from everyone else. He wants His children to be separated from false teachers by the heavenly love they show. While others demand that people fulfill their *duty*, Christ gives us the ability to go beyond the realm of duty and into the realm of love. He commands it, but "His yoke is easy and His burden is light," for He always supplies what we need to "love thy neighbour as thyself." †

### **OUT OF BOX 88**

Greetings in Jesus' name,

I'm so thankful to receive your paper. I look forward to it each month. I'm 87 years old, and no spiritual church nearby. Your paper is a blessing to me. Please never change.

—M. G., Pennsylvania †

# AM I NEEDY?

Message delivered 01/16/22 by Bro. Doug Shenberger



I WOULD LIKE to draw your attention to Revelation, chapter 3, verse 17: “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” I’d like to entitle our thoughts, “Am I Needy?” The thought of that statement of someone saying “have need of nothing” is an interesting thought, and we’d like to look at that somewhat this morning.

In general, the thought of *need* brings a lot of different feelings and thoughts to our mind. Needs are different than wants. All of us have things that we want, but in reality, we also have things that we need, whether we know it or not, or whether we realize it or not. But it’s often seen as something inferior to be needy. We want to be strong. We want to be accomplished. We want to be capable. We want to be prepared. We don’t always think that we want to be needy. We want to be a rugged individual, independent.

Proper planning and preparation in life, a lot of times, can bring us to a place in our lives where we don’t feel as needy as other people. That’s proper and right in its place. We have a responsibility to provide and be wise stewards, but we want to look at this thought in thinking about our relationship with God.

As I read this passage of scripture, “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing,” it really spoke to me that that thought would be in a person’s heart. When we think about being “rich, and increased with goods,” we often apply that in the material sense to those who have a lot in abundance. They have everything that they need to have their needs taken care of. They have provisions. They have a good place to stay. They have food, warmth, food, and clothing. They have what they need materially. They’re rich, increased with goods, and have possessions. That certainly goes along with the thought here. I think, most likely, they probably had some material abundance there. Material things are often something that people use as a measurement of success in life, a measurement of how well off they are.

Adam Clarke expresses the thought (and of course, the rest of the verse bears it out), that it’s referring somewhat to a spiritual condition. They may have begun well spiritually, and were confident in that. They had the right foundation, but they failed to maintain a sense of diligence. They felt like they had arrived. They were at rest. They were secure. There was no risk of failure. Clarke also said that they weren’t clothed with holiness and purity. They were blind to their lack and their true need.

When you consider the thought expressed here of “have need of nothing,” in that context it seems so incredibly dangerous. It seems so proud. I wondered, do you think that they actually said that aloud? Do you

think they got up and said, “I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing”? I don’t know if they actually verbalized it. I would hope that there are not too many people that would actually verbalize it. But our actions speak louder than words. So many times, our actions are just as powerful as words. They were proud. They felt like they had *the world by the tail*, as the saying goes. Most likely, they were fairly well off materially, but the rest of that second part of verse 17 says: “and knowest not [They didn’t have the knowledge to know that they were:] wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” That just struck a note of sadness in me to think that they didn’t know that in God’s eyes, that was their true condition. They didn’t know that they were needy. They felt like, whether they said it with their words, or just with their actions, but if it was just in their hearts, they felt like they had need of nothing, and their needs were so severe.

I’d like to look at another passage of scripture over in Luke. Luke 12:16-19: “And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.”

You might say, “Well, you’re changing the subject.” But would you not say that this man did not feel that he had needs? He didn’t feel needy. He felt like he had things under control. He was faced with material abundance, and he made choices depending on what he had. He chose that he was going to hoard all of that together, and save that up and have preparation made for the future. There’s nothing wrong preparing for the future, but then he said, “I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease. I’m going to just relax. I don’t have any needs now. I don’t have to do anything. I don’t have to worry about anything. I have everything I need. I’m going to enjoy it. I’m going to eat and drink. I’m going to be happy and merry. I’m going to be entertained. I’m not going to have any problems, no trials. I’m protected by my riches from whatever might come my way.”

At first glance, those things seem appealing to the human mind. Those things seem appealing to us. We like the idea of not having to struggle, not having to wonder where the next paycheck is coming from, and how we’re going to survive. But in reality, that’s not how God designed life to work. That’s not how God’s plan for the family of man typically is. God has designed



us to do things—to work. We get weak and soft physically, emotionally, spiritually, and mentally whenever we don't do anything. Many people that get to this place in their lives find a lot of unhappiness, a lot of lack of purpose, and not very much fulfillment in life. God's creation has more needs than just riches and abundance.

Do you know what God said to that rich man? Luke 12:20, 21: "Thou fool [You've miscalculated. You've misunderstood. You have needs and you can't see those.], this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." What a sad thing! Once again, he did not see his needs. He felt like he was not needy. In reality, he had great needs.

One more scripture that I'd like to read. Luke, chapter 18, verses 10-14: "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

In that parable Jesus told, we have two men. They both went up into the temple to pray, and the Bible gives us these as examples and opposites. They were so different. The Pharisee was no doubt nicely dressed, very formal, exact, everything just so. He was very concerned about his appearance. He had a good reputation. People knew him. He had a way that he lived, an appearance that he was careful to maintain. We see how thankful he was to God that he wasn't like other people. He wasn't an extortioner, or unjust, or an adulterer. He wasn't even like that publican. He wasn't poor or needy. He was honored. He didn't feel like he had many needs at all. He felt self-sufficient. He felt like he had arrived. He had all that he needed—a knowledge of God—and His blessings. He had everything.

We have the publican. He was just an average guy. He was poor and humble. The scripture says that he stood afar off. He didn't even feel worthy to hardly be there. He saw himself as inferior. He wouldn't even lift up his eyes to heaven. He didn't feel worthy to be in the presence of God. He smote upon his breast and said, "God be merciful to me a sinner." The publican saw his need. He saw himself. He knew he needed help. He knew he needed something. He knew he needed more. He wanted something more. He knew he had a need that he wanted God to meet. Because the publican saw his need, he was able to know about his need and acknowledge it. The Bible says, "This man went down to his house justified." God was able to meet the need of the one that saw his need. Those that could not see their need didn't know that they had a need, and they were unable to ask for help. They could not have their need met.

I hope that this helps us to see how important it is to be able to answer the question of whether or not we are needy, and be able to answer that correctly. If we don't see our own need, if by our words or by our actions or by the thoughts and intents of our hearts, we express to God that we have no need, how can we get the help that we need from Him?

I'd like for us to think about how we can maintain a sense of need. I hope that I've been able to give us a sense of why that's important. So I'd like for us to think a little bit about how we can maintain a sense of need, because some of the blessings of life that we have tend to interfere with our ability, I believe, to see and acknowledge our need clearly. The material blessings that we have, the safety that we have, just the blessings that God bestows upon us can interfere with our ability to see ourselves as needy.

I think there are some things that we should actively do, some ways that maybe we could live our lives with a certain intentionality of realizing that in *my* relationship with God, I *should* always be needy, that I *am* always needy, so that I should be able to recognize and not be in a situation where I'm blind to those needs, where I don't acknowledge them or feel them, where I don't deliberately maintain an awareness of them.

The first thing I'd like to mention is *self-examination*. We need to look in the mirror. The Bible gives an example of a person that looks in the mirror and then goes away and forgets about what he saw. You know, that's really easy to do, especially in the spiritual realm. Sometimes we can feel something in a service or in prayer or in reading God's Word, and something comes to our mind about a need that we have or something we could do. But it's easy to go away and be that forgetful hearer and allow that to slip away from us, and there's something there that we're not taking care of. So the mirror of God's Word is an important mirror for us to look into. So if we want to maintain a sense of need, being involved and knowing scripture is an important part of that, because if we study God's Word and expose ourselves to the preaching of God's Word, I believe that the Spirit of God is faithful to show us needs.

Whether you are fifteen or seventy years old today, I believe it's God's intention for us to grow, to work, to do things, and to be something for Him. So if we believe that about God, there are needs that have to be met to allow for growth or for overcoming or being useful. I believe if we're seeking that, God desires to *show* us our needs. The mirror of God's Word, whether it's from reading it or hearing it or experiencing the instruction of His Holy Spirit, we need to be honest with ourselves when we come in contact with those things. We need to examine ourselves, and be not forgetful hearers. Don't turn away and forget what we've seen there. It's a precious opportunity, and failure to be in tune with that, and to be sensitive to that is a way of expressing that *I have need of nothing*. When God speaks to us, and we don't want to hear or don't want to take the time to hear about our needs, it's a way of expressing to God that *I have need of nothing*. We have to stop allowing ourselves to do that. We need to examine ourselves and to take action.



