

# The Way of Truth

Vol. 80

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

No. 6

## An Antidote for Absurdity

Message begins on page 4

**June 2022**

## 10 Steps for Faithful Fathers

See page 18



## I WILL PASS THIS WAY BUT ONCE

**T**HERE IS an old Quaker saying, "I will never pass this way again." In this editorial, I would like to elaborate on that thought and remind our readership that we need to take advantage of the limited time that we have as we pass through this vale of life.

Time passes so quickly! As the Bible points out in James 4:13-15, "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." I will pass this way but once. We dare not presume upon God's mercy. We will soon fly away! Psalm 90:9, 10 are familiar verses: "For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

Therefore, we need to use the moments God gives us to eternal profit. In I Peter 1:17 we read, "And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear."

*'Tis not for man to trifle; life is brief,  
And sin is here.  
Our age is but the falling of a leaf,  
A dropping tear.  
We have no time to sport away the hours;  
All must be earnest in the world like ours.  
Not many lives, but only one have we,  
Only, only one.  
How earnest should that one life be,  
That narrow span;  
Day after day spent in blessed toil.*

—Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

I heard a song recently that touched my heart. It goes like this:

*I will pass this way but once,  
If there's any good I can do  
Let me know it now—  
For I'll never pass this way again.*

*I will see this day but once,  
If there's any kindness I can show  
Let me show it now—  
For I'll never see this day again.*

*Tomorrow may be too late, my friend,  
To do all the good you have planned,  
So reach out to those who need you  
And lend them a helping hand.*

*I will know this world but once,  
If there's any love that I can give*

*Let me give it now—  
For I'll never know this world again.*

*Tomorrow may be too late, my friend,  
To do all the good you have planned,  
So reach out to those who need you  
And lend them a helping hand.*

If there's any good I can do, Lord, let me know it now. I don't want to continually look back and see where I could have done some good to someone in need. But I want to know the needs of my fellow man while I am passing by. Galatians 6:10 reads, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Yes, we are to be aware of the needs of brethren in Christ and take care of our own. But if you really want to make a difference, do something good for a stranger—better yet, for an enemy. In the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew records in chapter 5 and verse 44, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

If there's any kindness I can show, let me show it now. I don't want to just talk about it or plan to show kindness at a future time. Let me show it now! for I will never see this day again. Ephesians 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." This is how true Christianity revolutionizes the world: holding a door open—assisting the elderly—sharing a meal with someone in need—kindness in the workplace—kindness in the home—kindness among strangers—kindness with no strings attached!

If there's any love that I can give, let me give it now. God is love. They who are servants of the most high God are filled with divine love that requires an outpouring of that love in the present sense—love that can be seen in the here and now; not something just talked about or comprehended in theoretical possibilities.

Nowhere on Earth will you find a more complete and practical definition of love than in the first epistle of the apostle Paul to the Corinthian church, chapter thirteen. He begins by expressing the importance of true love—"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

Charity or love is without a doubt the most essential and most powerful possession in the universe!

### ABOUT THE COVER

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# 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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In verse 4, Paul declares, "Charity suffereth long, and is kind." No exceptions!

I have already alluded to the necessity of kindness. We should note the relationship of kindness and love.

The apostle then goes on to point out what love is NOT—"charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth." Then verse 7 declares love's power: "Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." Love never fails!

*If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain;*

*If I can ease one life the aching,  
Or cool one pain,*

*Or help one fainting robin*

*Unto his nest again,*

*I shall not live in vain.*

—Emily Elizabeth Dickinson (1830-1886)

If there is a soul I can save, let me do it now! Of course, we do not have the power to forgive sins, but we do have the power to influence souls to be saved. I will only pass this way once, so let me be aware of every opportunity as it appears. James 5:20 says, "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

If there is a soul burden I can gain—let me gain it now! for I'll never pass this way again.

John 4:35 emphasizes this thought: "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest?"

behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

Paul explains his burden—I Corinthians 9:20-22: "And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

If there be a downtrodden soul that I can encourage, let me do it now! God has allowed your paths to cross for this very purpose—Isaiah 35: 3, 4, "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 recompense; he will come and save you."

If I need to draw closer to Christ—let me do it now! James 4:7, 8 points to us as we pass this way today: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

And finally, if you need to give your heart to God, do it now! We don't know what another day holds. We have only one life, and we will live this day one time only. Eternity is forever, and we must prepare to meet God when He calls. As the Spirit works with you, yield to Him—for you'll only live this day but once. †

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## The Poetry Page

### POEM FOR FATHER'S DAY

Author Unknown

Just be a pal to me, Father,  
Share in my troubles and joy,  
Give your advice when I need it,  
And remember you once were a boy.

Perhaps I do things that are trying  
And things that are apt to annoy,  
But don't be too hard on me, Father,  
Remember you once were a boy.

If sometime I earn a chastising  
And you deem the rod to employ,  
Lay it on. This, too, I am asking:  
Just think back when you were a boy.

And now on these things I'm reflecting  
And the size of the debt that I owe  
To Father for aid and directing  
And showing the way I should go.

Unhappy the son who has failed in his part  
As a comrade, a pal, and a friend  
To his father who holds him so dear to his heart  
With a companionship without end.

And unhappy the father who never has won  
The comfort, the solace, the joy,  
That come from kinship of father and son  
And the love and respect of his boy.

But happy the father, and happy the son  
Whose lives in true unison blend,  
Who each in the other has confidence won  
As father, as son, and as friend.

But just one word more, my father, I pray,  
Lest your confidence you should destroy,  
Just try to look back and retrace the old track  
And remember when you were a boy.

### I'M GLAD GOD MADE FATHERS

Grace Stoner Clark

I'm glad that God made fathers  
Out of men who once were boys;  
Who understand boys' troubles,  
And put up with their noise.

'Course Dad's not good at cooking  
Meals a family requires,  
But you ought to taste the flapjacks

Baked on hiking-trip campfires!  
Some Dads are even smart enough,  
To explain arithmetic;  
And why you'd better lose a game  
Than win with a mean trick.

Sometimes Dad will kiss a bump  
(That's only when you're small).  
And when there's time to play with us  
We have great games of ball.

I'm glad that God made fathers  
Out of men who once were boys;  
Who remember boys have troubles,  
And need Dads to share their joys.

### BE KIND TO FATHER

Anonymous

My boy, be kind to your father,  
For he's been kind to you;  
He's sought to lead you safely  
Your life's brief pathway through.  
He's cared for you and loved you,  
And tried to save you pain,  
And given kindly counsel—  
I hope not all in vain.

He wants to see you happy,  
He wants to see you true;  
His hope and pride are centered,  
Believe it, Boy, in you.  
How much of joy and comfort  
Is in your power to give  
This faithful Christian father,  
If rightfully you live!

Be manly, true and honest  
In everything that's done,  
And show him that his counsel  
Is treasured by his son.  
Be kind when old age sprinkles  
Its snowflakes in his hair,  
And make his last days happy  
With loving words and care. ✚

"Mothers play an important role as the heart of the home, but this in no way lessens the equally important role fathers should play, as head of the home, in nurturing, training, and loving their children."

—Ezra Taft Benson



## 2022 HAGERSTOWN SPRING REVIVAL REPORT

The Spring Revival of the Church of God in Hagerstown, Maryland, was held April 27-May 1, 2022. Bro. David Goble of Carmichael, California, was the evangelist. We were happy to have Bro. Goble and his wife, Sis. Helene, with us. Saints from other places came to be with us also.

The messages were very inspiring and challenging. The Spirit of the Lord witnessed in each service. Thank the Lord for what was accomplished during these services.

Below is a synopsis of each message:

**Wednesday**—Title: “Placing Our Anchor Within the Veil.” Text: Hebrews 6:14-20. Excerpts: *What are we doing for our community? How does your community know you? How can we serve? In order to serve, we need to know where our anchor is. Hope is found within the veil. The Holiest of Holies is where God communed with His people. God is an expert in taking a profane, dirty person and cleaning him up. God fills; Satan drains. Jesus is anchored within, not without, the veil—sanctification. That’s where we’re going to be secure. Am I anchored in the Holiest of Holies? Greater consecration: the farther in you go, the more real it is, more vivid, more colorful.*

*We need to be students of the Bible. Personal convictions can rise to doctrine if we’re not careful. When trouble happens, it can throw your boat. Misunderstandings, disappointments, not forgiving—cut the line, because it keeps us from moving. Some anchors remain on the deck of the boat. When the storms come, the boat crashes. We need to have our anchors in the holiest place.*

**Thursday**—Title: “Being All Things to All People That We Might Win Some.” Text: I Corinthians 9:19-27. Excerpts: *We run the race, not just for ourselves, but to save those who are lost. When we leave the building, we have another purpose—to be a shining light to the lost in our community. We need to see the Lord’s work survive and thrive.*

*Paul said he became all things to all people: the Greeks, the Jews, the heathens. He understood them and their needs. He also said, “I know where I stand, but I want to win others. I know what I believe.” Paul worked to find a way to reach them. We are relevant to our community. We need to take the church to them. The Holy Ghost must teach us how to build the kingdom of God where we live.*

*Doctrine is a destination that we come to. It is a vehicle for a journey. We are to go out to save souls. Don’t get settled in a destination, in the four walls of a church. God needs us to make a journey. Our success needs to be measured by the fruit we produce, the fruit of our service.*

*A dogma is a set of principles held as established truth usually by those in charge. It cannot be changed. It is created by people.*

*Doctrine is a teaching that comes from heaven and cannot be changed. Doctrine will produce heavenly fruit. Dogma is full of opinion. Doctrine is the Word of Christ and will keep the church alive.*

**Friday**—Title: “An Antidote for Absurdity.” Text: Ecclesiastes 1:1-3. This message begins on page 4 of this issue.

**Saturday**—Title: “Our Witness—Releasing the Witness.” Text: Deuteronomy 19:15; II Corinthians 13:1-7. Excerpts: *The man with one talent deliberately turned his back on what God had given him. We all have a gift we can use to His glory. A witness is important. Paul said there are important things that need a witness, a clear witness. We need to take to the world a clear witness.*

*Do we have a witness? Am I a witness? What is my cause? What is my intention for that witness? Do we have the authority to release our witness? Carefully examine our hearts. Am I an honest witness?*

*A witness is someone who has credible knowledge of something or someone. If the witness is withheld, the church suffers. Give me a language I can use to release an authentic witness. Sanctification gives a witness with power. Ask God to give you the power. Don’t try to release something you don’t have. Tell your testimony. Release what you have.*

**Sunday (AM)**—Title: “Translating the Witness.” Text: John 4. Excerpts: *The world doesn’t want our witness, so we need to find a way to translate it. I want to speak the language of Christ.*

*With the woman at the well, Jesus communicated through phases. The Samaritans did not worship like the Jews.*

(1) *Build an acquaintance with the person. Jesus asked the woman at the well for a cup of water. We must have a reason for a person to talk to us.*

