

The Way of Truth

Vol. 81

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

No. 8

JESUS IS OUR PEACE

Message Begins on Page 2

October 2023

WE NEED EACH OTHER, BRETHREN

WHILE I WAS streaming the fellowship meeting in Carmichael, California, I heard a song for the very first time and it touched my heart. It was written by Angela G. Gellenbeck. It emphasizes an often overlooked truth. It goes like this:

*In a world filled with violence and hatred,
Ev'rywhere, wars and turmoil we see;
God's people face daily this struggle;
Only love will keep us free.*

Chorus:

*We need each other, brethren!
For only love will carry us through;
Let us stand by each other, brethren;
Take courage, be faithful and true.*

*Oh, how sad to see some of our brethren,
As they strive for earth's pleasure and gold;
Become selfish and strive with each other;
Love and kindness have quickly grown cold.*

*Lord, give us true warmth and affection;
When one fails let us rescue his soul;
"He's not heavy, for he is my brother,"
Let us cry as we carry his load.*

*Dear Saints, let us vow to each other;
"I will help, I will comfort and pray;
I will stand by your side and defend you
In this battle you're facing today."*

Of course, as we consider *what we need*, at the top of the list is Christ Jesus. We need God above all—we need His grace, His forgiveness, His power, His wisdom, His love. We need to keep our eyes on Him. But in this editorial, the thought I want to emphasize is that it is important to realize that as saints of God, we need one another!

The Lord created His church which is made up of of unique individuals who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Everyone who is saved is part of the self-same body, and each member is dependent on every member. This is clearly shown in I Corinthians 12:18-26: "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. **And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.** Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether

one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."

God did not plan for man to live an isolated existence. He created the home. God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." This principle is applied to marriage between a man and a woman which produces the bringing of children into the world. But the principle goes beyond that! God created fellowship. He created the church and made us to depend on each other. He wills that Christians interact with one another on a regular basis. As Hebrews 10:24, 25 proclaims, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." We don't have to fight the adversary all alone! We have brothers and sisters to help us. We need each other, Brethren! This is why congregations are necessary. We don't only need one another within a congregation, but we need each other universally as part of the Church of God.

We Need Each Other When We Are Going Through a Trial and Battling the Enemy. Trials must come, but we don't have to be overwhelmed. Our brethren stand ready to help us. We have a common adversary. The Bible states in Matthew 18:19, "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." There is power in agreement. This is why the devil loves to divide and conquer. We should rely on each other, Brethren, to accept help in the trial we are experiencing.

We Need Each Other When We Are Bearing a Personal Burden. For instance, when carrying a burden for our wayward children, we could melt under the load. Paul, when writing to the Galatians in chapter 6 and verse 2, said, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." We need each other! We are not to be slack and neglect our own burdens. But we are to bear our own burdens, plus bear one another's.

We Need Each Other When We Suffer Loss. The support we receive from the brethren in times of loss surpasses anything this world can produce. The saints have received from God comfort in times of loss and have learned how to comfort others. This is especially true when a loved one has passed into eternity. II Corinthians 1:3, 4, says, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

We Need Each Other When We Fail. None of us are above making a mistake. If and when this happens to a saint, he needs the love of the brethren to

ABOUT THE COVER

A picturesque background of the Appalachian mountains reveals a tranquil setting for the thought of peace. The world has no peace to give. The only way true peace can be gained is through our Lord Jesus Christ. On page 2 the reader will find a message from the 2023 Hagerstown convention which describes this peace.

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We Don't Need to Bite Another—Galatians 5:14, 15, “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.”

We Don't Need a Fault-finding Spirit—Romans 14:13, “Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.”

We Don't Need Hypocritical Love—Romans 12:9, “Let love be without dissimulation.” Romans 13:10, “Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

We Don't Need a Political Spirit Sowing Discord—I Corinthians 1:10-13, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided?”