Another way that we maintain a need, somewhat, is that God desires us to *feel* our needs. I believe that some of the suffering sometimes that comes upon us is because God knows that we need to feel needy. I believe that sometimes God allows trials and persecutions into our lives for our benefit, so that we might feel our need of Him, that we might feel our need of correction or improvement. That's what chastisement sometimes involves. God allows needs in our lives to endeavor to speak to us a lot of times, I believe. So many times we get so focused on the pain of whatever He has allowed, that we don't allow Him to show us our true need and benefit from it.

Maintaining a sense of need is something that God desires to *work* out in our lives. He desires to touch us, to show us ourselves, and to help us to see the needs that we have.

We can see from examples in the Scriptures that I've drawn from, that God, in some degree, despises and is withdrawn from those who do not need Him. He can't fellowship with someone that doesn't have a need. I believe He's working with us through His Spirit to endeavor to show us and to bring us to a place where we can feel and see our need of Him. The needs we have in our lives are truly there for each and every one of us.

Another way, and a very important way that I believe we can maintain a sense of need is this: we need to take action. We have to do something. One of the ways and things that tends toward the attitude "I have need of nothing" is the attitude of the rich farmer who said, "I have everything and I'm going to take it easy. I don't have to do anything. I don't even have to plant crops next year." Taking action involves accepting responsibility. If someone asks you to do something, or when God asks you to do something, or when something is brought to you about something you could do in God's work or for others, you might say, "Well, I'm pretty busy. I really don't have the talent for that. My life is really filled up right now. I can't accept that responsibility." But we need to be aware that everything we do has a cost associated with it. Every decision that we make has a cost. When we have the opportunity to accept responsibility, it'll tend to put us in a place where we're going to be more needy, because we're exposing ourselves. We're exposing ourselves to failure, to exhaustion, and ridicule. All types of possible things are going to create need in our lives when we accept responsibility, and when we endeavor to take action and actually do something.

Another way we can create need is in fasting and prayer. Self-denial—whether it's fasting from food or whatever area it might be. When we deny ourselves of the things we enjoy and are used to having, self-denial can bring us into a state where we feel a little more needy, where we feel like we all of a sudden have a little more time to talk to God, and a little more time to focus. We feel our needs more. These are all action items that we can do to help with our sense of need. Maybe we need to cut off some things in our lives that are lawful but not necessarily expedient.

I think if we had a little less of some things in our lives, we would have more time to meditate, to consider God, and to think about what He's trying to talk to us

about. The needs that are being covered up in all this activity and in the busyness of life are overcoming us to the point that we don't feel like we have much need. We really don't have time to think about whether we have a need, other than the need of more sleep. I know there are many things that could be said about this subject. I'm just scratching the surface of it this morning.

One other thing we could take action about is this: we could give sacrificially. We've heard of the time when Jesus talked about the poor widow that gave her two mites. She gave all that she had. She gave sacrificially. When we give out of our abundance, we don't feel needy as a result of that giving. We still have plenty left. It's not just financially. It could be our time, our love, our emotions, our strength. To give sacrificially creates a situation where we have a need. When we have a need that we can see and acknowledge, that's an opportunity to go to God to have that need met. We need to feel that from time to time. We need to experience what it's like to just feel really needy before God. Even as a Christian, we need to be able to feel and experience that. As the publican said, "Lord, I'm not worthy."

We need to feel, "Lord, there are needs. Maybe I've been blind to them. There are things in my life that I've been blind to. Maybe I've become proud, and I'm not used to acknowledging that I have needs anymore. Now I can't even feel them; but Lord, you know that I have needs, and I want to bring myself to the place where you can show those to me."

I believe there are some very real benefits for us from experiencing needs. One of the most powerful ones is true humility. When we're broken and needy, and we feel and know that, we experience true humility. We have an increased ability to relate to and to help others, to be patient with others, understand others, be able to feel other people's pain, to have true compassion like Jesus has for the lost. Our greater dependence upon God when we feel our needs before Him, and when we seek Him for help for those needs, just draws us closer to God. He's able to speak to us, to work with us, to engage with us in a greater way. I believe we'll end up with a greater faith in God, a greater faith in His love, more confidence in His faithfulness, in His justice and mercy.

I'd like to read that verse in Revelation again. Revelation 3:17, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

I said that the title of the message was, "Am I Needy?" How are we this morning? Do we feel needy? Are we in need? Do we know that we're in need, or do we feel we're in a pretty good shape? We don't really need anything. We're just here this morning because this is the place to be. We don't really need something special from God. *I certainly don't want to let anybody know that I have a need. I want everybody to feel like I'm in great shape.*

Are we ready to acknowledge that we have needs? Are we comfortable with that? We think in those terms. *I'm just enjoying the blessings of God. I'm in good shape. Thank the Lord for all that He has done for me. Thank the Lord I'm here. I'm not out there like those other ones.* We are thankful for that, but we need to be careful. It's

sobering to realize that we could feel that way, and that God could actually look at us and say that you're poor, you're blind, and you're miserable in His sight and in His judgment. We should live with a sense of need before God, I believe. There are some things we need to do differently in our lives to make sure that we're achieving that.

Where are we on the needy side of things? We're so safe and protected and so blessed. We have a circle of friends. We have saints and companionship and salvation. We have families. What does God see in my heart and life? What can I do to help make sure that He can show me those while I have time to do something about them?

In thinking of this message, it just helped me to see that there are areas in my life that have needs. I need to allow the Lord to meet those needs. I need to be what the Lord wants me to be. I don't ever want to be so proud that I can't fall on my face before God and say, "Lord, show me; help me to see myself. Help me to let you meet my needs so that I will be able to be clothed with white raiment, and that I might be able to see."

May the Lord help us. †

## THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



### DOWN IN EGYPT

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"Where are you going?" my four-year-old sister, Twila, asked as I opened the screen door that led from the kitchen to the back porch.

"I'm going down to Egypt," I told her.

Twila didn't ask me where that was. She knew. My father had dug a ditch in our backyard in order to access the crawl space under our little house. Every evening that the weather was good, he was hard at work fixing things under the house.

For my father, the ditch represented hours of back-breaking work, but for us little girls it was a place for adventure. We called the ditch "Egypt" because all the Bible stories our parents told us about Moses began, "When the children of Israel were slaves 'down in Egypt' ..." Since we had to climb downward to reach the bottom of it, the ditch became "Egypt" in our imaginations.

I ran across the porch and over to the ditch where my father was working, Twila close behind me. We made our way carefully down into Egypt, dislodging damp, heavy clods of earth as we went.

"Be careful," my dad called from the crawl space. "There are all kinds of tools lying around in the ditch."

"You mean 'Egypt,' Daddy, right?" I asked him.

"All right," said my father. "There are all kinds of tools lying around in Egypt. Be careful you don't fall over them."

I reached down and picked up the short-handled hoe that lay near my feet. The hoe had not started off short-handled, but it had ended up that way a couple of years earlier when my mother used it to kill a snake in the yard. The hoe was a perfect size for two little girls to use in acting out a Bible story.

"You be an Israelite," I said to Twila, "and I'll be an Egyptian taskmaster."

"No," said Twila. "I want to be the taskmaster."

"But you can't be the taskmaster," I said to her. "You are too little. How can you boss me around when I am bigger than you?"

I handed her the hoe. "Here," I said. "You be the Israelite. Your job is to dig the ground, and my job is to watch you and make sure you keep working. If you don't work hard enough, I'll have to whip you."

"I don't want to be whipped," said Twila.

"I'm not going to really whip you," I said. "I'll just pretend to do it. We are only acting out the story."

"I don't want to be the Israelite," Twila said again.

"Well, you have to be," I said. "So get busy digging, or I'm going to report you to Pharaoh."

Twila made a few stabs at the ground with her hoe, and I stooped to pick up a piece of rope that lay at the edge of the ditch. It would make a fine "pretend" whip.

I didn't see the blow coming, but I certainly felt it when my sister hit me over the head with the hoe, using all the force her little arms could muster.

Hearing my shrieks of anger and pain, my father backed out of the crawl space so fast he banged his head on the ceiling of it. "What in the world is going on?" he asked.

He saw at a glance what had happened. My hands were pressed to my head and Twila still gripped the short-handled hoe, tears of frustration running down her face.

My father held out his hand to me. "Let me see your head," he said. He looked carefully at the place where I had been hit. "Looks like you've got quite a bump there, but you'll be okay," he said. Then he looked at Twila. "Why would you want to hit your sister over the head?" he asked.