(2) *Building interest. Why should a person give his heart if he doesn’t know us or God? Jesus offered the woman living water. She opposed it at first. It didn’t make sense to her. People will oppose. But that didn’t stop Jesus.*

(3) *Building trust. The world mistrusts Christians. Jesus’ interest in the woman built trust. He cared about what was important to her. Trust may take a while.*

(4) *Building acceptance of the message. Jesus offered her living water. What happened to make her desire it? Time. Jesus didn’t start with her husband problem. If He had, He probably would have been fully rejected. They were at the place where Jesus told her that He was the Messiah. “I AM.” The world doesn’t want religion. We want to offer them someone who solves problems.*

(5) *Commitment. The woman left and told her people of the Messiah. She became a witness for Christ.*

*Levels of communication:*

(1) *Transfer communication*

(2) *Learn to converse with one another*

(3) *We get to know the culture of that person and use his cultural experience to build trust*

(4) *When we love deeply enough, we can show people how to make the deepest commitment and the best decision they’d ever make—giving their lives and souls to God.*

*In Matthew 23:23, Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees and the hypocrites who had no love for the people they were serving. They were missing judgment, mercy, and faith. These balance each other. Judgment keeps us holy,*



*responds to righteousness. Mercy responds to harm that has been committed. Faith—compassion; not overbalanced in any doctrine. Those three allow us to keep the other commandments, to not be hurtful to others. We can ultimately get to the love of God in our conversation. †*

### 2022 Revival CD'S

We are making available CD's of these wonderful services with Bro. Goble. These may be purchased for \$3.00 each. Please indicate how many you would like by filling in the blanks. Send check or money order to: The Way of Truth, CD Ministry, P.O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088.

- \_\_\_ #1341 Placing Our Anchor Within the Veil
- \_\_\_ #1342 Being All Things to All People That We Might Win Some
- \_\_\_ #1343 An Antidote for Absurdity
- \_\_\_ #1344 Our Witness—Releasing the Witness
- \_\_\_ #1345 Translating the Witness †

## An Antidote for ABSURDITY

Revival message delivered 04/29/22  
by Bro. David Goble

**T**HE TITLE of our thoughts tonight is "An Antidote for Absurdity." I have a message, and I'd like to release it, to clarify it, that perhaps you can take it with you and use it in your ministry or your personal service to someone.

Ecclesiastes is probably one of my favorite books in the Bible. Turn if you can to Ecclesiastes 1:1-3: "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?" We'll continue with some other texts from Ecclesiastes as we go through the message.

One of the reasons the book of Ecclesiastes means so much to me is that it really expresses the condition of life for humanity without God. I am a witness of what it was like to be a human without God. I think I'm in good company. I think all of you can say the same thing, so we share that experience. The book of Ecclesiastes, perhaps as much as any other book in the Bible, really declares what it's like to be human and to be without God, but at the end of it, it helps us to understand what it might be like to be human with God.

There's a quote that I was given by someone at home. It says, "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a

human experience." Think about it. We are all spiritual beings. We are all having a human experience, and depending on how we handle that experience, or how it handles us, it is going to have a great deal to do with our contentment in life, and especially whether we make heaven our home. We are spiritual beings having a human experience. I was reminded of that scripture recently where Paul said, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

I said to my congregation, "I'm content in the State of California." One of the ministers, a good friend of mine, turned to his wife and said, "I'm not so sure that I am." We talked about it later and laughed. Of course, we know Paul is speaking about the state of spiritual contentment, isn't he? In whatsoever state we are, whether it's a State of the Union or a physical state or an emotional state or a spiritual state, we can be content. The reason is because we have an antidote. It's an antidote for something special. That's going to be part of our subject tonight.

We used to be imbibing the venom that Satan gave us to drink, and it made us sick. But then one day, God gave us an antidote for that venom, and it changed us. We no longer felt the way we used to. You know how when you feel bad and you're just trying to feel better, but you can't get better; you just don't feel well. You're looking for some kind of relief. Especially if we've eaten something, and it doesn't agree with us. Even worse than that: if we get a spider bite or some kind of bite, and it swells up or a bee sting and we need some sort of antidote for this kind of illness that we find ourselves in.

But there's an antidote that the Bible gives us in the book of Ecclesiastes. The problem that it addresses is absurdity. Now that's a big word. It addresses the absurdity of life without God. This has meant so much to me. I hope I can share it that you'll understand my burden. Life without God is absurd. *Absurd* means that it makes no sense. It presents itself as making sense but, in fact, it doesn't. It's frustrating because we want something to make sense; we want to be content. We want things to work out. The thing which addresses us says: "I can make it work. You'll be happy if you partake of me." The absurd condition, in fact, never will make sense. It's absurd to continue to try. Why would we continue to do the same thing over and over just to get a different result? If we want a different result, why would we keep doing the same thing over and over and it's not working? That's called absurdity. There's an antidote for absurdity: Christ. The antidote for the absurdity of life is Jesus Christ. That's why this has meant so much to me.

I looked at all the young people up here, and it was so thrilling to see them. I was saved when I was 23, and I had spent too long in sin. I wasn't raised in church, so I didn't have the benefit of good teaching. I did have the benefit of good, moral parents who raised me to appreciate moral teaching. But you know what? The place I was discouraged the most was in church. This is a song they sang at our wedding: "I went to church all my life, but I guess I didn't realize that Jesus was the answer." The preacher did not give me the antidote for absurdity of life. I would sit on the front bench, and even if my family was at home, I went to church by



myself. My mother said later, "Your father thought that one day you'd be a preacher." I never thought that I'd be a preacher; it was the furthest thing from my mind. The reason they said that was that I'd go to church and sit on the front bench, and I would think: *Preacher, today would you tell me how to be saved? I've been coming here for so long and I haven't heard it yet. Will today's message tell me how to be saved?* Invariably I left after he had told some story of the day. But it wasn't the message I needed: "You need to get rid of your sin. You need to give Jesus your sin; He'll take it from you. He'll take it as far as the east is from the west, and then you'll find the state of contentment that you're seeking because God will give it to you." I never heard that message. I became discouraged because I came to church.

I went out into sin and sowed my wild oats. I did things that I said I would never do. By the time I got to college, I was headed down the wrong path in a big hurry. I made it all the way through my junior year, went overseas, and that's where the Lord dealt with me. There was no Church of God person that spoke to me. I had no Church of God training, no pamphlets, no Christian ministry to help me. The Holy Spirit tracked me down in faraway places and led me step by step.

You know *Pilgrim's Progress* where he goes through the Slough of Despond, and he falls in that muck and mire. Somebody helps him out the other side. He says, "Look behind you." As Christian looks back, he can see the stepping stones that he was meant to take to get through that slough. Sin had hidden them from him. That was me. I missed all the stepping stones that God had placed for my safety. I kept falling into the muck and mire of sin.

But the Holy Spirit discovered me and tracked me down. Even as I was sinning, He turned me around, and He showed me: "Look back at all the times you could have drowned in sin, all the times that you could have lost your life." There were times when literally I could have lost my life. "I saved you. Even when you were in sin, I saved you from destruction." Later I could see, as I looked at the stones that He had placed there for me, that the Holy Ghost had made a way for me to find my way to salvation. The first day of my senior year, a young man that I had been overseas with (and I knew from his life that he was no saint) came up to me, and he testified to me. He said, "I want to tell you how the Lord saved me over the summer."

I said to him, "You know, what you're telling me is what I've been looking for my whole life." When somebody responds like that, reel them in. They're ready. We have a message that a world of discontentment wants to hear. God is just waiting for us to open our mouths and share it, because I believe there are still people like me in the world. They're not all caught up in some religion someplace. They're not all denying they have a need. They're still out there. They may be harder to find, but they're still there. The Lord is wanting us to go find them. It wasn't, perhaps, 30 days later that God reeled me in. I was ready.

We started having Bible study at the college campus during the week. I recall especially at the end of one study, someone saying, "Let's go around the room and everyone pray as we dismiss." I was convicted. I thought,

*I have no right to pray; I'm a sinner.* I knew I was a sinner. We got to me, and the only thing I knew how to pray was the Lord's Prayer. I'd been taught that as a child. I knew that there was no other prayer I could pray because I was a sinner. It was just a couple of weeks after that, and I was sitting on the front bench (I actually sat next to my wife), and I didn't know how to find anything in the Bible. She had to turn the pages for me because she'd been saved about a year. Of course, she wasn't my wife yet. But you see how God works?

If you're a young person tonight, God works in the same way today as He did then. That was about 40 years ago or so. He hasn't abandoned young people; He hasn't abandoned the church. This place is still a bright, shining light in the body of Christ. It's still a place where people can come and get saved. Be encouraged. We have the same message that saved me 40 years ago. It'll be the same message that will save your friends today.

Let's go back to our scripture. The writer is speaking about vanity. I said the title of our message is "An Antidote for Absurdity." We're going to speak about three things tonight. The first is: *What does the writer mean about vanity?* The second is: *Well, how does that relate to absurdity?* The third is: *The solution, or the antidote, to absurdity, which we'll call "a leap of faith."*

Let's talk about *vanity* first. Further on in chapter one of Ecclesiastes, beginning with the fourteenth verse, it says, "I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered. I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow."

Ecclesiastes 2, verses 4-9: "I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards: I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits: I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees: I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me: I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts. So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me." In other words, "I didn't lose my mind. I retained my wisdom as I gathered all this stuff."

Verses 10-11: "And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun." We know from the twenty-fifth chapter of



Matthew that God expects a profit from those that are given talents.

This man Solomon that had such advantage—we would say there was no one in his time that had greater advantage as he did—still thought this was all vanity and vexation of spirit. Tonight, we're in one of two places spiritually. Either we're in the absurdity of life, or we're in the flock of Jesus. Now we may be on our way from one to the other. We might be on our way, as I was, from the absurdity of life to the flock of Jesus. Or we might be, heaven forbid, in the flock of Jesus on our way to the absurdity of life because people backslide. We're in one of two places. We need to find ourselves tonight. Where really are we? We can't claim to be in the flock of Jesus if we have not taken the antidote for absurdity. It's up to me. Which place am I in? I know that God is Omnipotent. He can change me in an instant. The only obstacle to that is me, my inability or my unwillingness to change.

It's still true today. Picture if there was a heavy vehicle in the center of this aisle that weighed thousands of pounds and there was a chain attached to a winch in the front, and I said to you, "I want you to get ahold of that chain, and I want you to pull that heavy vehicle down the center of this aisle all by yourself." We would say that would be virtually impossible. That's hard work. We ask people, "Are you willing to change? Are you willing to submit your spirit to God?" That is harder than the hardest thing you can think of because the human will—the strongest force in the universe—is involved. It's so hard to move, so hard to change when it doesn't want to.