*Dear Saints, let us vow to each other;
“I will help, I will comfort and pray;
I will stand by your side and defend you
In this battle you're facing today.” †*

lift him up. Such a one needs forgiveness lest he be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow (II Corinthians 2:7). He doesn't need others to pile on, and he should not stop assembling with the saints. We need each other in times like this! What a powerful admonition is given in Galatians 6:1, “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

We Need Each Other When We Are Taking the Wrong Attitude. It is easy to jump to conclusions and make wrong judgments! When that happens, we need to be a positive influence on each other. Sometimes it might feel like a wound, but it will possibly be just what we need. Proverbs 27:6 points out, “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”

We Need Each Other When We Are Discouraged. Satan wants us in a continual state of discouragement. It is a tool by which he has conquered many. We especially need one another when discouragement is lurking. Isaiah 41:6, 7 shows us our responsibility in such times: “They helped every one his neighbour; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage. So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheth with the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It is ready for the soldering: and he fastened it with nails, that it should not be moved.”

We Need Each Other When We Are Sick. We need each other's prayers when battling sickness. James 5:16, “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

In closing, let me point out some things we don't need.

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Jesus Is Our Peace

2023 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Harley McClung



LET US TURN to John 14:27. You probably know it well. John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

As I was looking through the concordance about *peace*, there were 430 verses that spoke of peace. *Peace* is “a state of tranquility, harmony, and unity that contrasts strife, contention, and war.” Peace comes from love, friendship, reconciliation, and togetherness.

Jesus’ disciples were troubled. He was telling them some things that were difficult for them to understand. We live in a world today where I find there is so much that’s difficult for me to understand. When I think about all that I see and hear, I think sometimes: “Wow! how can I deal with all of this?” Maybe that’s the way the disciples were thinking: “How can I deal with what He’s telling me?” But Jesus said so calmly, “Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.” What we need to do tonight, in order to have this peace, this calmness, this tranquility, is to believe in the Giver of peace, the Origin of peace. We need to believe in Jesus Christ because He came to give us the peace that we enjoy. Do we have that portion of peace we really want in the peace that Jesus came to give us?

There is turmoil, fighting, struggling, and uneasiness everywhere in the world today. Don’t listen to the news because it’s troubling, especially with what some people are trying to do with young people. Wow! they’re trying to turn little boys into little girls and little girls into little boys. I’m telling you, that troubles me. How can people be so evil? But Paul said, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.” We’re there. That’s where we are. We’re living in perilous times, dangerous times. If we think a lot about this danger, and all the things that are going on, it can really trouble us. It can really make us unsettled, so we need to be very careful of what we’re in tuned with. We need to be in tuned with what the Word of God teaches us because the Word of God is the source that will give us peace.

There are a lot of reasons why the world is so troubled. Of course, sin reigns in a lot of people’s hearts and minds, and people are governed by the evil that is in them, and what sin has caused in their way of thinking.

I recently read an article. According to *HelpGuide*, some people make war because they enjoy it. There are some people who do. Think about that! They seek drama. They want to change other people. They’re addicted to adrenalin or dopamine. They want to escape from their own problems. They are sadistic. They want to challenge the status quo, or they’re familiar and accustomed to drama.

Someone said: “Some people seek excitement or seem excited to search for conflict. They’re actually addicted to it. This is the specific type of persons seek-

ing to destabilize, break family harmony, generate disputes between neighbors, and start battles at work. In our culture, this type of person is present almost anywhere we go.” Have you ever run into anybody like that? That’s why the Bible says, “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” On the other hand, psychology today suggests that conflict and arguing can facilitate a dialogue, debate, and awareness of other people’s perspectives.

I don’t like conflict. In our Ministers’ Meeting this morning, Bro. Doug brought our attention to Proverbs 13:10: “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.” Let me tell you something, I truly thank God that He gave Bro. Greg the theme, “Humble Thyself to Walk with God.” Pride is something that too few people really understand: how it affects them, what’s its origin, and from whence it’s manifested.

We live in a world full of turmoil, conflict, and anxiety, but peace was a distinct element of Jesus’ mission. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. He came to set the suffering and the captives free. There is more than one way to suffer. I truly believe that people who are under anxiety, under things that trouble their minds, and are suffering with the things that are the opposite of peace, need help. This is what Jesus came to give to those people. He came to give them peace of mind. Peace was a distinct element of Jesus’ mission. He is the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah said, “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.” Jesus’ kingdom consists not of carnal fighting, but righteousness, peace, and love. Paul said, “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” Jesus established His kingdom of righteousness and peace when He was on the earth. I believe this is what He was saying to His disciples: “My peace I give unto you, peace I leave with you.”

Barney Warren penned—

*’Tis a kingdom of peace, it is reigning within,
It shall ever increase in my soul;*

We possess it right here when he saves from all sin,

And ’twill last while the ages shall roll.