"She told me I had to be an Israelite and do everything she told me to do," said Twila. "She said she would whip me if I didn't."

"Did you say that?" my father asked me.

"I told her we were only pretending," I said. "I told her I wasn't going to actually whip her. We were just acting out the story of the Israelites when they were slaves down in Egypt."

My father sighed. He took Twila by her shoulders and looked into her eyes. "See what your attitude made you do!" he said. "Being a slave to an ugly attitude or a bad temper is worse than the Egyptian slavery you were acting out," he continued.

A lump came into my throat as my father talked to my little sister. It was true that an ugly attitude had



taken over our playtime and made us miserable. I was sad when I heard my father tell Twila she would not be allowed to participate in a fun activity she had been looking forward to. Her outburst of temper had stolen an evening of enjoyment from her.

This month's wise saying comes from Proverbs 5:22, which says, "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins."

It is not a pleasant thing to picture ourselves tied down with cords or ropes. But if we allow bad attitudes and hard feelings to control us, we will become a servant to them. They will tie down our spirits and keep us from enjoying the peace that comes from knowing we have pleased God.

God is love. In order to be His happy children, we must show a loving attitude toward others, even when things do not go our way. That is the only way to live in true peace and freedom.

### Activity

Sin binds people, but God sets them free. Here are some Bible verses about the freedom God offers those who serve Him. See if you can match the beginning of each scripture with its ending.

- \_\_\_ 1. And ye shall know the truth,
- \_\_\_ 2. Stand fast therefore in the liberty
- \_\_\_ 3. And whosoever will,
- \_\_\_ 4. For now being made free from sin,
- \_\_\_ 5. If the Son therefore shall make you free
  - a. ye shall be free indeed.
  - b. and the truth shall make you free.
  - c. ye become the servants of righteousness.
  - d. let him take the water of life freely.
  - e. wherewith Christ hath made us free.

### Answer to Last Month's Activity

- 1. "Every **prudent** man dealeth with *knowledge*: but a fool layeth open his *folly*" (Proverbs 13:16).
- 2. "The simple inherit *folly*: but the **prudent** are crowned with *knowledge*" (Proverbs 14:18).
- 3. "A fool despiseth his father's *instruction*: but he that regardeth *reproof* is **prudent**" (Proverbs 15:5).
- 4. "The *wise* in heart shall be called **prudent**: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth *learning*" (Proverbs 16:21).
- 5. "The heart of the **prudent** getteth *knowledge*: and the ear of the *wise* seeketh knowledge" (Proverbs 18:15). †

Children, write Sis. Rebecca this month and let her know that the *Children's Corner* is a blessing to you. The Way of Truth, Attn: Rebecca Bland, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741 U.S.A. Your letter may be printed in a future issue.

## BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

### FAITH AND MIRACLES

#### THE MIRACLE OF THE RESURRECTION

**Scriptures:** Matthew 28:1-10; Revelation 1:18; I Corinthians 15:51-54; Romans 8:11.

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

**Memory Verse:** I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.—Revelation 1:18.

**Aim:** To inspire the Christian's hope in the miracle of Jesus' resurrection.

### INTRODUCTION

A great miracle indeed was performed when the Lord Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. The forces of nature were laid aside, and in defiance of all natural laws, the body of Christ again was filled with life. The

natural mind does not accept this, for it defies analysis. Many accept the story as an allegory and never experience any change in their hearts, but he who really accepts it in his heart is going to be a changed man. It is the desire of every human being to want to live and live well. This desire has been planted in the heart and life by God. Then to be resurrected from the dead, to dwell in an eternally young body, should be of the greatest interest to every living soul.

### MEDITATIONS

**OUR RISEN LORD—Matthew 28:1—Came Mary**—The sabbath ended at sundown, so it was early the first day of the week, when the two Mary's made their way to see the sepulchre. Their purpose in coming was to anoint the body for burial. **Verses 2, 3—Great earthquake**—We are not told just what time this earthquake took place, but it seems to have been caused by the coming of the angel, when he came to roll back the stone opening the sepulchre. His appearance leaves no room for doubt as to his being an angel. **Verse 4—Became as dead men**—It was the manifestation of the great power of God in the presence of weak flesh that made the keepers of the tomb tremble. If man could realize it, the great power of God continually surrounds us. His presence is not realized only because God does not see fit to manifest Himself. **Verse 6—He is risen**—He who had submitted Himself fully to sinful men until they had done everything in their power to destroy Him and His influence, even nailing Him to a cross and leaving Him to die, after lying in the tomb for three days was suddenly restored to life beyond the reach of the sin-laden hands of devils and men! Blood flowed through His veins again, and He ate fish fresh off the coals! He walked with the disciples! He talked with them! **Verse 7—Go quickly**—Great news that was indeed, and they could not or would not want to keep it secret! It should be told to all, quickly—the much-desired victory had been won; the devil, the arch-enemy of God and man, was defeated! We should tell the same story with as much enthusiasm today. It means just as much as it did to the women who first visited the empty tomb. **Verse 8—With fear and great joy**—The majesty of the angel, coupled with the glory of God that surrounded them, greatly awed the women, but the message from heaven which He gave to them was a source of unequalled joy. The message that Christ has been raised from the dead is just as important today as it was then; it is just as vital in the Christian religion now as it ever was. Why did Christ die? So that you and I might live! **Verses 9, 10—Jesus met with them**—Things were happening with a terrible rapidity. Running at high speed, thrilled with the message of the angel, the women were suddenly confronted with the Master Himself, which further augmented their great joy. In humility and true adoration they fell at His feet, which is the proper place for every child of God. No further evidence was needed to confirm the report of the angel that the Lord had been raised from the dead.

**Revelation 1:18—I am he that liveth and was dead**—This testimony of the resurrection of Jesus Christ was given by Christ Jesus Himself (who cannot lie) after His ascension. How this scripture should grip

our hearts! Jesus Christ holds the keys to hell and death! But even so, He will never send anyone there unless he (the person) chooses to go there. Choose the holy, lowly way of Christ and live!

**MAN'S HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION—I Corinthians 15:51, 52—We shall all be changed**—There will be people living on Earth when Jesus comes, but they, along with all the resurrected, shall be changed. It will not take a long "time" for this to happen! God's miracle working power will bring this to pass in "a moment." The redeemed will be given a body of incorruption. **Verse 53—This mortal must put on immortality**—The physical body will not inhabit eternity; this mortal must put on immortality. The redeemed will have a body like our Lord's. **Verse 54—Death is swallowed up in victory**—Paul calls death "the last enemy that shall be destroyed" (verse 26). When these mortal bodies are changed to a spiritual body, we will go to be with the Lord eternally, and there will be no more death, "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**ON WHAT CONDITIONS ARE WE RAISED TO ETERNAL LIFE?—Romans 8:11—If the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus**—All will be raised, but not all to eternal life! Some will be raised to eternal death. To live eternally we must have a born again experience and then walk in the light, and be faithful to the end. Those who die in the Lord are sure to be resurrected to eternal life. The resurrection of Jesus Christ gives the Christian this blessed assurance.

### CONCLUSION

At this season of the year when all nature is again being resurrected to life and there is hope in the air of a new season with all of its blessings of a new crop and beauty of flowers, the warmth of the spring breezes and gentle showers, there should be a stir in the human breast anticipating the newness of life in the resurrection of the last day.

### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why was it that the women who came to the tomb did not understand that Jesus was to be resurrected on the third day?
2. What was the cause of their great joy when the angel told them that the Lord had risen?
3. Should we be as eager to carry the gospel message of the resurrection as those women were?
4. What is our hope of the resurrection?
5. What will happen to the body that we now have, at the judgment? †

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

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



# The Parable of the Wayside Seed

Message delivered 02/20/22 by Bro. Doug Koerner



**L**ET US OPEN up our Bibles to Matthew, chapter 13. We'll read verses 1-9: "The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." This has been called "The Parable of the Sower."

In verse 10, after Jesus was finished speaking to the crowd, His disciples asked Him, "Why speakest thou unto them in parables?" I want you to look and listen to what Jesus said, because I believe it should be very solemn for us to understand what He said. Jesus answered them saying, "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given" (verse 11).

Sometimes Jesus' parables confused some people. Some confused His disciples, and we'll speak about that in a moment. They didn't understand. We know that a parable is based on a natural happening and used for a spiritual application. We know as Jesus was referring to this parable that the *sower* is God's ministry, the *seed* is the Word of God that goes forth, and the *ground* is the people.

Some of us might know a little about farming. The ground is prepared, seeds are sown, and the farmer is the one that distributes the product. In the spiritual sense, the seed is the product, which is the Word of God, and for the Word of God to be accepted, it depends on how the ground is prepared to accept it.