That leads to the second point: *You will change if you want to.* We will become what God wants us to be if we want to. If I were a sinner tonight and I wanted to be a saint, God could make me a saint. It's the human will that gets in the way. It's the hardest thing to move. If God wants to move me from the absurdity of life to the flock of Jesus, the only thing that stands in the way is my willingness to let that happen. If I were on my way from the flock of Jesus back to the absurdity of life, the only thing that can stop that is my will. It's not God's will that any should be lost. If I don't want to backslide, I don't have to backslide! If I want to stay saved, I can stay saved by the grace of God. God can keep us. If He were unable to keep us, this would be what they call an illusory contract—an illusion. We're all playing a game here. But it's not! God is not playing a game with us. He makes sure and certain promises. If we want to stay saved, we can stay saved and make heaven our home and nothing can stop us, because the grace of God will keep us! All is conditioned on the grace of God; we have no power within ourselves. The only thing we have control over, ultimately, is our will. But it's the hardest thing to move. We ask people: "Please consider that decision. It's going to lead you down the wrong road." But if it's their will to make that decision, it's so hard to change. We need to respect the will tonight.

The vanity of life. The Preacher talks about vanity. *Vanity* is an old-fashioned word for "meaninglessness" or "without meaning or purpose." In the Hebrew, this word as it's used here is similar to the word that's used for breath that escapes the mouth. Just as our breath

escapes our mouth, and it's here in a moment and gone, so is vanity. It's like a vapor. It's like breath. The word in Hebrew for *spirit* is also like breath or vapor. That word is *ruah*. It almost sounds like breathing: *ruah*. When God created Adam, what did He do? He *ruahed* into Adam, He breathed into Adam the breath of life. There is a breath that has meaning, that has antidote, and that is the breath of God. Then there is a breath that has no meaning, and that is vanity. The breath of God comes from heaven. The breath of vanity comes from earth. Everywhere there is an earthy presence, ultimately, it is vain. Everywhere there is a heavenly presence, ultimately, it comes from God.

Vanity of vanities. Solomon tried to get satisfaction from money, and that didn't satisfy. He tried to get satisfaction from all the physical things mentioned here: song and mirth and laughter and wisdom, vineyards, servants, and maidens, silver and gold. The reason why all this is listed here is because if we said that there was more he could have gotten to satisfy him, then maybe he would have been satisfied by that. But there is nothing left out of what's listed here, is there? There's nothing left out that this man could have accomplished. Everything that a human could possibly gain or accomplish is listed here, and yet he was still not satisfied, because all of it was vanity.

I like to think of vanity as a breathy thing that has no substance. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). It has substance. Why? Because it leads us to God. Vanity leads us no place. Vanity leads us to dissatisfaction, to meaninglessness. I try to be careful about the words that I use to describe what I really mean—if I'm successful. But to me, the word *vanity* means more than simply the word "worldliness." We've heard a lot about that in our lifetime as to not partake of that kind of thing. Worldliness is encompassed so completely in the word *vanity*. When I talk about worldliness, I also talk about vanity—the vanity of life. The worldliness of life. It has no bottom to it. It's the Revelation picture—a bottomless pit. There's no foundation in it. That's why vanity leaves you dissatisfied, because it doesn't get you to the bottom of anything. You keep falling when you're seeking after vanity. That's why this man was so upset.

Some people I know get to the place in life where trials and tribulations become hard, they become heavy. We want to be free from trials and tribulations, so we seek after something that we think will provide satisfaction. Even good people do this. A phrase that I use that has helped me is: You're not going to find satisfaction by seeking a different spiritual zip code. We can't move our spirits hither and yon to find some satisfaction for what ails us. God has designed it so that He has one spiritual zip code. Maybe it's the zip code 1. In that spiritual zip code, God is there. He provides everything that we need. He provides meaning and substance in that zip code.

There are also, by the way, trials and tribulations in that zip code. They're in the same place as hope and faith and substance. How do you know that, Brother? Because I'm human, and I've experienced this. We say, "Well, if I were to somehow flee to another kind of

spiritual identity, if I began to look for God someplace else, maybe I'd find satisfaction." That's an illusion. That's vanity. That's breathy without foundation. We need to seek God where He can be found. He's found in His zip code. Are you still a seeker of truth tonight? Is that important to you? No matter what is said, no matter what is preached, no matter what is sung, is it your desire to seek truth? Seeking truth should be one of our highest desires, because if we're honest about it, God will lead us to where He is found. But if you're seeking truth in a religion or a church or on YouTube (a lot of people are seeking truth on YouTube today, a lot of people are seeking truth on Facebook today), that is a dangerous place to find truth. Why? Because you don't know who is publishing whatever you're reading. You don't know what their frame of reference is. I have no problem if you use Facebook for some good purpose. I'm not here to talk about Facebook. But people are looking for truth in all sorts of places to find meaning in life because they are subject to vanity.

The speaker in Ecclesiastes could have said, "I sought in my heart to give myself unto Facebook. Yet acquainting my heart with YouTube to lay hold on SnapChat or Instagram that I might see some kind of wisdom for something." He didn't find any satisfaction there; he found vanity and vexation of spirit. We shouldn't follow that example. We know where truth can be found.

This is what vanity is. It's the breathy nature of life. It has no foundation, no permanence, no meaning. I do not know how it is out here. I know you all have the same sort of public access to entertainment that they do on the west coast. A lot of it comes from the west coast. It used to be that we talked about the gossip magazines in the supermarket checkout aisle. Crazy things were found on those—the vanity of life that was published. Now it might be on television, and some family is talking about themselves, and the women in the family are constantly changing their appearance or putting on apparel or adorning themselves. Then there are arguments that go on, and other sorts of stuff. I've never seen this so I don't know exactly how it goes, but I'm told this is what happens, and that millions of people watch this stuff to be entertained by it. Vanity! Vanity has no foundation. What's the point? Have we come to such a society that this is entertaining to us? Watching foolishness is entertaining to us? Do you see what I am saying? This is our version of vanity today.

Styles come and go. I'm not suggesting that we shouldn't put our ourselves together. I think we should, and be good examples to the world. But you know, we can get so caught up in what the world offers us that we start to take the kool-aid of vanity, rather than the antidote for it. It's all vanity. Somebody might say, "Brother, you don't have a very high opinion of the world." I don't have any love for the vanity of the world. It's not interesting to me. When God saved me, He gave me something so much better, so much deeper. I was a young person. I had been deep in the vanity of the world. I didn't know anything about God's church or God's substance, but I can tell you this: I know what I was seeking after, and when God found me and showed me what He had for me, my search was over. Others have

said, "No, it didn't provide what I needed," and they have fallen away. People have fallen away over the years. That's happened. And people will look back at you and say, "You know what? You're just believing what they tell you to believe."

We need to have the experience to where we can say I know what I believe. I know why I believe it. I chose this way. No one forced me. I wasn't brainwashed. Forty some years later, and for some of you it's longer than that, I can look back, and you can look back and say, "I know why I did what I did, and I did not make a mistake. Every day that I wake up, I still say, I didn't make a mistake. I made a good choice a long time ago." Right? Praise God!

Vanity is a spirit. It's not just what people are wearing. It's not just what they put on. Vanity is a spirit. You know what? I wonder sometimes if vanity is not found just outside the church. I wonder sometimes if it is found around where God's people assemble. As I said, it's not simply what you put on or adorn yourself, vanity is a spirit—an attitude. It's seeking the breathy nature of life, because sin promises a pleasure for a season, doesn't it? Vanity tends to sin. It tends to the satisfaction that is for a time, but it's not related to God.

I remember once I was with some people. I was living in San Diego, near the border of California and Mexico at that time. These people wanted to go to a taping of a television show in Hollywood. So I said okay. I really wasn't into it. We got to the show and sat through the 30 minutes of the taping. This was a couple years before I was saved. The whole time I was there, I was so dissatisfied. I think God was even dealing with me then. God was telling me, "This is vanity. This is so vain and empty." We got back into the car, and during the couple hours of driving, I was just miserable. I thought, *I went on this little excursion thinking that I was going to enjoy it, and somehow it was going to boost my spirit.*

When I got back home that night, I seated myself on the edge of my bed, and I think I said something like, "God, is this all there is? Is this as good as it gets?" Now keep in mind, I spent years on the front row of the pew at church seeking for meaning. I suppose I was looking for meaning now in all the wrong places, because I thought, *I can't find it at church. Evidently, God no longer has a church on the earth.* That's not true. I just hadn't found it yet. But that's what I thought. I thought, *everything is vanity, including religion.* So I said, "God, is this as good as it gets?" I believe I was weeping. I was so frustrated. I was seeking for contentment in this state. You know, I believe that there are still young people today that feel that way. I believe there are older people that feel that way. They may not tell you, but I believe they feel that way. I believe they live in Hagerstown, Maryland, and I believe they live in Sacramento, California, and in other places in between. There are still people that are not content, and they're looking after contentment, but they don't know how to find it. They search for it in vanity, and it becomes vexation of spirit. Thank the Lord, He answered my prayer one day. He didn't leave me in the vanity of life.

It brings us to absurdity. Ecclesiastes 2:17, "Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under



the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.” This is the conclusion of seeking satisfaction in vanity. People are still saying today, “I hate life.” The reason is, they’re seeking satisfaction in vanity. You might say, “This guy was negative.” No, he had sought with great effort to find satisfaction in all the things that he lived through. So this is where absurdity comes in. Absurdity comes in from doing the same things over and over to try to get a different result. He told us that he was seeking for satisfaction, but that everything was vanity and vexation of spirit. Absurdity is to wake up the next morning and try doing it again, using the same means.

There are only three things one can do with absurdity. *You can live with it because you can’t escape it.* That’s how many people handle the absurdity of life. They just keep living with it. The second thing you can do is *you can end it.* Unfortunately, there are many people in our country that are choosing that option. They are going through life and finding nothing but absurdity. We have a crisis in our youth in America today by suicide. It’s everywhere. I hope it’s not a pandemic, but it’s a crisis. It’s not just the youth. It’s other people. It comes when someone seeks for relief, some kind of meaning to make sense of life but not finding it. Over and over and over, and even going to church and not finding it. So one says, “You know, I’ll just end it, because what’s the point?” It would be absurd to wake up the next day and do it again. That’s how that fits in. The third option is *the leap of faith.* Life without God is absurd. The only way to make meaning out of absurdity is with the leap of faith. The leap of faith crosses the chasm, it crosses the large canyon of absurdity. From absurdity to life, from death to life He saved me. That’s the third option—the leap of faith. Well, not many people are taking that option today. Most folks are just living with the absurdity of life. But the message we have for them is, there’s a third option for you. You don’t have to live with it, you don’t have to end it, but you can take a leap of faith. I would like to help you take it. You can talk to people like this. So the absurdity of life is living with vanity and doing nothing about it. How absurd is that! It never ceases to amaze me when a person is making a decision to backslide from God to go back into what? To go back into vanity? Back into the absurdity of life?