Now, notice Barney said, “It is reigning within.” That means that when we’re saved from all sin, we’re saved from everything that would oppose peace. Christ has given us this peace that will be the ruling agent within us. It’s reigning. It has control. This is what Jesus really wanted all of us to have: inner power that would help us to have and maintain peace with ourselves, peace with God, and peace with our neighbor. That’s what Christianity is.

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight." We don't fight with each other. We're not engaged in a carnal warfare. We do fight against spiritual wickedness. We do fight against anything that would oppose our peace. We do fight against the enemy of our souls. We do fight with the weapons that God has provided for us, but not any of it is carnal, nor will anything interrupt our peace with God and peace with ourselves. When we engage in conflict that interrupts our own peace, it ought to be a flag there. "There is something going on here that I need to be careful about. There must be something here giving me trouble." Find out where it's coming from.

The carnal mind is enmity against God. Listen to me tonight. Anyone who is an enemy of God is not in harmony with God. A sinner has a carnal mind, a carnal way of thinking. If you're not in harmony with God, then you're not at peace with God. You're not at peace with yourself. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:7, 8). Dear Sinner, we're only telling you this so that it can be beneficial to you making peace with your Creator, and thus making peace with yourself.

Paul was dealing with this when he was a sinner. He had an inward fight. He had a battle. He didn't really know how to handle it, and he said, "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." Have you ever experienced that?

When I was in sin, I'm telling you, I had some troublesome times. I had some terrible days. I was so miserable. God was dealing with me. Someone was praying for me. If you're in sin and have someone praying for you, you're blessed. Someone was praying for me, and I was coming under conviction. I didn't know where to turn nor what to do. I was just miserable.

Bro. Terry sings a song. I'm sure you've heard it. The first verse says—

All alone and brokenhearted, trying to calm the raging battle in my mind,

In search of many answers, my troubled soul just couldn't seem to find.

I saw a flower blooming where there was no rain or sunshine,

And I knew not that this flower would change the rest of my life.

Sin has blinding effects. There are so many people who are troubled in their mind, in their daily life, not knowing where to turn. It seems like Satan has people so blinded that they really can't see Jesus and this glorious liberty and this great and wonderful peace that they can have. That's exactly where Satan wants to keep people so they can't see this peace and can't experience this peace.

So if you're down and brokenhearted and you just can't seem to find peace of mind,

You're searching for your answers, but your problems are getting worse all the time.

Just reach your hands to Jesus; He'll take you in and break the ties that bind,

He'll be your lily in your valley and He'll bloom all the time.

I've found the place to leave my burdens. You can, too. If you're unsaved here, you can find a place to leave your burdens. You can find this peace.

Peace is a distinct quality of Jesus. It's a distinct quality of His character, His nature. He said, "My peace." This peace is His peace. He has the power and the right to give it to us as an inheritance. Paul said in Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 14-17: "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh."

Jesus' peace is a state of mind, and it is a condition of the heart. It is that which only Jesus Christ can give. You're not going to be able to go out into the world and find this peace that we're talking about tonight. It only comes from Jesus Christ and the great salvation He has come to offer to us. This salvation is freedom. It's freedom from not only sin, but it's the source of freedom from all anxiety and problems in our lives.

God's children have the means to be liberated. Are we really experiencing this great peace that passes all understanding? I've been reading the book, *Birth of a Reformation*, by D. S. Warner. D. S. Warner had a ministry. He had a glorious ministry. He devoted his early life to the ministry. He was going everywhere. He was a wonderful evangelist. There were people getting saved. In his book, Warner was talking about experiencing a closer walk with God. He ran into some confrontation with ministers, and they were fighting against him because he was an advocate for holiness. They were doing all kinds of things to him. They were causing problems for him, but because he saw this glorious light, he said that God was allowing it to shine on his pathway so that he could have greater peace. Whenever they were doing all that they could do to him, he said, "Oh, what peace!" I wonder if we truly are experiencing the peace that passes all understanding.