I thank God that in the 1980s I came to the house of God, and the Lord spoke to me through the ministry of the Word of God. It touched my heart. I didn't understand everything, but the Spirit of God touched my heart, and it gave me a longing and a desire to follow the things of God. But many people disregard it.

We want to look at the very first seed here and talk about that a little bit. The sower is God's ministry. We know that there are many false teachers in the world. Not every preacher, not every minister is a true preacher of God. There's great danger when these false ministers tell people that all they have to do to make heaven their home is to say "I accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior," and that's it, and continue to live a life of sin. That's

a false teaching. It is leading millions and millions into a place called hell. We need to be aware. I often ask the ministry to pray for me that God will help me to preach it as straight as I can understand to preach it, and not to deviate from it, but to stay right on the line. If I preach false doctrine to you, I will be held accountable. You will also be held accountable as you stand before God one day, and you might say, "The minister preached this," but still you're not going to make heaven, because God said that your blood would be upon my hands.

In Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 4-6, we read, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." One body! Since there's only one, why do we have so many different denominations today? One time Jesus told His disciples, when they wanted to call down fire on those who wouldn't work with Him, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of."

Paul, and the disciples, along with Christ, warned people of false teachers. As ministers, we need to warn the saints. The Word says, "Study to show thyself approved unto God." Study the Word! Don't just come and listen to the Word of God, but take it home with you. I try to encourage the saints at home to write down some notes. A lot of times when I'm here at camp meeting or wherever, I always have a pad to write down some scriptures and thoughts. Maybe I could get a message out of it. I remember when I first got saved, I always kept notes. I would study throughout the week what the minister brought that Sunday morning or Sunday night. The Bible says we must study the Word to know for ourselves. We have many false teachers today. We need to know the truth. We must trust in God and lean on Him.

I want to look at verse 4 of our text in Matthew 13: "And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up." You know, as I started to preach, I prayed much for the Lord to help me. Many years ago, God inspired me with this thought. God let me know, "Your job is to preach the Word." The minister's job is to preach the Word. As I deliver the Word, and it leaves my mouth, the Spirit of God takes it from here, and it goes to that person, to that person, and that person. I don't know your heart. I don't know your battles. I don't know who has a weakness of faith or other problems, but God does.

The sower sowed some seeds that fell by the wayside. Thank God, if you're saved and sanctified and on fire for God, but I want to indicate to you that there are four grounds here in Matthew 13. You might be on that fourth ground where you're bearing fruit, but you haven't made heaven yet. The enemy is doing everything

he can to get you to go back to the first ground, where the Word of God is of no effect to you, where it's dull to you, where you miss services, and you're not here as often as you should be. By the grace of God, I plan to be in services, unless I can't because of sickness or another reason, but when people start missing services, there's a concern when they're not here on a regular basis. Are you slipping back on the first ground, where the enemy is stealing something away from you?

In verses 18 and 19 of Matthew 13, Jesus goes on and tells them of the parable here of this particular verse: "Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side." Jesus says here, "They hear the Word, but they don't understand it."

Last week I brought a message at home by asking a question. I'll ask you, too. There's a verse in the Bible that says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Are you familiar with that verse? You've probably heard it many times. Is it a true verse? Your natural response would be that it's absolutely a true verse. How many millions of people in this world hear the Word of God but never receive faith? We have to apply ourselves. When the Spirit of God dealt with me in the 80s, I thank God that I accepted it. How many other people sat in the same pews and heard the Word of God and went away without accepting it? Jesus said, "They hear, but they don't understand."

We don't understand everything from Genesis to Revelation. Even the most versed one here would probably still say, "I need to go deeper." We need to learn and apply ourselves. A lot of times people get afraid of trying something new. We were on the phone with a friend of ours that lives in New Hampshire. She was telling my wife and me about a picture of her family. She said, "Well, I'll try to send it to you." She's about our age or a little older. I said to her, "Take a snapshot of it." She asked, "Well, how do I do that?" I tried to explain it to her.

As we get older, we get afraid to learn. When I started to learn to drive, there was hardly anything in the car at that time. There was a steering wheel, a shifter, a couple knobs to turn the headlights off and on, a dimmer button on the floor, and a radio with a knob. You get in a car today, it is overwhelming. I work on cars for a living. I get in and I have no idea how to turn the wipers on. It wasn't my car. You get in a car today, there are buttons galore, and we get afraid to learn sometimes.

Do you know we can't be afraid to learn the Word of God? We can't be afraid. The Bible says, "They hear the Word, but they don't understand it." When people don't understand things, they become afraid and walk away from it. As seasoned saints of God, there may be some things we don't understand, but by the grace of God, we want to learn with God's help.

The disciples, in another place in the Bible, asked Jesus, "What does the parable mean?" Jesus went through and explained what it meant. In verse 23 of Matthew 13, it says: "But he that received seed into

the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." That is where we desire to be. We desire to be on the fourth ground that's bearing fruit. Saints of God, I give you this warning: we need to be diligent and stay close to the cross of Christ, because if not, we can be easily brought back to that first ground, and the devil snatches the Word of God away from us. All you have to do is to be away from the things of God for a small period of time, and the Word of God can be taken away, and you lose that desire for the things of God.

Let's go to Acts, chapter 17, verse 11: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." How is your mind tonight? Paul said that they received the Word of God with all readiness of mind. Ask God to help you. You need to ask God for help. You need to ask Him to keep you diligent, to keep your mind stayed on the things of God, and have a readiness of mind to accept the Word of God. This verse also says that they searched the Scriptures daily. They stayed in the Scriptures. "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." I've said before, I am concerned with the time period we're living in. The Bible says that in perilous times many of these things would come. All those things are happening today. It's difficult to get people to the house of God to hear about spiritual things. But we as saints of God need to stay close to God and have a readiness of mind to search the Scriptures daily.

Adam Clarke gives this thought about the verse in Matthew 13, where it says "and understandeth it not." He says, "Perhaps more properly, *regardeth* it not, does not lay his heart to it." I think that's a pretty good explanation. What do you mean by that? People disregard the Word of God. The Word of God is preached, and they don't listen.

Several times I've said that we're only in a service for a little while. We come to the house of God. We enjoy the songs and testimonies, but the main part of the service is the preaching of the Word of God. God has ordained it so. You're here for 45 minutes to an hour, and the enemy does everything he can to distract your mind from the message of the Word of God. He tries to get you to think of what happened yesterday, what happened this afternoon, and with other things going on. He tries anything he can to distract, and it takes a lot of work on our part to stay attentive.

There are three spiritual tools that people come to church services with: one is a *shovel*. People like to take it and say, "That should go to that person." The others—a *rake* and a *sifter*. You take the rake and bring the entire Word of God to you, and the Spirit of God should be the sifter. You know what a sifter is. People pan for gold. They dig and shake that sifter, looking for a gold nugget. The whole message of the Word of God may not be for you, but you should diligently look and ask God, "What do you have in the message for me?" In order for you to do that, you have to pay heed. You have to



do your best to stay awake and pay attention, or the enemy will allow you to drift off. I believe it's very important that we know the truth. The Bible says, "Buy the truth, and sell it not."

There's one truth that Jesus gave to a man named Nicodemus. Probably every one of you has heard the story. You can read it in John, chapter 3. Nicodemus came to Christ, and He gave him a very solid, easy to understand truth. What was that truth? "Ye must be born again." Is that really difficult to understand? "Ye *must* be born again."

I have a neighbor of mine who has cancer. He's about 73, and under Hospice care. Some weeks ago, I was called to come and have prayer with him. I spent a little time with him. He understood his time was short. He asked me, "Can you come over at least once a week and have church with me?" I said, "Certainly." I didn't do much that night. The next week I went over and talked to him about some things in the Bible. I gave him some things to read. I told him to read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I gave him other thoughts to read in other chapters. He seemed to be very sincere.

The next week when I went back to talk to him, he was sitting in a wheelchair, and he had his Bible. He was waiting for me. I've been encouraged, but he doesn't know very much truth at all. I brought to him the thought of what Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Ye must be born again." I said to him, "The only way you can get saved is, you must repent." I had another book with me, and I told him, "If this book contained all of your sins, everything will be brought to judgment, but if you come and repent of your sins, God buries that book under the blood of Jesus." I said to him, "Baptism does not save you." When I said that to him, he looked at me strangely and said, "What?" He said, "I was baptized a long time ago."