Every day that we wake up is a day with meaning, and Christ creates the meaning. Every day that we wake up with Christ is a day of meaning. That’s why this makes so much sense to me. This is not absurd. The next day is not absurd. Guess what? If we weren’t saved tonight, every second that has passed in the forty-five minutes or so that we’ve been in this message has been absurd. There’s no point in life without Christ. God has designed it that way. Christ is that important, for without Him life is absurd. That’s why it makes no sense to me when a person backslides. They’ve actually chosen to go back to absurdity. We have a message that we can take to our community. We have a message of meaning to solve their problem of absurdity.

Let’s go back to the last chapter of Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14. In these last two verses, the writer is now summing up his argument from the pre-

ceding 12 chapters. He’s saying, “I’m going to tell you what the conclusion is.” Now those of you who are in school, you know that when you write a science paper, you’re supposed to start with a thesis or a hypothesis, right? And then you’re supposed to have an investigation of evidence, and that’s supposed to lead you to a conclusion. Your conclusion is supposed to either support or reject the hypothesis. It’s something like that, anyway. So when we say, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter,” what should follow is something that naturally flows from those preceding 12 chapters, right? In other words, you could say, “Therefore, let us hear the conclusion,” or based on what I just told you for 12 chapters, you should naturally come to this conclusion. What’s the conclusion? “Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” I looked at that, and I thought, *how did you come to that conclusion? Because you spent 12 chapters telling me that life is absurd.*

So how does it flow into “Fear God, and keep his commandments”? Two reasons. One is: *it must be, in order to escape the absurdity of life, we must fear God.* That must be the conclusion, for without God, your life will be the prior 12 chapters. In other words, the writer covered all of it. He said, “I wanted gold, I wanted houses, I wanted cars, I wanted this and that. I searched for satisfaction in all of this, but none of it satisfied. Everything life offered me left me high and dry. Therefore, the only other possibility is God.” That’s why this makes sense.

I’d like to end the service tonight with how this makes sense in our day for our community. In the Old Testament, it’s a shadow. It’s pointing to something in the New Testament. “Fear God, and keep his commandments” is going to be realized in the New Testament. John, chapter 10, verses 23-30: “Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon’s porch. Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ [They’re asking, ‘Are you the Christ?’], tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father’s name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. [Remember I told you there are only two places we can be: in the absurdity of life or in the sheepfold of Christ.] My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish [Sounds like a good deal, doesn’t it?], neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. I and my Father are one.”

What is the conclusion of the whole matter? Know the great “I AM.” Fear God, and obey His commandments. The conclusion of the whole matter is to know Jesus. He provides, ultimately, the meaning. In John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. [You might also say, ‘I am meaning itself. I am the antidote for the absurdity of life.’] no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” None of us will know meaning, none of us will escape the absurdity of life but through

Jesus Christ. He is the antidote for the absurdity of life. This message we can take to our community.

Let me tell you one short story, and then I'm done—

A friend of mine at church was really having a bad day. Emotionally and physically, he had lots of bad days. He was at a hospital trying to get an appointment from the clerk at the desk for some ailment that he had. He had been trying for a while, and the bureaucracy was not helping. He was so frustrated. (Anyone ever had that experience? Just frustrated with life? People throwing up obstacles when you're trying to get things done?) So he got a little testy with the young lady behind the window. I think he was seated, and she was seated with a desk between them. He was getting upset. She could tell it was going bad for him.

I don't know who this young lady was, but she stopped the conversation and said, "You know, this is really hard for you, isn't it? You're having a bad day, and we're part of the problem. Would you mind if I prayed for you?" I think she took his hand across the desk. He was broken. He thought, *I'm the Christian. I'm supposed to be asking her that question.* He didn't know who she was. Maybe he made a presumption that wasn't true, but she asked him, "Would you mind if I prayed for you?" I don't know what she prayed, but it broke him. It broke the suffering he was going through at that moment. And I thought, *we can do that. We could be at a store having a bad day, and you know, it can be us that pray for someone.*

I have some companies that I don't like to do business with because of the bureaucracy. I always think, maybe the woman that I'm talking to, or the man in the call center someplace, goes to the congregation in Chicago or Hagerstown, so I need to be really careful what I say. And someone said one time, "You call yourself a Christian?" No, no, we're all human, and I'm thinking, *you know what? If I start to get upset and irritable, "Brother, do you know who I am? I'm Sister So-and-so. I go to the church in Hagerstown," oh, how about being convicted for that?* I think like that. God, help us, right? Maybe we could take someone's hand some time, "You know what? I'm having an awful day. Will you pray with me, because you can help me? I don't know if you can solve my problem, but I'm having a really bad day. Would you mind just praying with me?" We can do that, can't we? I mean, these are messages we can take to our community, a community that doesn't want the gospel.

We can take this message of meaning to our community, can't we? For a community that is suffering from the absurdity of life, and has no choice, no way out, we can say, "You know what? Life is absurd, isn't it? But I know a way to find meaning. Would you like me to share that with you?" We can say that. We can take that to our community. I wanted to share that with you, because I know that I found an audience that agrees with this. I also wanted to share biblically how the writer in Ecclesiastes has addressed this, and how the New Testament enforces the hope that we have.

Do business with God. Find a moment of prayer. Ask the Lord to provide whatever you need.

Thank you for your attention. God bless you. †



Greetings!

In II Timothy 3:16 we are told, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

This month's article is reflecting on some of God's promises.

Sis. Julie Shenberger is challenging each of us to claim them as our own. God has all power, and His eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him. We just need to take Him at His Word!

Blessings,  
Bro. Doug

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## GOD'S PROMISES

By Sis. Julie Shenberger

**I** WOULD LIKE to encourage the young people to claim the promises of God in their lives. You are at a time when you need to have His promises hidden deep within your hearts. The enemy will come to try to deceive, discourage, and destroy, but remember that Jesus said in John 10:10b, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Study the Scriptures and claim His promises personally. We are told that "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" (II Corinthians 1:20). He has given us these promises as weapons to use in times of need. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Here are a few promises that I have used many times. I encourage you to start your own list.

### God's Promises for When I Am—

#### Anxious

Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

#### Bewildered

Proverbs 21:1, "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings."

#### Confused

I Corinthians 14:33, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

#### Doubtful

Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

#### Eager

Exodus 14:14, "The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."

#### Fearful

Isaiah 41:13, "For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee."



### Grieved

Psalms 34:18, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

### Heavy-hearted

I Peter 5:7, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

### Indecisive

Psalms 32:8, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

### Joyless

Psalms 28:7, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."

### (un)Knowing

Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

### Lacking

Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

### Mournful

John 14:16-18, "And I will 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, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."

### Non-effective

Deuteronomy 31:8, "And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed."

### Overwhelmed

Psalms 91:1, 2, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

### Powerless

Joshua 1:9, "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

### Disquieted

Psalms 42:5, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance."

### Restless

Psalms 37:4, "Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

### Self-pitied

Hebrews 13:5, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

### Tempted

I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

### Unrested

Psalms 119:165, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

### Vigourless

Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

### Weary

Galatians 6:9, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

### EXhausted

Matthew 11:28-29, "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."

### Yearning

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

### Zealless

Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." †

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## SHADOWS OF GOOD THINGS

By the late Russell R. Byrum

### (Part IX)

## THE TABERNACLE AND ITS FURNITURE

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

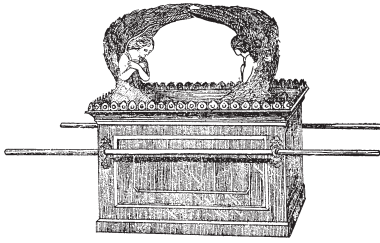
### The Ark and the Mercy-Seat

(Exodus 25:10-22)

Of all the furniture of the tabernacle, that of the holy of holies was the most peculiar, the most impressive, and the most significant. It consisted of two distinct articles, yet inasmuch as they belonged together they are commonly spoken of as one.

The Ark of the Covenant was so called because in it was placed, and it existed as a receptacle for, the two tables of stone on which Jehovah had supernaturally inscribed the Ten Commandments, the foundation of His law to Israel. It was an ordinary-sized, gold-plated, shittim-wood chest one and one half cubits, or twenty-

seven inches, wide and high, and two and one half cubits, or forty-five inches, long. Around the top was a crown of gold, which seems to have been purely for the purpose of ornamentation, as it was on the table and golden altar. Two golden rings, with a gold-covered bar, on each of the two sides furnished a means of conveying it from place to place.



The mercy-seat was a slab of pure gold as wide and as long as the ark, and was laid on top of the ark, fitting down inside the crown as a sort of lid. On the ends of it, and of one piece of gold with it, were fashioned two

angelic winged figures, called cherubim. These faced each other, looking down upon the mercy-seat and stretching their wings out above and before them until the tips of the wings of the one touched the other's, making a sort of covering or canopy over this symbolic throne of the invisible God. "There," above the mercy-seat, overshadowed by the wings of the cherubim, said the Lord, "I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy-seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel" (Exodus 25:22). There shone the Shekinah, the glory of the Lord, according to Jewish tradition. There is some ground for this tradition in the pillar of fire that led Israel through the wilderness journey and in the glory of the Lord that at different times filled or was seen on the tabernacle. There on the mercy-seat, on the great day of Atonement, the atoning blood was sprinkled in the very presence of God. For only there in the presence of this blood could the holy God consistently commune with sinful men.

**Typical Significance of the Ark and Mercy-Seat**—We must view the ark and mercy-seat together, as they were very closely related to each other, to get a clear idea of their typical meaning. The mercy-seat was God's throne, with the ark for its base, the cherubim for sides and supports and their outstretched wings for a canopy above. It is doubtless here we get the beautiful expression, "throne of grace" (Hebrews 4:16). It was a place of mercy.

The symbolic and typical significance can be better understood by first getting the force of the meaning of the name of the mercy-seat. It is sometimes translated the *propitiatory covering*. But it was not this in the sense of a mere covering for the ark. According to Dr. Fairbairn, the Hebrew name, *capporeth*, which means covering, is never used for covering in the ordinary sense. It is never mentioned precisely as the lid of the ark. It was a place where sin was covered. The translators of the Septuagint have, with this in mind, expressed the idea very well as a *propitiatory covering*. It was an atonement covering. Now Jesus is the true mercy-seat or propitiatory. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in

his blood" (Romans 3:24, 25). The blood sprinkled by the mediating high priest on atonement-day on that pure-gold mercy-seat was typical of the precious atoning blood of Jesus. The mercy-seat must be considered with the blood upon it, as the altar with the sacrifice upon it. So also the ark should be regarded, with the symbolic law of God in it, as a type.

The ark was typical of God's righteous law which sinful man has violated. And the mercy-seat was typical of Jesus Christ as the atoning sacrifice for the sin of violating that law. The mercy-seat was the same length and width as the ark; so Jesus' atonement is coextensive with man's sin in breaking God's holy law. It covers every sin. God's mercy through Christ is equal to His justice. What a beautiful symbol of the ground on which God offers pardon to those deserving of penalty. It is only in the presence of the propitiatory blood covering His violated law that the Holy One can commune with those who are unholy. Thank God for Jesus the "propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2:2).