God's children have the means to be liberated from worry and anxiety. D. S. Warner, the one of whom I just spoke, wrote—

*My soul in trouble roamed
Upon a weary plain,
And ever restless, longed
A perfect bliss to gain.*

*Oppressed with guilt and woe,
With fears of hell o'ercast,
My soul no comfort knew
Until I came to Christ.*

*I bore within my breast
A deep and painful void,*

*I wanted inward rest,
And peace that would abide.*

*I have found it, Lord, in thee,
An everlasting store
Of comfort, joy, and bliss to me:
How can I wish for more?*

Jesus' peace issues from a liberated state of mind, soul, and manner of living. Sin prevents people from having a peaceful manner of living.

Paul said, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts [pride], we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." The world says *peace, peace*, but there is no peace. Jesus came to give us peace, not as the world can give, but as He can give us in having a liberated soul, a liberated way of thinking, and liberated ways of dealing with all the conflict that the world has to offer or throw at us.

The world consists of the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. John said that we're not to love those things. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15). The world consists of things that bring turmoil. James said, "God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." People who think too highly of themselves are disappointed. We ought not to think too highly of ourselves. Bro. Greg said that this morning, and Bro. Shippy said the same thing this afternoon. But when people are living under the power of sin, along with that sin comes selfishness. In this carnal way of thinking, pride starts to build up, and it makes people then think they're really something more than they are. Well, along comes the world, and it sort of knocks the props out of people, and whenever the world shows people they're really not what they think they are, it's a source of anxiety. "Oh, you mean I'm really not that great?" No, you're not. People are under pride. These are the things that the devil wants people to think of themselves as.

Nicodemus, without a doubt, thought that he was something because he was a master in Israel. He was a highly religious man. He came to Jesus and said, "We know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." Jesus said, "Nicodemus, ye must be born again." I tell you, there are a lot of people today who think that everything is all well, fine and good, but when they come face to face with the truth, the truth sort of takes them back a little bit. This is why a lot of people don't like the truth. The truth shows people just where they are, just where they stand before God, and just where they stand before themselves. Do you know why the people in Bible days crucified Jesus? Because He told them the truth.

People who think too highly of themselves are disappointed, and they become anxious. "Well, I thought I was better than this." As a matter of fact, people who think too highly of themselves, many times need to prove it. That's when there's competition. Do you know the world is full of competition? Competition thrives everywhere, and it is because people are wanting to

prove themselves better than their fellow man. But this is not what God wants from us. No, He wants humble people, and He made it possible through Jesus Christ that we can see ourselves just as we are through the gospel, through the truth, and be willing to allow Him to affect the way we think so we can be in our rightful place. We can be right where He wants us to be. Dear Sinner, Jesus will allow you to come to a place where you will be at peace with yourself, peace with your Creator, and peace with your neighbor.

As we look at what the Scriptures teach us, it's all encompassing, and it will help us in every aspect of our lives. It will take us down the road where it will have a calming effect on us. Paul said, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Now, peace is not the absence of turmoil. Did anyone have any battles before coming to this convention? I did. I tell you, I had some battles. I told my little congregation that I had to get down on my knees in prayer. I said, "Lord, here I am again, down on my knees in prayer; You promised me you would always meet me there. There's a mountain up ahead that I can't seem to climb. I need your help. I need a calming effect in my heart, in my way of thinking, and you promised me, Lord, that you would meet me there, and that your grace would be sufficient to help me in every single way. Now, I'm not asking you to move that mountain. I just need the grace." And then you read in the Bible, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Everything Jesus has to offer you is sufficient. Then you can go and climb the mountain, and whenever you get on top of the mountain, the sweeter the victory.

Sinner Friend, you don't have that Person to help you, but you can. You can have Jesus. He'll help you. All you have to do is to make peace with Him. All you have to do is to accept His Word in your heart. All you have to do is to accept His grace, His mercy, and kindness.

I said earlier that peace is not the absence of turmoil. Paul said, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair." Jesus' peace is like that of a white water lily tossed to and fro by the surface waves of a lake, but unshaken by the turmoil because the roots are buried deep in the soil beneath.

A group of people asked two great artists to paint a picture or a portrait that would depict peace. So they went to work. They painted and painted, and they got ready to unveil the paintings. The group came and looked at the one painting. It was of a beautiful meadow with rolling hills and flowers so beautiful with a stream running down through it. As they looked at it they said, "Yes, yes, that's peace." Then they were anxious to see the other artist's painting. When they took the veil off the painting, they saw a huge waterfall that was crashing down over the hill and landing on the rocks below. It was causing such chaos because there was a fog raised up and you could hardly see. It looked like it was so confusing. They said, "How could this be a portrait of peace?" But then they saw a limb sticking out of the cliff, and on that limb was a bird's nest with a mother bird, and she had all her chicks perched there. Which one do you think depicted peace to them?