There are many people who have a certificate in their house somewhere that they may have to look for that says, "I've been baptized when I was 10, 11, or 12," and they're holding to that, because some false minister told them, "That's all you have to do to make heaven your home." They didn't tell them they had to repent. But the Bible says, "Ye must be born again."

One of the things that has helped me by talking to that man is that we have to go back to the basics sometimes. Dealing with the world out there, we have to know the basics. We think sometimes that people understand that they need to repent. After Pentecost, when Peter went out to preach, the men asked him, "Peter, what do we need to do?" Peter answered, "Repent, and then be baptized." That's truth.

Let's go to Ezekiel 33:31-33: "And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them."

I've done several funerals and memorial services at church. When the people were leaving, a couple of them

said, "I really appreciated the message. I really need to get back in church." They asked me what time do we have church services, but I never see them. They leave and the enemy is able to steal that Word. They didn't follow through. Ezekiel says it here the same way. Verse 32: "They love to hear a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not." It's important that we be diligent in the Word of God, for the enemy will remove the Word that has been spoken. Ezekiel warned the people in his time. Jesus warned them in His time, and we see it in our time.

As I've said before, I've been preaching several weeks at home about faith. I brought a couple weeks ago the thought that "faith cometh by hearing." We talked about the ten virgins. We know that being virgins indicated that they were righteous at one point, but five of them failed to continue what they knew they should have done. Five of them lost out.

Do we have a readiness of mind for the things of God this evening? We see in the Old Testament that the temple had two rooms. The first room was a holy place. In I Chronicles 9:32, they were required to keep the shewbread fresh every sabbath. That was a shadow of things to come. God requires of us to keep our spiritual walk with God fresh. Every single week, keep it fresh. Bro. Hawke made a comment one time when I was just young. I listened to him. When he said it, it just stuck in my mind. He said, "Seven days without prayer makes one weak." As I heard him say that, it clicked. Seven days, if you don't pray, you don't read, you're going to become weak. Bro. Hawke said that 30 years ago. How much truer it is today! We have an enemy and a world out there to hinder us in our walk. The bread typified spiritual food for the soul.

I said something to someone just recently. The Bible says, "If you want to have friends, you must show yourself friendly." The person said, "I didn't even know that was in the Bible." I've preached to people outside the church in different places that say they're Christians. I've preached about Jesus being born and being crucified, and they knew almost nothing of the story. It concerns me. Saints of God, the Bible needs to be our spiritual food. We need to be versed in the Word. We need to have a desire to know the Word of God. I know we can't understand it all, but stay in the basics until God gives more understanding and wisdom. We need to stay there. The devil is doing his best to steal away truth from us.

Jesus tells us in John, chapter 8, verse 44, "[The devil] is a liar, and the father of it." He will never, ever tell the truth. He will twist it if he can. He tempted Jesus with three temptations. (1) The devil said, "If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. (2) If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee. (3) All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine." Every single temptation and battle that Jesus went through with the enemy, He battled him with the Word. He didn't battle him in His own strength. He used the Word of God.

When you go through your battles, the Word is the only thing that will help you, but you need to be familiar with it. God will help you. You can't come to church on Sundays and shut the Word out the rest of the week, because the enemy will do his best to take it away from you. Hold fast to the Word of truth. Keep a readiness of mind, and search the Scriptures daily.

May the Lord bless you. †

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## SHADOWS OF GOOD THINGS

By the late Russell R. Byrum

### (Part VII)

#### THE TABERNACLE AND ITS FURNITURE

(Exodus 25-27, 30, 35-38, 40)

##### The Sanctuary

(Exodus 26:1-37; 8-38)

*The Two Veils and Two Rooms*—At the entrance of the tabernacle was a hanging of blue, purple, and scarlet of fine linen, suspended upon five pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold and set in sockets of brass. Twenty cubits beyond this was the second veil of fine linen, with figures of cherubim in the same gorgeous colors as those on the curtains. The veil hung upon four gold-plated pillars of shittim wood set in sockets of silver.

*Typical Meaning of the Two Rooms*—No feature of the tabernacle is more prominent than the two divisions of it—the holy and the most holy place. This twofold aspect is seen, not only in the two rooms, but also in the first and second veil admitting to them respectively; in the two altars, the brazen altar before the first veil and the golden altar before the second veil; and in the two applications of blood, the first on the brazen altar and the second on the golden altar. Something of very fundamental importance must be foreshadowed by this oft-repeated double aspect in type.

Some interpreters have understood this second room to represent heaven. They get this idea from the statement in Hebrews 9:24, where Christ is said to have entered, not into the holy places in the literal tabernacle, "but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." It should be noted, however, in interpreting this verse, that the analogy is not being drawn here between places merely, but especially between the service of the high priest's entering into God's presence in that ancient house to intercede for the people and Jesus' entering into God's presence in heaven to make intercession for sinners. The presence of God is the essential thing, the place is merely incidental. For all others than the high priest, "the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing" (Hebrews 9:8). Even he could enter only on the day of atonement, once each year, in the capacity of intercessor for the people. Therefore his intercession there was typical of Christ's intercession before God in heaven. But as a type of Christian experience, or in relation to the common priests, it represents a state of grace that may be obtained in this life, according to Hebrews 10:19. A

second reason why the holiest place is not a proper type of heaven is that a literal place cannot be a type of a literal place even though that place be heaven. The laws of symbols forbid this. A place more appropriately typifies a spiritual state. A third reason is that in this twenty-fourth verse of Hebrews nine the holiest place is not mentioned, but the "holy places," including the entire house, both the holy and the holiest place. But we have already fully proved that the tabernacle was typical of the church, the house of God, "whose house are we" (Hebrews 3:6). (See also Hebrews 8:2; 9:11; I Corinthians 12:27; I Timothy 3:15). A fourth and very positive reason is that in Hebrews 10:19-22. "Brethren" are urged to enter the holiest, which would be meaningless if used of heaven, which is not entered voluntarily—we can only will to be ready, and we already are prepared when we are "brethren."

But what is the antitypical inner room? Is there such a thing in the process of coming to God as two distinct degrees of holiness? Do some of those in God's church possess a distinctly superior degree of holiness? Is there an experience in divine grace that is obtained by an application of the blood as at the golden altar subsequent to the experience obtained at the brazen altar and at the laver, which admits into the first room?

According to both the Bible and the experience of multitudes of the most spiritual Christians, these questions must be answered in the affirmative. The first room typified the regenerated state of believers, and the second room the state of entire sanctification which is received at the time of the Holy Ghost baptism subsequent to conversion.

Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). This prayer Jesus prayed for His disciples, who belonged to God and had "kept" His Word (verse 6), who were "not of the world" (verses 9, 14, 16), who had been sent to preach (Matthew 10:7), whose names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20), who had believed on Him (Matthew 16:16) and were therefore born of God (John 1:12, 13). Now, to sanctify means to make holy. Therefore these who had been regenerated needed to be made more holy than they were already. So in John 15:1-6 a purging or cleansing of those who are already branches of the true vine, Christ, is promised, that they may be the more fruitful. Again, Paul prays for his newly converted Thessalonian brethren, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thessalonians 5:23).

"Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it [the church]; that he might sanctify and cleanse it [the church] with the washing of water by the word" (Ephesians 5:25, 26). Here the church, those already regenerated, are to be sanctified, having been already cleansed at the laver of water. The Greek word here for washing is the same as that used in Exodus 38:27 in the Septuagint which we translate laver. There is a cleansing of those already in the church. This is accomplished by the Holy Ghost at the time of his baptism (Acts 15:8, 9). That the baptism by the Spirit is after the time of conversion is exemplified in the apostles



(John 14:17; Acts 2:4), the Samaritans (Acts 8:12-16), the Ephesians (Acts 19:2-6), and others.

This sanctification is a restoration from the depravity of the nature. That the derangement of the nature continues in the regenerated has been the experience and belief of Christians generally. But in entire sanctification by a second application of the blood of Jesus at the golden altar we are able to enter through the veil into the holiest place, the place of perfect holiness, where we are pure “as he is pure.” This and this only is perfect redemption from sin. Under the ancient tabernacle, entrance into the holiest place was not possible except for the high priest; but now it is open to whosoever wills to enter. Then let us “enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus ... having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience [at the brazen altar], and our bodies washed with pure water [at the laver which admits into the holy place]” (Hebrews 10:19, 22).