But what do the cherubim represent? More or less mystery surrounds both the nature and symbolic meaning of the two golden cherubim. That they were winged creatures of the angelic order seems fairly clear. These had wings certainly. Probably these are not essentially different from those seraphim of Isaiah's vision which had six wings (Isaiah 6:2). They are always represented as being closely connected with the throne or presence of God or as doing His work. Certainly the close relation of the golden cherubim to the mercy-seat, as well as the cherubic figures worked in the hangings of the walls and in the veil, signified the fact of the presence of the invisible God.

While we may be sure of this, yet there may be also a fuller significance to them. They certainly cannot symbolize agents, but must represent something different from yet analogous to themselves. When our foreparents were driven from Eden, cherubim were set at the gate to keep the way to the tree of life. They were closely connected with God's judicial government, executors of justice. Is it not possible that these beings that seem to belong to God's presence are hieroglyphs of His divine attributes such as justice and mercy? May not one of the golden cherubim of the mercy-seat represent justice and the other mercy as they meet in the presence of the atoning blood of Jesus? There with eyes fixed upon the blood, justice and mercy come face to face and are reconciled together, yea, they become one, and one with the true propitiatory, the Lord Jesus Christ.

### The Antitypical Holy of Holies

We have already shown that the tabernacle as a house was a type of the New Testament church, and as a means of service typical of the way by which the sinner comes to God or obtains salvation. The two rooms were shown to represent the two degrees of Christian experience, regeneration and entire sanctification. However, the great facts of the atonement typified by the ark and the mercy-seat, and also the intercession of the high priest on the great day of Atonement, which in antitype belongs to heaven where God dwells, neces-



sarily were represented in the holy of holies merely because He then dwelt there. But the holiest into which we are exhorted to enter by the blood of Jesus is the experience of entire sanctification, the fullness of Christian experience. Entire sanctification is simultaneous with the baptism of the Holy Ghost (Acts 15:8, 9).

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

"There is a blest pavilion,  
A sacred inner court,  
The place of God's own dwelling,  
With all the world shut out.  
Oh, holy resting-place!  
Oh, calm and pure retreat!  
Where God unveils His face,  
And life is only sweet.

"Within this greater temple,  
Built by the Son of God,  
We've found a full salvation,  
And entered thro' the blood.  
Here on the mercy-seat,  
Beneath the cherubim,  
We dwell in love complete,  
And heaven's glory hymn.

"First at the cleansing laver  
We felt the blood applied,  
Then on the golden altar  
We're wholly sanctified.  
Within the second veil,  
Oh, holy, holy, place!  
With joyful lips we tell  
The fullness of His grace.

"Oh, glory be to Jesus!  
I've boldly entered in  
The secret of His presence,  
And triumph over sin.  
My soul is hid away  
In God, with Jesus Christ;  
And here I'll ever stay,  
In sweet eternal rest."

—D. S. Warner †

## THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



### A SLACK HAND

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"Time to go get the cows," my mother called up the stairs. "In fact," she added, "you should have left ten minutes ago. The cows need to be in the barn by the time Daddy is ready to start milking."

I sighed and got up from the edge of the bed where I had been sitting with a library book in my hands. I had just gotten to an exciting part in the story, and I wanted to see what happened next.

*Maybe I can take the book with me,* I thought to myself. *After I bring the cows in from the pasture, I'll have time to read a couple of pages.*

I stuck the book under my shirt and ran down the steps to the kitchen. I knew my mother wouldn't be in favor of my taking a book along with me. She would tell me I couldn't keep my mind on my chores if I stopped every five minutes to hide away and read.

"I'm going to the barn now," I called to her as I threw open the kitchen door and ran across the front porch. The screen door banged shut behind me.

"It's about time you got going!" my mother answered. "Now hurry! Don't make Daddy wait for you!"

I ran through the front yard, crossed the road, and let myself through the gate into a large field. On the far side of the field was a small grove of trees. The cows were in the pasture on the other side of the grove. Panting from my long run, I began to round up the cows. "Wooodoak!" I shouted to them. "Wooodoak!" It was the call my father always used, and it seemed to work because the cows stopped their grazing and began to walk slowly toward the barnyard. I prodded the slower ones with a stick I had picked up from the ground, and soon the whole herd was on its way to the milking parlor where my father was setting up the equipment for the evening milking.

Before long, I had the cows—all fifty of them—in the barnyard. The next step was to line them up in the chute that led into the milking parlor. The parlor could hold eight cows at a time, four on each side. Every time my father let four cows out through the outbound chute, he expected to see at least that many cows waiting to enter the parlor.

I packed the chute full of cows and then found a seat on a bale of straw next to the calf stalls. Opening my book, I began to read at the place I had left off. In mere moments, I was far away from the farm—off on an adventure in the pages of the book I held in my hands.

I was brought sharply back to reality by the sound of my father's voice. He was shouting for more cows. I had read longer than I meant to, and the inbound chute

was empty! I ran to fill the chute again, but I knew my father was not happy. I had slowed down the milking process by my inattention. I couldn't let it happen again.

*What I need to do is find a place to keep my book until the milking is done, I thought. I don't dare try reading it again until then.* I looked around. Just beyond the far end of the barnyard was an old pig shed. It hadn't been used in awhile, and I seldom went inside. The roof was so low I couldn't even stand up inside. It would be a great place to hide a book.

I crawled to the back of the shed and carefully wedged the book into a space between the roof and a ledge that ran just beneath it. Since the book was borrowed from the school library, I didn't want anything to happen to it. After checking once more to make sure the book couldn't fall out of the place I'd found for it, I crawled back out of the pig shed and ran across the barnyard to make sure there were still enough cows in the chute.

After my father finished milking all the cows, I helped him clean the parlor and both chutes. We shoveled manure and then swept and hosed down the milking area and the chutes until they sparkled.

I thought once or twice about the book waiting for me in the pig shed, but there was no time to steal away and read. *I'll get the book later,* I thought to myself. *Dad will probably do a couple of chores in the barn, and I'll sneak out to read then.*

But Dad had other plans for me. "I need you to push feed down the milking parlor dispensers," he said. "They're getting kind of low."

I climbed the ladder to the loft above the milking parlor and filled the feed dispenser tubes. As I descended the ladder, I saw that a farmer from a neighboring property had pulled up and was looking for my father. I took the man where my father was finishing up his chores in the barn, and then hung around to see what the man wanted. I got so busy listening to their conversation that I put off retrieving my library book from the pig shed. *I'll go get it as soon as the man leaves,* I said to myself.

But when the man left, Dad told me to hop in the farm truck. It was getting dark, and I was going to ride home with him instead of walking back the way I had come.

"May I run to get something first?" I asked my father.

"What do you need?" he wanted to know. "Can it wait until tomorrow?"

I didn't want to tell him about the library book. He would wonder why I had brought it with me when I was supposed to be helping him with the milking. "Never mind," I said. "I'll get it later."

That night there was a severe thunderstorm. My sisters and I shook with fright under the bedcovers and put our hands over our eyes so we wouldn't see the bright flashes of lightning. Rain poured down in torrents.

The next day dawned bright and beautiful. It was as though there had never been a storm. That afternoon,

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I changed out of my school clothes without being reminded and headed straight for the barn. I had to get that library book.

But when I crawled into the pig shed and felt for the book I had hidden there, my fingers closed around a soggy mess. I had not realized the pig shed had a leaky roof. During the night, water from the torrential rain had ruined my library book.

It took all the money in my little savings bank—plus some money from my mother—to pay for the ruined book. Worse yet, my parents suspended my recreational reading privileges for one week.

This month's wise saying comes from Proverbs 10:4, which says, "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich." Do you know what a "slack hand" is? It is a lazy hand. It is a hand that keeps putting off what needs to be done. I found out the hard way that reading while I was supposed to be working was "dealing with a slack hand." I found out that dealing with a "slack hand" made me poor.

As bad as it is to deal with a "slack hand" when it comes to our chores, it is even worse to be lazy and careless when it comes to the work of the Lord. If we become careless about studying the Bible and praying, we will become poor in our souls. If we are going to be diligent about anything, we should be diligent in serving the Lord. When we put Him first every day, His guiding presence is a treasure that makes us truly rich.

### Activity

The opposite of *carelessness* is "diligence." Can you finish these scriptures that tell us about being diligent? Check your answers by looking up the verses. (The scripture locations will tell you where to look in the Bible.)

1. "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall ..." (Proverbs 22:29).
2. "Thou hast commanded us to keep ..." (Psalm 119:4).
3. "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be ..." (II Peter 3:14).
4. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently ..." (Hebrews 11:6).

### Answer to Last Month's Activity

1. Joshua: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
2. Moses: "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."
3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: "Be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."
4. Simon Peter and Andrew: "And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."
5. Zacchaeus: "And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully." †





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



**QUESTION:** Would you please explain Hebrews 4:6-8? Also, explain the difference between falling away and backsliding.

**ANSWER:** Hebrews 6:4-6 reads as follows: “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened ... and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

This epistle was written to the Hebrews, and it simply means that if one of the Hebrews had accepted Jesus as the Messiah and had gotten saved and later received the Holy Spirit, being thus established in the truth of the gospel, and would then reject Christ as the Messiah and go back to Judaism, there would be no more chance for that individual to get back to God. This would have been a premeditated step and is covered by the following scripture: “For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifices for sins.”

According to the dictionary, to *backslide* means “to fall away from or to apostatize”; so in this connection there is no difference in the meaning of the two expressions.

**QUESTION:** Can you explain Revelation 12:7, “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels”?

**ANSWER:** The nature of God and heaven does not, for one moment, leave any possibility that there ever could be an actual, literal war fought in the courts of God’s great heaven. Remember, God is almighty; He knows all things. It is utterly impossible to bring a surprise attack upon Him, and to think that there could be a war even fomented (to stir up) in heaven is beyond reason. His power being as great as it is, it is not possible for any force or combination of forces even to begin to threaten His position.

In as much as Revelation is a book of symbols, it is necessary for the understanding of the Scriptures that we look outside of heaven where God’s throne is, considering the word “heaven” as a symbol of something else. Here it symbolizes an exalted state. Paul says we, the saved, the church, are raised up together, and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus—see Ephesians 2:16.

The beautiful star crowned woman symbolizes the early morning Church of God; the great red dragon symbolizes paganism, and the war is between the forces of false religion and the true saints of God; therefore it is not a literal war, but a war between truth and error, right and wrong, and this “war” was fought here on earth.

**QUESTION:** It takes two works of grace to complete man’s redemption. Can one go to heaven without being completely redeemed, i.e., receiving (1) justification, (2) sanctification (baptism of the Holy Spirit, purification of the heart, or nature) Acts 15:8?