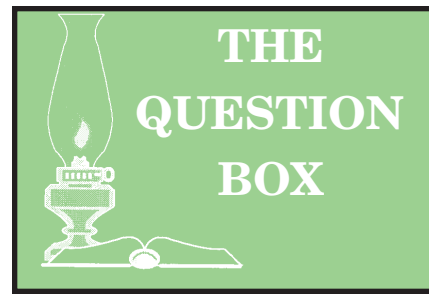
*Typical Meaning of the Veil*—Both the hangings at the entrance, the first veil, and the second veil, typified Christ. That the second veil typified Him is plainly stated in Hebrews 10:20, where it is said we enter the holiest “by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.” It is only by Christ’s atonement, which He made by coming in the flesh, that perfect holiness is possible. This also throws light on the rending, from top to bottom, of the veil in the temple by unseen hands, at the death of Jesus. It signified that the atonement was now completed and full redemption from sin is possible, so we can go into the very presence of God, into the place of perfect holiness.

Under the symbol of a sheepfold Jesus states that He is the door (John 10:9). Therefore the door or veil at the entrance to the ancient house of God typified Christ. “For through him we both have access by one spirit unto the Father” (Ephesians 2:18). Only through Christ can we be saved.

*Typical Meaning of the Golden Pillars*—Four golden pillars supported the second veil and five the hanging at the entrance, or the first veil. In the Galatian letter Paul writes, “And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship” (Galatians 2:9). “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out” (Revelation 3:12). As the pillars in that first temple of God were supports for it and held up the veils which typified Christ, so the faithful minister of the gospel upholds Christ and the interests of the church. The three leading apostles at Jerusalem were pillars in this way. Not only ministers, however, but all who are faithful and who overcome temptation may become pillars. †

## OFFERINGS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

We would like to remind our readers that the expenses involved with sending out this magazine continue to rise. Without a subscription price, we must rely on our readers’ prayers and support. May we be “workers together with God.”



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



**QUESTION:** Please explain Ecclesiastes 5:2b, “Therefore let thy words be few.” Is it in time of prayer or in time of talking anywhere?

**ANSWER:** Be not rash with thy mouth; do not be hasty with your words; weigh your words; let them be seasoned with salt; do not be guilty of idle speaking; think, consider and let your words be few.

This does not mean you have to keep still all the time. Christians are to be friendly, but it does mean you should not be talking all the time—have something to say when you speak!

**QUESTION:** Would you please explain the difference between holiness, righteousness and sanctification?

**ANSWER:** The word *holy* or *holiness* comes from Hebrew and Greek words which basically mean “separateness, withdrawal,” according to *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*. “It is first applied to God, and is early associated with ideas of purity and righteousness.”

As applied to mankind then it would mean one who had been separated from sin and evil. Such a person would be good, kind and pious in his living.

Righteousness, as do many other words, carries shades of more than one meaning, but primarily righteousness means *rightness*, or *right*. Doing what is right! And of course, anyone living a holy life is doing what is right.

As to the word *sanctification*, it has a number of different meanings, including to separate, set apart, dedicate, and to cleanse. The experience of sanctification as taught by the apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:25-27 and in I Thessalonians 5:23, is to be understood as the cleansing of the heart from the depraved nature when a believer is filled with the Holy Spirit.

From this brief answer you can see there is some “overlapping” in the meaning of the three words.

**QUESTION:** Would you please explain Ephesians 4:8, “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men?”

**ANSWER:** Paul, of course, is referring to the resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus, through His death and resurrection, has conquered all enemies, all have been put under His feet. The last enemy, as far as mankind is concerned, is death, and through Christ this enemy will be defeated when the

saints are given their spiritual, glorified bodies. All these gifts—salvation, the Holy Spirit, the power to live holy, eternal life, and even the gifts of the Spirit—were made available to man through Jesus Christ.

**QUESTION:** Will the second coming of Christ be physical? I mean, will Christ be seen physically coming in His glory? Which eyes are referred to as eyes of understanding?

**ANSWER:** Christ does not have a physical body now, but that will not keep people from seeing Him when He comes. The change will be in the people.

“Eyes of understanding” is not speaking of literal eye sight, but of a person being able to understand, especially the truth of the gospel.

**QUESTION:** A question has come to me that I would like you to comment on. In the story of our Lord’s resurrection from the grave there seems to be four different accounts of the scene immediately after the resurrection. In Matthew 28:1-7 the angel of the Lord appeared. In Mark 16:1-7 a young man is sitting on the right side. In Luke 24:1-9 two men stood by. And in John 20:1-18 two angels were sitting inside the tomb, one at the head, one at the foot of the grave. I would appreciate your answering this question for me. Why four different stories concerning this account?

**ANSWER:** Your question seems to imply that there are contradictions in the four accounts, but I see none. The writers relate certain things that happened when certain disciples were at the tomb; they were not all there at the same time. All the things recorded in the four gospels did not happen at the same time. For instance, Matthew tells of the angel that rolled the stone away and “sat upon it.” Mark tells us that when the sisters arrived at the tomb the stone was **already rolled away** and when they went inside they saw a “young man,” we assume an angel. This could have been the one Matthew told of sitting on the stone at first, or it could have been another, but there is no contradiction here.

Why four different accounts? Because the resurrection was of such import that all four who wrote what we call the “Four Gospels” informed us of some of the details concerning it, and when you put all four together you get a fuller picture of what happened than you would if you only had one or two of their accounts.

**QUESTION:** Would you please explain Ecclesiastes 11:1, “Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days?”

**ANSWER:** Adam Clarke says this is an “allusion to the sowing of rice, which was sown upon muddy ground, or ground covered with water, and trodden in by the feet of cattle: it thus took root, and grew, and was found after many days in a plentiful harvest.”

Of course, this verse is to be understood as conveying a spiritual truth. Sow the seed of the Word of God, and it will bring forth a harvest of souls. Sow seeds of kindness, and God will bless you for the same. “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” †

# JESUS THE CHRIST

*Challenging thoughts about God’s Son  
taken from “Words of Life”*

“In Jesus I see the picture of the kind of man I know I ought to be.”—William Adams Brown.

“God speaks to me not through the thunder and the earthquake, nor through the ocean and the stars, but through the Son of Man, and speaks in a language adapted to my imperfect sight and hearing.”—William Lyon Phelps.

“Jesus Christ, the condescension of divinity, and the exaltation of humanity.”—Phillips Brooks.

“To become Christlike is the only thing in the whole world worth caring for, the thing before which every ambition of man is folly and all lower achievement vain.”—Henry Drummond.

“By a Carpenter mankind was made, and only by that Carpenter can mankind be remade.”  
—Desiderius Erasmus.

## FOOTPRINTS

“I have loved to hear my Lord spoken of, and wherever I have seen the print of His shoe in the earth, there have I coveted to put mine also.”—John Bunyan.

## ENCOUNTER

“The greatest thing about any civilization is the human person, and the greatest thing about this person is the possibility of his encounter with the person of Jesus Christ.”—Charles Malik.

## TESTIMONY

“If I knew a better person than Jesus Christ, I would give him my full, perfect, and lifelong allegiance. Not knowing any better person, I give my love, my obedience, my faith to Him.

“If in all the domain of biography, if in all the wide range of human history, there were a better person, or if any had appeared that seemed worthier to follow, I would follow him.

“If I knew a better ideal of personal life and a better means of reaching that ideal than the ideal of Jesus, I would make that ideal my own.

“If I knew a better program for the world than that of Jesus, I would give my life to it.

“I cannot get my heart’s content to follow any second-rate person. I can only satisfy my own sense of what is best and highest and most ideal by following the best person there is.”—William F. McDowell. ‡





## THE POETRY PAGE

### HE HAS RISEN

Mrs. Lawrence Moser

He has risen, joyfully risen,  
He has risen in my heart.  
Jesus is not dead but living,  
In my life He has a part.

He has risen, gloriously risen,  
He has risen for us all,  
He our lives can fill with gladness,  
Won't you listen to His call?

### HE IS RISEN

Mrs. C. F. Alexander

He is risen, He is risen,  
He hath opened heaven's gate;  
We are free from sin's dark prison,  
Risen to a holier state.

## THE TOMB COULD NOT HOLD HIM

Julia Ann Janney

'Twas not enough to seal the stone  
Nor yet a guard to bring;  
How foolishly they fastened well  
The door to hold our King!

Knew they not the One they sealed  
Within that darksome tomb?  
How dare they think to hold our Christ  
Within that rock-bound room?

God's love and might removed the stone,  
Releasing Him within;  
So rose our Lord as He had said,  
Redeeming us from sin.

## THREE CROSSES IN A ROW

Will Smith

Three crosses stood upon a hill,  
Three crosses in a row,  
Back there at old Jerusalem  
Millenniums ago.  
How grim the scene, the silhouette  
Against the darkened sky  
As cruel, vengeful, surging crowds  
Went jeering, mocking by!

Oh, tragedy of tragedies,  
The sun must hide His face  
At this the culminating sin  
Of Adam's fallen race.  
Three crosses on a lonely hill  
But two were not in vain;  
The thief on one was lifted up  
That he might live again.

The center of the crosses three  
So oft extolled in song  
Was lifted up that men might see  
God's own redress for wrong.  
The last one of the crosses three—  
Oh, must it still be said  
Of multitudes for whom Christ died,  
His blood in vain was shed?

## GO TELL

Gladys Swinney Van Deventer

"Where have ye hid my loving Lord?"  
The anguished Mary cries,  
The while she sadly turns away  
To weep in deep despair.  
A voice of searching sweetness speaks,  
Sounds just behind her there: she knows  
That voice so kind, so sweet.  
She turns—it is the Master dear—  
And drops to kiss His feet.  
"Go tell—" It is His message which  
Is ringing down the years;  
"Go tell the brokenhearted and  
Those bound by awful fears;  
Go tell the sin-wrecked sinner and  
The sad and those in pain  
That I have risen from the dead  
That they might live again." †

"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

—I Corinthians 15:14.

# GOD'S WAY AND GOD'S PLAN

Message delivered 10/08/95 by Bro. M. H. Trisler, Jr.



**I**F YOU HAVE your Bibles this evening, let us turn to the book of Isaiah, chapter 35. Verses 1-8: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

Again, verse 8: "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." We would like to draw from that text this thought: "God's Way and God's Plan."

Holiness may not be a popular word, but peace is. The way of peace and the way of holiness lie side by side, or rather they are one. Peace is the desire and ambition of all mankind. Equally true is the fact that peace of lasting value cannot be found outside of the holiness provided by the person of Jesus Christ. It is only to be found in Jesus Christ.

Isaiah looked into the future, and he saw this glorious way. He said, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it." The unclean are not on the highway of holiness. Let us first think about this new way. Notice our text again. The prophet speaks of a way, and this way is called the way of holiness. He says, "The unclean shall not pass over it." Yes, it is a new life that God is calling us to, not some old steps in life, nor some new habits or ways or motives or prospects, but a new life. It's not the old life. That's why the apostle Paul said, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Let me tell you something, Dear Ones, when you're born of the Spirit of God, all things become new to you. You don't desire the old life any longer. You're dead to those things. They've passed away. The Bible says it so plain and so simple: "It shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not

err therein." Isn't it marvelous that when the great God of heaven speaks to man, He speaks to man in man's language so that he can understand what plan God has for him?

It's a new life. For the production of this new life, the eternal Son of God took on flesh, lived, died, and was buried, and rose again that we could have this new life. Jesus took on Him the flesh of man. God incarnate. He came to this sin-benighted world and took on Him the flesh of man. He put on the robe of man so that man could put on the robe of righteousness. Everyone can come to the water and drink freely. Whosoever will may come. That should thrill every living soul that ever walked upon the face of the earth. The God of heaven who created all things has said, "Come, for all things are now ready." He doesn't reject one. He doesn't turn anyone away. He invites them to this highway of holiness. Yes, Dear Ones, the eternal Son of God took on Him the flesh of man and lived among us.

Jesus has come. I know it because I've read the Book, and the Book says, "He has come." And He died for your sins. Jesus took your sins upon Him. He went up to Golgotha's hill with your sins, and there He was nailed to the cruel cross and suffered the shame of a crucifixion that you could be free from a life of sin and destruction. We all should get on our knees and beg God to forgive us for not being thankful enough for the love that He has given unto us. What a mighty God! What a loving God He is!

Jesus is the Author of this new life. This life was brought out of death by the death of the Prince of life. Remember He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Yes, Dear Ones, Jesus is the Author of this new life. Aren't you happy this evening that you don't have to rake up a million dollars and try to buy your way in? You can't buy it with money. It cannot be bought with money, nor with political power can you obtain it. It must come by Jesus who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." For the working out of this, the Holy Spirit came down in power in the soul of man, and dwelt there that out of the old He might bring forth the new.

Jesus said, "It is expedient for you that I go away, ... I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. And I pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive." He sent the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost. He came down like as of a mighty rushing wind and there purified the hearts of those in the upper room. He came to dwell in the hearts and in the lives of men and women. God's way is a marvelous plan that cannot be improved upon.



The saints must be this new thing in the earth, which God has created and to which He calls us. He calls us by name, doesn't He? Isn't it wonderful? He's such a sweet Father. He calls everyone. Did you know that Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you"? What a mighty God! It's wonderful, isn't it? It's wonderful to be saved. It's wonderful to know that you're born again. It's wonderful to know that your sins are under the blood, and your name is written in heaven. This was accomplished through the One we know as Jesus Christ and His shed blood on Calvary's hill. What a mighty God He is! So tender and so loving.

I could just imagine in my mind's eye Jesus walking in our midst as this service began to take place this evening. He has promised us that where two or three are gathered, there will He be in the midst. I can imagine Jesus walking from pew to pew and touching every heart as He walks by. Wonderful, isn't it? Indeed it is wonderful.

I'm happy to know that Jesus loved me, a little insignificant speck of dust upon this vast universe, and found me destitute. He reached down in a hog pen of sin and raised me up, and has set me in heavenly places. Anyone who is saved can testify to that. That's a loving Savior, isn't it? "An highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness." Are you on it? Thank God, I'm on streets of gold this evening. I'm walking on streets of gold now. Gold represents truth, and I'm walking in the truth. I'm not going to have to go to heaven to walk on streets of gold. No, I'm on that highway of holiness, and it's paved with gold. Paved with truth, hallelujah! We're a most privileged people to know the true and living God—the God of heaven—the God of creation.

That old life of ours must have been hateful to God. In order to abolish it, He delivered up His own begotten Son. We must have been dear unto Him and in His sight, because He sent His only begotten Son to rescue us from the old life and make us partakers of the new life. Oh, glory! What a loving Father we do have! Yes, that old life must have been hateful to Him. He couldn't even look upon it. God can't even look upon sin. He saw us as a ravaged city, and sent His precious Son there to rescue us.

Unsaved here tonight, Jesus came in the power of the Holy Ghost to rescue you. He came to rescue the perishing because He cares for the dying. Listen, Dear Ones, if you're not saved this evening, He's here to save you. That old life you're living is awfully hateful to God. It is so hateful to Him that He sent His only beloved Son to save you. God sent Him from the ivory halls and city of heaven to come down to this old sin-benighted world and become sin for us that we could take on His cloak as He took on ours to show us the way. Yes, Jesus came to show us the way.

There needs to be no error. Take the Book and go by it. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." In these sacred oracles is the mouth of God speaking to you and me. I believe these are the inspired words of God. A self-existing, eternal God spoke as men were moved to pen these words that are in there. He said,

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." All we have to do is to live by the Word.

God brought forth all the divine resources, such as love, power, and wisdom to meet the needs of a case which must otherwise have been wholly desperate. Man was desperate. He didn't have a Savior. They pointed forward to Him. They pointed to His coming. They only knew that the promise was that He would come, but they were desperate. They longed and looked hard. Perhaps every Israelite mother, when she bore a child, and looked in its face, asked herself the question, "Could this be the Messiah?" He came on the scene and with power. He came with power to take away sin in the life of precious souls. Yes, Jesus came to cancel the debt that you owed. Every sinner owed God the debt, and Jesus came on the scene and brought forth all the divine resources, such as love. No one ever loved us like Jesus. He sees each sinner in the condition they're in. He sees that you're bankrupt spiritually. You're without God in your heart, and His love goes out to you. He beckons unto you and says, "Come unto me, my precious child, and I will save you." He has such divine wisdom to meet the needs of a case which must otherwise have been very desperate.

Our next thought. Now the man from whom the whole life has gone out, and into whom the new life has come physically, is still the same individual. No doubt there's been a change, but the outward man is the same physically. His features and his limbs are still the same. His intellect, imagination, capacities, responsibilities are still the same, but old things have passed away, and behold all things have become new in this new life. Christ hath quickened you who were dead in trespasses and sins. He hath made you alive. He canceled your debt. The old things are gone, and behold, all things have become new. All things have become new. You don't have those sins anymore. The debt has been canceled. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). The debt has been canceled. You have peace with God. Jesus said, "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." Peace like a river! Yes, the debt is canceled. You no longer have those sins. Old things are passed away, and the new life has begun. Listen, that should be the desire of every sinner. When you see the things you've done wrong against God, and transgressed His law, and grieved Him, He comes immediately on the scene and says, "I'll forgive you, and I'll wipe the slate clean. I'll abolish all your sins. You won't have them any longer." This is God's way and God's plan.