**ANSWER:** When a man presents himself to God for justification (repents of his sins, and asks for forgiveness), he does all in his power he can do, and he cannot be condemned, even though he never gets the knowledge of sanctification before he dies. Many may never have heard the doctrine, do not know anything about it. The followers of John in Acts 19 were certainly clear before God, and Paul asked them, “Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” They said they had not so much as heard there was a Holy Ghost. Paul proceeded then to enlighten them, and they accepted the enlightenment.

The Bible does not just spell out how God takes care of the person who dies in a justified state, but it is safe to say the blood takes care of that. That which we do not fully understand is best left with God.

**QUESTION:** When will the judgment day take place?

**ANSWER:** The answer to this question can be found in Revelation 20:11-15; Matthew 25:31-46 and I Corinthians 15:23, 24. These scriptures show that when Christ comes, heaven and earth shall flee away, for “there was found no place for them” (Revelation 20:11); that when “the Son of man shall come,” all nations shall be gathered before Him to be judged (Matthew 25:31, 32); that when Christ comes, “then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up [not set up] the kingdom to God” (I Corinthians 15:24, 25). So the judgment will take place when Christ comes and that will be the end of time. Therefore, there will not be 1,000 years of life on the earth **after the last day!**

**QUESTION:** “A glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish ...” (Ephesians 5:27). Where and when is that church?

**ANSWER:** The verses just before verse 27 point out the fact that Jesus Christ gave Himself to sanctify the church, and we are told that He will present to Himself a church as is described in the verse you have quoted. Where is this church? Part of it is in heaven, part of it is still on this earth. (See Ephesians 3:14, 15.) When is such a church? The church exists now; however, I would not say that every one in the church comes up to the standard set forth in this verse—for we read in chapter four that the Lord has placed in the body apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, etc., “for the perfecting of the saints, ... Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of

God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” There is plenty of room to grow after we become a member of the church through salvation! So, I suppose, the church will not be fully what this verse describes until Christ “presents it to Himself.”

**QUESTION:** When anyone is baptized in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, what one name are they baptized in?

**ANSWER:** Where does the Bible say to baptize in “one” name? God is one! Whether we speak of the great “I am,” or the “Word,” or the “Spirit,” there is only One true, holy, Almighty ruling force. You cannot bring division between the Godhead! †

## A SAINT IS CALLED HOME



**Sis. Lucille Marquiss**

**1930-2022**

On Wednesday, April 20, 2022, Lucille Twila Marquiss, 91, of Hagerstown, Maryland, left this world to join her sweet voice with that of the angelic choir in heaven. Born in Cerro Gordo, Illinois, on May 12, 1930, she was the daughter of the late Earl Eugene Marquiss, Sr., and Blanche Lucille Marquiss.

Sis. Lucille was the last surviving member of her immediate family. Sis. Lucille never married, but at a young age dedicated her life to God and to His service. As a young adult, she worked in the publication of *The Way of Truth* magazine. Then she moved on to become a teacher, and later the principal, of Truth for Youth School in Hagerstown, retiring in 1995.

She was an ordained minister of the Church of God (Universal) in Hagerstown, and at various times also served as band director, choir member, and pianist for the congregation. No one was a more patient listener than Lucille, and she was valued for the wise counsel she gave.

Sis. Lucille had no children of her own, but her large extended family included 23 nieces and nephews, 55 great nieces and nephews, and 75 great-great nieces and nephews—all of whom she loved as her own.

Though she will be missed, her influence lives on. She was a stalwart soldier of the cross who served her Lord with zeal and an ardor for the cause of Christ. She spent her last years in a nursing home where she continued witnessing for God. Now she is among the angels rejoicing around God’s throne. †

June 2022

## BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

### FAITH AND MIRACLES

#### THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

**Scriptures:** Acts 7:58; 9:1-9.

Acts 7:58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet, whose name was Saul.

Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

**Memory Verse:** And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.—Acts 22:10.

**Aim:** To emphasize the miracle in the deliverance from sin.

### INTRODUCTION

**W**E KNOW little of the factors that were brought to bear upon Paul to bring about his conversion. It cannot be doubted, however, that the faithful adherence of Stephen to the faith of the Lord Jesus, even under the hail of stones that ended his life, had a very great influence upon Paul. But there were others besides Stephen who had felt the wrath of Paul, for persecution of the Christians was his business, and with each succeeding experience, no doubt, his heart was operated upon by the Holy Spirit, until he was ready for the experience on the road to Damascus when the sudden appearance of the great light of heaven, with the voice of the Lord Jesus, fully broke him down. How faithful is the gracious Spirit of God to all men, continually striving to lead them into safety away from the damning influences of sin!

### MEDITATIONS

**PAUL, THE PERSECUTOR—Acts 7:58—Young man’s feet—**Paul believed that he was doing the will



of the Father when he persecuted the followers of the Lord Jesus, for he had been taught that Jesus Christ was an imposter. His understanding of the Scriptures could not allow that Jesus was the Messiah who was to come. When he kept the clothes of them who did the actual stoning, he was as guilty as they who did the stoning, and there can be no doubt but that his conscience hurt him; but his devotion to man-made teachings caused him to ride over the check of conscience. Paul had the very same spirit and state of mind that the Hebrews had who stoned Stephen, whose clothes he kept. They became so filled with hatred and jealousy, as they listened to the testimony of the holy man Stephen, that they had to put their fingers in their ears so that they could no longer hear his words. This action of the Hebrews is parallel with the teaching of Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

**Acts 9:1—Breathing out threatenings—**Men will often seek to stay the hand of conviction by deeper indulgence in sin, and not infrequently, they will go the limit. In Paul's case, no doubt, the death of Stephen was still fresh in his mind, and he pressed on the conquest with more fury. In the very midst of it, the Lord struck. A conversion like this is very striking, and no doubt very convincing to the world. People who knew Paul as a persecutor could not help being moved by so great a change. **Verse 2—Any of this way—**There always has been and always will be great opposition between truth and false doctrine. Peace can never be effected between them. In the age in which we live, anyone who contends for the truth, as Jude commanded us to do, is very likely to be accused of intolerance or stirring up religious hatred and prejudice. Paul was accused of being an agitator because of his firm stand for truth. But regardless of what the accusations may be, we should still be strong for the truth, for it is only the truth of the Word of God that can solve the great difficulty that the world is in today. It is only the truth that can give us favor at the judgment bar of God. Solomon said that we should buy the truth and sell it not. This way Paul spoke of was the plain old gospel path that Jesus trod.

**DIVINE INTERVENTION—Acts 9:3—A light from heaven—**The sun is a marvelous creation, and on a hot summer day the light and heat are intense, but such natural light can in no way compare to the light of heaven. If the full light of heaven were to be turned on material things, it would consume them. **Verse 4—Why persecutest thou me?—**The great Spirit of God had long endured the evil work of the persecutor Paul, but finally now He had led Paul into a place where he could not free himself. The desire of God is that He might lead everyone into a place where He can help him to see his real self and encourage him to take the only avenue of escape, which is the redeeming power of His dear Son. False and degenerate religions are revengeful in their attack upon the pure religion, not realizing that they are not attacking some individual but they are fighting against God. This is what Paul was doing. The brightness of this supernatural light was too much for the frail frame of man. Paul lost the use of himself and fell to the earth. Oh,

if men could only realize the great power of God and the terrible danger of resisting it!

**HUMAN RESISTANCE—Acts 9:5—It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks—**From this statement we are informed that God had been dealing with Paul, meeting him at every turn, and he had bitterly opposed every attempt of God to lead him out into the light. This saying was derived from the practice of prodding a yoke of oxen on by the use of a sharp stick or goad. In resentment the ox would kick at his assailant, but it was of little use. A harsh, persecuting spirit is never of God, regardless of the fact that the persecutor may belong to some great organization which makes the highest claims to favor with God. One organization in particular, in an effort to justify its spirit of persecution, declared it was God's way of ridding the church of heretics. The early church, under the leadership of the apostles, did not resort to carnal means or persecuting methods, in an effort to establish or defend the truth. God fought their battles; and if we are going to be true disciples of God and do His work, God must be permitted to fight our battles today.

**PAUL SURRENDERS—Acts 9:6—What wilt thou have me to do?—**Paul, as he later testified, did have an honest heart and was zealous of what he thought was the cause of God. When he heard God's voice, he listened and obeyed. Here is where he found salvation. The same is true of any man. In order to be saved, perfect obedience is demanded. One of the great needs in this modern age is that we get back to the life-giving principles of the gospel of the Lord Jesus. The world is starving for a heart-felt experience with God. What a difference it made in Paul after he said, "What will You have me to do, Lord?"

**THE MYSTERY OF THE INVISIBLE—Acts 9:7—Stood speechless—**Man is very frail, both in power and understanding; and when the magnificent, almighty powers of heaven are manifested, it is no wonder if he be speechless. Even the apostle John (as we are told in Revelation 1:17), fell as dead at the feet of the magnificent Master. Then why should not these sinners be speechless in the presence of the pure and holy power of heaven? They were permitted to hear a voice, but were unable to detect whence it came.

**PAUL SUBDUED—Acts 9:8—They led him by the hand—**No man can be a trustworthy servant of the Lord Jesus until he has been completely subdued and brought to the place where he will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Lord of lords and King of kings. A few moments ago the persecutor Paul was vibrating with persecuting fury; now he is broken in spirit, having fallen upon the Rock, which, had it fallen upon him, would have ground him to powder. How helpless is puny man in the hands of our eternal God! Paul could still open his eyes, but he could not see. A few moments before, he could count on his own faculties in accomplishing his purposes. Now he must depend on someone else, and he could not be certain what would be the result.

**PAUL ON THE RIGHT TRACK—Acts 9:9—Neither did eat nor drink—**Paul had been very much accustomed to having his own way and doing his own

thinking. It was rapidly leading him to destruction. Now he had changed his manner of life. Food and water meant nothing to him as he now lingered in a state of total darkness in the natural sense. But his soul was receiving light that far outshone the light of natural day and the glitter of material things and personal honor. To know God is worth more than a million worlds, and to know Him is worth anything that it might cost. These were the things Paul was learning.

### CONCLUSION

It took the light from heaven to awaken Paul to the true situation in the religious world. He had the very best religion the Jews could produce and was very energetic in his work for it. But it brought no peace to his soul. He was made to cry out that he was a wretched man. But, oh! the difference when he was really born again! We find him giving expression to his heart's feelings in Romans 8:1—"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." The purpose of these lessons is not to present some new truth or man-made idea. It is to bring again to the minds of the people the need of having a genuine experience with God as Paul did. He obtained something that gave him assurance in this life and gave perfect hope for the world to come.

### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Who was more guilty, they who stoned Stephen, or Paul, who kept their clothes?
2. What were the pricks that were hard for Paul to kick against?
3. What do we know about a church that has a persecuting spirit?
4. What is the work of the Church today?
5. What are the evils of the modern practice of church joining as a substitute for heartfelt religion?
6. What is going to happen in a church that really prays?
7. Why did Paul neither eat nor drink?
8. How could it be said that Paul was persecuting Christ? †

### OUT OF BOX 88

Dear Brethren,

I appreciate *The Way of Truth* magazine and your commitment to remaining true to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The articles, printed sermons/messages are like an oasis in a desert—refreshing, strengthening, and God-sent. My late dad received these since I can remember, and while I didn't read them much growing up, I certainly see the value (priceless) of them now.

May God's richest blessings remain on you.

—S. J., Washington, D.C.

## FATHER'S DAY QUOTES

"ONE FATHER IS MORE THAN A HUNDRED SCHOOLMASTERS."—GEORGE HERBERT

"FATHERS JUST HAVE A WAY OF PUTTING EVERYTHING TOGETHER."—ERIKA COSBY

"WHEN A FATHER GIVES TO HIS SON, BOTH LAUGH; WHEN A SON GIVES TO HIS FATHER, BOTH CRY."—UNKNOWN

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD IS FAMILY AND LOVE."—JOHN WOODEN

"FATHER: RESPECTED FOR HIS WISDOM. APPRECIATED FOR HIS STRENGTH. ADMIRER FOR HIS LOVE."—BARBARA LOOTS

"A FATHER'S FAITH IS HIS FAMILY'S GUIDING LIGHT."—JEANNIE HUND

"THE BEST GIFT A MAN CAN GIVE TO THE WORLD IS TO BE A GOOD FATHER."—RENEE DANIELS

"NO MATTER HOW SMALL YOU WERE, WHEN DAD SAID, 'I LOVE YOU,' YOU'D FEEL BIGGER THAN THE SKY."—MELVINA YOUNG

"A DAD PRAYS FOR STRENGTH TO PROTECT HIS FAMILY, WISDOM TO GUIDE THEM, AND HUMILITY TO LEARN AS HE GOES."—MEGAN HAAVE

"ANY MAN CAN BE A FATHER, BUT IT TAKES SOMEONE SPECIAL TO BE A DAD."—ANNE GEDDES

"A FATHER IS SOMEONE YOU LOOK UP TO NO MATTER HOW TALL YOU GROW."—UNKNOWN

"THE POWER OF A DAD IN A CHILD'S LIFE IS UNMATCHED."—JUSTIN RICKLEFS

"MY FATHER GAVE ME THE GREATEST GIFT ANYONE COULD GIVE ANOTHER PERSON: HE BELIEVED IN ME."—JIM VALVANO

"A FATHER IS NEITHER AN ANCHOR TO HOLD US BACK NOR A SAIL TO TAKE US THERE, BUT A GUIDING LIGHT WHOSE LOVE SHOWS US THE WAY."—UNKNOWN

"BECOMING A DAD MEANS YOU HAVE TO BE A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUR SON AND BE SOMEONE HE CAN LOOK UP TO."—WAYNE ROONEY †



# TEN STEPS FOR FAITHFUL FATHERS

Message delivered 06/21/92 by Bro. Greg Tyler



**I** FEEL RATHER inadequate this morning, but I trust the Lord will help us as we try to share some thoughts on fatherhood.

Father's Day is an emotional time, I suppose. The older you get, the more you realize what a great responsibility it is to have the lives of your children under your control. I just turned 40 this week, and I suppose I've been reflecting more this week than before of how quickly life passes by. How important it is for us to use every moment we have for the glory of God!

There are a lot of instructions in the Word of God concerning the family, the family unit, and the operation of each member of the family. I truly believe today that if we could see the Bible carried out in its fullness, what a better world we'd be living in.

To begin with, we're going to turn to Ephesians chapter 6. We'll read the first four verses here. The apostle Paul, writing to the Church of God at Ephesus, says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

I want to entitle my few thoughts this morning, "Ten Steps for Faithful Fathers." We're going to begin with Matthew, chapter 6, verse 33, which says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

The first step that we have in fatherhood, I believe, is an important one, and that is this: *keep first things first*. I believe there is a definite order of priorities that is good for every man to follow. The order is this: God first, family second, and personal needs third. Keeping one's priorities in order is sometimes a difficult task, especially in our day and age where there are many financial burdens. There are a lot of financial pressures in trying to provide for one's home. If we're not careful, we can get our priorities out of whack, and we put the wrong things in the top position.

Now I believe that there are a lot of good men in the world who put their family first, and their job, or their personal needs second, and God third. But that doesn't work. The only way for a father to be what he ought to be is to keep God first in his life. As good a job that a man can do in rearing a family, as good of instructions that he can give, if he doesn't have God, he falls short. Only God can give the wisdom and the understanding that a man needs in directing his home. So he needs to keep his priorities in order. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God."

For a father to be what he ought to be, he must be a lover of God. He must be someone who takes his service to God very seriously. He is the one who should set spiritual examples for the family. He is the one who should lead out in prayer, and lead to the house of wor-

ship. He's not to just send his children to Sunday school, but lead them there, show them the way to take seriously the Word of God as it is preached, and by doing so, setting an example for his family.

A father must also put in priority his family above himself, because a selfish man cannot be a good father. There are too many demands of the home. The wife deserves some of his time. His children deserves some of his time. I do believe that every father ought to have some time to himself also. I think that's important to be able to reflect, to get his proper bearing, but that must come last. The needs of God and God's church and the needs of his family must come before his own personal needs if a man is going to be the father that he ought to be.

Number 2: *a man must feed his family*. There are some material responsibilities that go with fatherhood. We read in I Timothy, chapter 5, verse 8, "If [a man] provide not for his own, ... he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." Years ago, we had a family that visited here. I was in the congregation at the time. At first appearance, they seemed to be honest folk, but we soon discovered that the father, the head of the household, felt it was his job to sit at home while his children went out and earned the wages to feed him. That was enough to tell me that he was not a man of God. That is not God's ordained plan.

Now I still believe as parents grow older and more feeble, the children do have a responsibility to care for their father and mother in their old age. I do not believe that it's proper and right for us to forsake the elderly. I think we have a responsibility to them, especially to our own father and mother. But in the normal course of life, it is the father's job to provide for his own family. It is his responsibility, according to the plan of God, to provide a shelter from the weather, to provide clothing for his children, and to provide food and nourishment for his family. This takes some of his time, but I believe a man who is what he ought to be takes it seriously. But, Beloved, a home is more than just a roof over your head. A home is more than just providing clothing for your children, providing a place to sleep, providing transportation and things of that nature. A home is more than that. There are other needs in the home besides material and physical. Children have emotional needs. Children have spiritual needs. Here again, father has a responsibility to feed the family, not just with material food, but to see to it that his family is fed on the Word of God.

Number 3: *faith in God*. A father must have faith in God if he is to be what he ought to be. In II Timothy, chapter 3, verses 14 and 15, we read about Timothy. We read these words from the apostle Paul: "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and

has been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Not only a father of a home ought to have faith in God himself, but he ought to be able to inspire faith in the hearts of his children. Dear Ones, we live in a faithless and perverse generation. It is up to the fathers in our great land to instill faith in God in our children, to have faith ourselves to live for God, to honor God, to pray to God, to teach our children of their responsibility to God, and to show them the way of faith in God.

Notice of Timothy: ... "from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures." I know the church has a responsibility in this, the pastor has responsibility, but the family unit is also responsible to see to it that the children learn of the holy Scriptures from their youth. They're not to just learn from them or about them in their head, but somehow to get inside of our children and inspire a deep-rooted faith in the living God. This is not easy. It is one thing to have faith in God yourself, it is one thing to believe in God yourself, it is one thing to take the Word of God and live it yourself, but it's another thing to get it across to someone else. We can teach our children. We can point out the Word of God to them, but when it comes to their love for God, sometimes it almost seems out of our reach. But it is the responsibility of father to set an example in worship, in devotion, and in righteousness to their family.

Number 4: *a father must be firm*. We read in Hebrews 12:5-9, "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?"

Chastisement and correction are part of a father's responsibility. A father must be firm in his convictions and firm with his children. I'm going to go on to some other steps a father must have, but we need to lay a foundation here. Discipline is necessary for a home to be what God would have it to be. I believe it was Bro. Ollen who said earlier that sometimes children don't like their parents to keep them from doing everything they desire. I saw a book in a bookstore one time, and the title of the book was *No Is a Love Word*. Most people don't think of "no" being a love word, but it is, Beloved. Sometimes it takes a heart of love to say no, and to advise against certain courses of action. This is the responsibility of a father, and a father needs to keep in focus the overall situation—what is good for a child, not only for the moment, but for the future as well.

We recently had the privilege of seeing one of our daughters graduate from high school. During the graduation ceremony, my mind went back to her birth and her first steps. We take a film of each of our children's first day in Truth for Youth School as kindergartners. We have them all. Where have the years gone?

But there is a sense of accomplishment, not only for the child who graduates, but also for the parents, because there needed to be much support and much direction during those years.

As we think back we wonder, well, what could we have done differently? How could we have changed things, etc.? I suppose there are some benefits in reflecting back and looking at our mistakes and trying to learn for the future so that we don't make the same mistakes again, but I firmly believe that a father must do what he feels is best for the child at the moment and for the future. Sometimes it might not make sense to other people. Sometimes it might not make sense to the child, but a father who truly loves his children is going to honestly do what he feels his best for them in any given situation. One writer said: "The best combination of parents consists of a father who is gentle beneath his firmness, and a mother who is firm beneath her gentleness." This leads us to our fifth point.

Number 5: *a father must be fair*. Not only must a father be firm, but he must be fair. Did you notice in our original reading out of Ephesians, chapter 6, that we as fathers are admonished by the apostle Paul to provoke not our children to wrath? In the giving of discipline, in chastising of our children, we need to be careful not to provoke them to wrath. I mentioned earlier the pressures of life, the financial pressures, and other pressures of life. If a father is not careful, those things affect him, even when it comes to the conduct of his home, and if a man is not careful, he brings the burdens of his job home with him, and takes it out on his children. It doesn't take much sometimes to take a child by the arm and take him in the room and whip him. Sometimes it's not so much the offense of the child as it is the frustration of the father. Father must be fair.

Years ago, I was taught in this congregation to never meet out punishment when you're angry. If there's punishment that needs to be done, or if chastisement and correction need to be done, and you are angry, put it off for a little bit. You'll find always, I believe, after you've gone to the Lord in prayer, and you come out of your prayer closet, you're not quite as angry. You're not ready to meet out such a severe chastisement as perhaps you were at first. Some disobedience, of course, does call for drastic measures, but a child comes to an age when getting out a paddle won't do the job. You'll be surprised how successful some grounding does when the child gets to a certain age. You'll be surprised how powerful a punishment is, e.g., "You can't use the phone for a week." There are other ways to correct your children other than just the paddle. But I believe to be successful fathers, we must be fair with our children. We must use the same yardstick on our children that we use on ourselves. You know, if I'm not careful as a father, I will require perfection out of my children. In one sense, I don't even require that out of myself. I'm a human being, and I have faults. We need to remember that our children have faults, too. We can try to inspire them to be the best they ought to be, and a good father will do that, but we need to be careful to use the same yardstick on our children that we use on ourselves.



I hope I'm not out of line in saying what I'm about to say. One dear brother who is not with us anymore, left a legacy for me, and I appreciate it. Dear Bro. Paul Castang was taken from his family suddenly a number of years ago. One of the most remarkable things I discovered in talking with the family and being with them at that time was that every one of the daughters of that family felt like they were Bro. Paul's favorite child. He had nine girls, and every one of the nine girls thought that they were his favorite above all the rest of them. How does a man do that? Only by the grace of God. Ever since I learned that, I have wanted my children to feel the same way from me. I want every one of my seven children to feel they are the most precious to me. They're my favorites. That's not easy, because they're not all saved. But as a saved man, I want my children to be saved. It's easy to be harder around those that are rebellious than it is for those who are obedient.

I appreciate my obedient children. I love them very much, but I want my unsaved children to know, too, that they're special to me. Sometimes it's easy to take the wrong attitude as a father, but there again, Beloved, we need to be fair with our children. I think that's a safe measure to use when punishment needs to be meted out. Be careful. Take your time before you meet that punishment out. Once it's gone, some provoking can be done. I know sin provokes us all if we're righteous. If we're saved, sin provokes us, but we need to be careful to take this admonition from Paul very seriously. Let us not provoke our children. It's a deeper sin. Let us be careful not to provoke our children to become bitter against God and against the church.

Number 6: *a father must be forgiving*. Ephesians 4:32 is one of the first verses our children learned. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." We don't often hear that applied to a father, but aren't fathers included in that? There's nothing wrong with a tenderhearted father. Some men feel like they have to be hard. Some men feel like they have to let everybody in the home know who is boss. There's nothing wrong with a tenderhearted father. A father can be firm and fair at the same time. He can be firm and forgiving at the same time. We need to temper with our justice, our correction, our chastisement with love, kindness, understanding, and forgiveness. Some offenses need to be forgiven.

I know of some fathers who, to this day, hold something in their hearts against one of their children. They hold some bitterness against one of their children. Their children did something to them, and they won't forgive them for it. Listen, you can't have anything in your heart towards anyone, not even your own children, and be right in the sight of God. A father needs to learn how to forgive his children. Sometimes children can be cruel. Sometimes they can do things that hurt you deeper than anything else in the world, but you still love them. The closer someone is to you, and he does something against you, it hurts like a dagger. But for a father to be what he ought to be, he must have a spirit of forgiveness. When we make mistakes, let us not be so big that we can't ask for forgiveness. It is a mark of a faithful father when he sees he has made a mistake to ask for

forgiveness from whomever it may be. It doesn't belittle a father in the eyes of his children for him to ask for their forgiveness. It will make it easier for them to ask forgiveness of him if they see him set the example.

Number 7: *a father must be friendly*. You might think that sort of strange, but you know, there are some homes where there's so much friction and so many harsh words that the people of the home just aren't friendly to one another. Again, the father must set the example. If the father is grouchy and bitter and mad at everybody, how can he expect everybody in the home to be any different? The father must be friendly. All right, Father, you've had a bad day at work. Nothing went right. You didn't get done what you were supposed to get done for the day, and you feel exhausted, but when your little four-year-old comes up to you and says, "Daddy, can we go out and play in the yard? Get me the ball and throw me the ball," you need to be friendly to your child. You need to learn to leave the things at work behind you. When you enter in to your home, yes, it's your castle, and you can do anything you want to do in that home, but as a father you also have a responsibility to every other member of that home. When you come home, you need to come home with a smile. You need to set the stage. You need to set the tenor of the home. You don't do that by being grouchy and yelling at the children and going to your bedroom and slamming the door. That doesn't set the right stage. That doesn't set the right tenor of the home. We're human, but you know, fathers are something special. God has given them special responsibilities. I truly believe if fathers desire to do their responsibilities, God will supply the grace to carry out what I'm preaching this morning.

To be friendly to your children means that a father must become their friend. Sometimes it's hard to become a close friend to your child who is an adolescent. What is a friend? A friend is someone who listens, isn't it? A friend is someone who understands and cares about you. A friend is someone who can be trusted to keep a secret. If we're going to be friends to our children, we're going to have to come down off our high horse sometimes. Get off the high horse and come down to their level and just listen to what they have to say. I know. I'm a father. Sometimes a father gets a certain mind set. He knows. He's been down the road before, and he knows. He knows what you're going through. He knows what you're talking about, but sometimes I've come to the conclusion, I don't know so much as I thought I knew.

We're living in a very, very difficult age. I do believe our children go through some things we didn't go through when we were adolescents. What they need more than anything is an ear to unburden their hearts to, not someone who is going to jump on them the first time they say something that might be out of the ordinary or out of line with what we stand for or what we believe. They have to feel like we care about them, and that we are at least trying to understand.

I want to speak to the children right now. Children, we want to understand you, but I want you to remember that fathers need some understanding, too. I know teenagers feel like the whole world revolves around

them, and the only thing that's important is what's going on with them right now, and when Daddy walks in, he ought to be interested in it. Well, we want to do the best we can for you, but you need to understand, too, that Daddy has some other responsibilities. One of the most common accusations there is, I suppose, "You don't understand. You just don't understand." Well, sometimes we don't, but I think a faithful father will try to understand, and try to give the proper counsel and advice when necessary.

Number 8: *a father needs to find time for each child.* Not only time for you to do what you want to do with the child, but time for each child. The more children you have, the harder this is, because it doesn't matter whether you have one child or seven, there are still only 24 hours in a day. There is still only so much time to work with, and a father has to be someone who can divide his time up in such a way that every child gets some personal attention. I feel that in this area, along with other areas, I really need to move up. Each of my children needs my time. Each of your children needs your time. They need your support. They need you to be there at school when they receive a reward. When they graduate and receive that diploma, they need to see you out there in the audience watching them. "Well, I have to work. I have to do this. I have to mow the lawn." I think a proper and a faithful father will put his priorities in order, and when he needs to be at a function to support his child, that comes before mowing the lawn. Your lawn can be mowed tomorrow, but the scar you leave on that child by that empty seat is not so easy to overcome. I know this from personal experience.

My father left my family when I was 11 years old. I was the oldest boy. At age 11, I had to work stocking shelves at a grocery store to help buy the groceries. When I was receiving my rewards at school, my dad wasn't there. That left a scar on me. It left some bitterness that I had to overcome when I became a Christian. So I know what I'm talking about this morning. A child needs to feel his father's support behind him. Sometimes a reward that was won by a child was an effort that was put forth simply to get the approval of his dad and mom. It doesn't matter if all the other teachers say "job well done," and all the other students say "job well done" if that seat where Dad was supposed to be sitting was empty. It leaves a scar. Find time for each of your children.

Number 9: *a father must fast and pray.* There are enemies out there trying to get our children. I said earlier that to be the proper father we ought to be, we need to put God first, and this is part of it. We need to have a prayer life and really pray for our children. There are enemies that want to take our children away. There are spirits out there that want to destroy our children, and sometimes Mom and Dad are the only ones standing between them and destruction. After we have done everything else right, if we don't fast and pray, we probably won't have what we need to see our children turn out like we want them to.

Number 10: *a father needs to make footsteps to follow.* In I Corinthians 11:1, the apostle Paul says, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." We

have lives under our responsibility. We have lives we are responsible for, and it's not enough, Fathers, to teach your children not to smoke cigarettes. If you're smoking them yourselves, they're going to follow in your footsteps. It's not enough to tell them to stay away from alcohol if you go and spend your time in a bar. It's not what you say that counts, it's what you do. You need to be setting footsteps in the sand that your children can safely step in. You need to be guiding them towards that eternal land of heaven.

Father, you need to be an example of how a man should treat his wife, because your boys, many times, will treat their wives as you treat your wife. If they see you domineering and being cruel to your wife, when they get married, they're going to think that's the way they should treat their wives. You need to set the example of how you treat your children. If you beat your children around, many times those same children grow up to be child abusers. Sometimes after you set a good example, they still turn out wrong, but at least that's not on your hands. Father, set a good example of how to treat your wife, of how to treat your children, of how to treat your employer, of how to treat other people. You don't teach them that they should hate people of another color. You don't teach them that there's a white race that's a superior race. Teach them to treat all people alike, because we're all brethren in this world that God has made.

We need men who know the meaning of prayer.

Paul Martin wrote—

*Give me full-hearted men, who love their Lord,  
With a sparkle and a flash in their eye,  
Who are ready to fight, to work, to win,  
Who are ready to do, or to die.*

*Give me men who are clean in their words and thoughts,*

*Who can wrestle and labor in prayer;  
For the world is dark and sin-sick and sad,  
And there are heavy loads to bear.*

*Men full of grace and the Holy Ghost  
Are the men that we must have today;  
Full-hearted, strong-hearted, cross-bearing men,  
Who will valiantly lead the way!*

That's what our fathers ought to be.

Someone has said—"All fathers are builders. The problem is, more fathers build walls than build bridges." There's a lot of truth in that. May we be fathers that work hard at building bridges so that our children can cross into this highway of holiness.

Fathers, we need to set footsteps to follow, not only for our sons, but also for our daughters. Footsteps in faith, in firm convictions, in fairness, in forgiveness, in friendliness, and footsteps in keeping first things first in our lives. Examples to be followed by all.

May God bless you. †



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**Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister**

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**WINB**, Red Lion, Pennsylvania 9.320 on SW band

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

*Listen live—Go to [www.winb.com](http://www.winb.com)*

### **INTERNATIONAL**

**JAMAICA**, MELLO-FM, 88.1, 88.3, 88.5, 7:00 A.M. Sundays

Heard throughout Jamaica

### **THE BIBLE STANDARD BROADCAST**

Church of God (Universal)

James Arch, Pastor

Radio Cayman

1:30 P.M. Sun. E.S.T.

Grand Cayman

*\*Listen to The Bible Standard Broadcast from anywhere in the world via the internet. Go to [www.radiocayman.gov.ky](http://www.radiocayman.gov.ky) and then click on Radio Cayman 1 80.9. (Since it airs live, you have to log on at the appropriate time.)*

### **RADIO STATION VIA THE INTERNET**

We are happy to announce that we now have a site streaming Church of God music and messages 24/7 recorded during our services. It can be found by going to [wayoftruth.org](http://wayoftruth.org) and clicking on:

#### **Way of Truth Internet Radio**

### **COMING MEETING**

**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**

### **ADD A NAME TO OUR MAILING LIST**

If you know of someone you feel would appreciate this magazine, feel free to send us the name. Please make sure he/she wants it.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_