Some years ago, Bro. Ollen was holding a revival in Jonesville. There was a young lady that came to the altar one night. We knew very little about her, but we dealt with her. She prayed through and got saved. After the service was beginning to close out, someone asked her if she had a testimony. Do you know what she said? "I feel so clean." She was clean. The Holy Spirit had come on the scene and purified her. Hallelujah! He saved her from a life of sin, and her sins were removed as far as the east is from the west, never to be remem-

bered again. What a mighty God! Isn't it marvelous? Sinner, you are stained with the guilt and shame of sin, but all of a sudden, in the twinkling of an eye, God can come on the scene and make you clean. Purified! Your name is written in heaven, and you're on the highway of holiness. Hallelujah!

Do you know what Isaiah said? "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." Holy indeed He is! That's what He does for you and me. He makes us holy—pure—without sin. I like the part where the seraphims said one to another, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." He's here this evening. Don't you believe that? He was here before we got here, and He's still here with us.

I love sweet fellowship! I remember reading an article about two Russian guards who came into a prayer meeting with their machine guns. They pointed those machine guns with about twenty people in that prayer meeting. They said, "Anybody who is not willing to die for their faith, get out!" And most of them left. They walked over and laid down their machine guns. They said, "We just want to separate the sheep from the goats before we fellowship." Sometimes we need to separate the sheep from the goats, but before we do that, the Lord will separate them. Praise the Lord, I love the fellowship of the saints. The good old song says, "We reach our hands in fellowship to every blood-washed one." Isn't it wonderful what God can do for us? "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." We're talking about the highway of holiness this evening? Are you on it? Yes, "old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." The old man is slain and the new man lives. He's alive!

I remember reading this, too, a while back: A certain minister asked another minister, "What can I do on Sunday nights when it's so warm and the people are drowsy? What can I do to keep their attention?" The minister answered, and it had some merit to it. He said, "Get a deacon with a sharp stick and let him prod the preacher, and if he's alive, the people will listen." I tell you, if we're on fire for God, we'll get the attention of the people. I love God's way. There's nothing better in all the world. My sins are gone. I'm happy to be a child of God.

The new man lives. "It is not merely the old life retouched and made more comely, defects struck out, roughness smoothed down, graces stuck on here and there. It is not a broken column repaired, a soiled picture cleaned, an unswept temple whitewashed. It is more than all this, else God would not call it a new creation."—Horatius Bonar. "It is more than all this; else God would not call it a new creation," neither would He have been so stern with Nicodemus when He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Jesus was stern and repeated, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he

cannot enter into the kingdom of God." He was stern about it. Brother, we're still stern about it. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." This is how you get on the highway of holiness.

Listen how God speaks! He calls us "newborn babes, new creatures, a new lump, a new man, doers of a new covenant, heirs of a new name, and a new city. This new being, having begun in a new birth, unfolds itself in newness of spirit. A Christian is one who has been crucified with Christ, who has died with Him, been buried with Him, risen with Him, ascended with Him, and is seated in heavenly places with Him."—Horatius Bonar. What a pleasure and an honor! Isn't it wonderful how God works with us?

Paul tells us in Ephesians, chapter 2: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

God raised us up! We're not down where we used to be. We're not down where the old hell holes are. We're raised up and sitting in heavenly places. Glory to God! He cleansed us, body and soul! "This newness is comprehensive, both in its exclusion of the evil and its inclusion of the good. It is summed up by the apostle in two things: righteousness and holiness."—Horatius Bonar.

The apostle Paul said in Ephesians 4:24, "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Are you happy that you're on the Lord's side tonight? Everybody can be, can't they? Marvelous things He's done for us.

"These are weighty words of the apostle, 'We are His workmanship.' Of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things pertaining to us. Chosen, called, quickened, washed, sanctified, and justified by God Himself, we are in no sense our own deliverers. The quarry out of which the marble comes is His; the marble itself is His, the digging and hewing and polishing are His; He is the sculptor and we the statue. But this is not all. We are 'created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.' The plan, the selection of the materials, the model, the workman, the workmanship, are all divine; and though it doth not yet appear what we shall be, we know that we shall be 'like Him.'"—Horatius Bonar. We're talking about being in God's plan tonight. Let us consider this, all of this, to prepare us for the heaven He has prepared for us.

John 14:1, 3: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ... 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." Jesus also said to His disciples, "If it were not so [and



He says to you], that I'm going to prepare a place for you, I would tell you to go back to the world, and get all you can out of it. But I'm going to prepare a place for you; that where I am, there ye may be also." Don't you want to go to heaven? He's preparing a place in heaven for us. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. You have to be born again, and you have to live a sinless life in this world here. The Bible tells us, "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." He's coming, and you're going to leave. I'm going to leave, and you're going to leave. Everybody is going to leave.

The Bible tells us, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." I'm not going to judge you. No minister is going to judge you. God is going to judge you out of the Book. The Bible says, "The books were opened [meaning, the Old and the New Testaments—the old law, and the great dispensation. Those that died under the law will be judged by the law. Those that died under the great dispensation will be judged by the law of grace.]: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Think about it! We're all going there. Someday we'll part.

I've often thought about a lovely lady named Fanny Crosby—

*Fanny Crosby gave us more than 6,000 gospel songs. Although blinded by an illness at the age of six weeks, she never became bitter. One time a preacher sympathetically remarked, "I think it is a great pity that the Master did not give you sight when He showered so many other gifts upon you."*

*She replied quickly, "Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would have been that I should be born blind?"*

*"Why?" asked the surprised clergyman.*

*"Because when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior!"*

*One of Miss Crosby's hymns was so personal that for years she kept it to herself. Kenneth Osbeck, author of several books on hymnology, says its revelation to the public came about this way: "One day at the Bible conference in Northfield, Massachusetts, Miss Crosby was asked by D.L. Moody to give a personal testimony. At first she hesitated, then quietly rose and said, 'There is one hymn I have written which has never been published. I call it my soul's poem. Sometimes when I am troubled, I repeat it to myself, for it brings comfort to my heart.' She then recited while many wept, 'Someday the silver cord will break, and I no more as now shall sing; but oh, the joy when I shall wake within the palace of the King! And I shall see Him face to face, and tell the story—saved by grace!'"*

David made almost the same statement: "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness" (Psalm 17:15).

Oh, Dear Ones, to be saved! God has made a plan. God wants to save every living soul so they can escape the damnation of hell. You can continue on the road

you're on, but you're bound to lose. There is no profit in living in sin.

*Someday the silver cord will break,  
And I no more as now shall sing;  
But oh, the joy when I shall wake  
Within the palace of the King!  
And I shall see Him face to face,  
And tell the story—saved by grace!*

Revelation 22:17, "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Won't you come tonight? Let Him take your load of sin and put them on the altar. You've been carrying it too long. Jesus will come in and set you free. What a mighty God we have!

Jesus simply says, "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." Rest, soul rest! It is joy unspeakable and full of glory. †

## RADIO LOG

### The Way of Truth Broadcast

**Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister**

(Aired on Sundays unless otherwise noted.)

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

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

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

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

**North Carolina**, Mooresville, WHIP 1350, 6:00 A.M.

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

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

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

**Tennessee**, Chattanooga, WLMR-FM 103.3, 3:00 P.M.

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

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

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

**Virginia**, Roanoke, WKBA 1550

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

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

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

### SHORTWAVE

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Sunday, 7:30 A.M. Eastern Time—12:30 G.M.T.

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Friday, 9:30 P.M. Eastern Time, Saturday, 9:30 P.M. Eastern Time—2:30 G.M.T.

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### INTERNATIONAL

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## COMING MEETINGS

**2022 INTERNATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION**  
**12819 Point Salem Rd.**  
**Hagerstown, Maryland U.S.A.**  
**June 28-July 3, 2022, Lord willing**  
**Bro. Gregory E. Tyler, Host Pastor**



## REVIVAL SERVICES

**Hagerstown, Maryland**  
**April 27-May 1 (AM), 2022, Lord willing**  
**Bro. David Goble, Evangelist**  
**Bro. G. E. Tyler, Pastor**

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**Craigsville, West Virginia**  
**May 4-8, 2022, Lord willing**  
**Bro. John Romero, Evangelist**  
**Bro. Harley McClung, Pastor**

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where in addition to reading past issues and other  
information, you can watch our general services  
every Sunday LIVE at 10:40 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.  
E.S.T. Enjoy Spirit-filled singing and preaching. Also,  
our mid-week service at 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays is  
aired live. There is a chatroom where you can inter-  
act with us and share your prayer requests. Tune  
in and worship with us!

## **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