We can live in this world that's full of turmoil and anxiety. We can live in this world full of chaos all around us and have this perfect peace like that little bird there with her chicks. Perfect peace is what Jesus came to give to us. This is what He came to offer us. It's the peace that passes all understanding. Dear Sinner, if you want to know this peace, it is available to you.

There are stories in the Bible. One beautiful story is of Joseph. You know the story well. He faced turmoil. God gave him dreams. Sometimes whenever God gives us things to see, and we tell other people, they might mock us a little. So Joseph had these dreams. He told his brothers, and they mocked him. Joseph's father loved him dearly. Joseph was given a coat of many colors. His brothers hated him. They were jealous. Do you know jealousy is a source of anxiety? Jesus can bring us the means where jealousy will completely dissipate. The Bible says that jealousy is cruel as the grave. His brothers hated Joseph so much. When he got to Egypt, Joseph found other problems, but when his brothers came to Egypt, he had so much peace within him. He looked at them with compassion and mercy. Joseph told them that all of this happened for their good. Everything that God allows to come our way is for our good if we love and serve Him.

The songwriter says: "What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!" Jesus, Sinner Friend, is your friend. You've never had a friend like Jesus. Of His disciples Jesus said, "I'm not going to call you my servants. I'm going to call you my friends." Jesus was our example. Wasn't He? In my thinking, if I truly have a friend, it's a great source of peace because a friend has your back. Jesus has our back. He said, "I'll never leave you. I'll never forsake you because I'm your friend."

I look at these brothers sitting up here. I consider them my friends. I told Bro. Shippy today, "I have your back. I have a great peace in my heart having your back." That's a source of peace. This is what Jesus has provided for us. We're not enemies. We're workers together. We're helpers together. Bro. Shippy said today, "When one brother suffers, we all suffer," because God has made us to love one another that way. This is a source of peace. We know somebody is out there praying for us when we're down. We know somebody is there to help us when we need help. Sinner Friend, this is what you need. You need to know that Jesus is your friend, but you need to know that all of us here are your friends. We preach to you because we're your friends. We love you, and we want everything good for you.

Think about Jesus' friendship. Paul said, "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies [Sinner Friend, you're God's enemy, but He commends His love to you to be reconciled to Him, and to remove the enmity that you now have towards Him. Whenever you're brought into harmony with almighty God, you're at peace with Him. Listen to me, when we're in harmony with one another, we're at peace with one another.], we

were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

Tonight, there have been a lot prayers prayed, not only for this convention, but for the unsaved. We want you to have this peace. We want you to have this harmony with your Creator. We want you to be a part of His kingdom. It's a kingdom of peace, and if you will allow it, it will reign within you. This peace will rule you, and it will help you live every day. No matter what battles you'll face out there, come what may, God has made provision where you can live this glorious life, this sublime life as a Christian, as a follower of Christ. To me, that seems so inviting. Don't you? †

2023 HAGERSTOWN CONVENTION CD'S

We are making available audio CD's of the wonderful services of the 2023 Convention. These may be purchased for \$3.00 each. The complete set of all services and five musical CD's included: \$50.00.

Please indicate how many you would like to purchase. Send check or postal money order to: **The Way of Truth CD Ministry, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088 U.S.A.**

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- ___ CD #1489 Walk Humbly—Raymond Martin
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- ___ CD #1499 Molded—Brian Richards
- ___ CD #1500 The Blessings of Humility—Lee Jeffries

- ___ CD #301 Convention Singing #1
- ___ CD #302 Convention Singing #2
- ___ CD #303 Convention Singing #3
- ___ CD #304 Convention Singing #4
- ___ CD #305 Convention Singing #5 †

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GEMS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

LOVE WORKS NO ILL

Scriptures: Romans 13:8-10; Romans 12:9, 10; I John 3:16-18; Galatians 5:13, 14; I Peter 1:22; I Peter 3:8, 9; I Thessalonians 3:12.

Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.

I John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

I Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.

I Peter 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

I Thessalonians 3:12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you.

Memory Verse: Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.—Romans 13:10.

Aim: To reveal the evidence of true, godly love.

INTRODUCTION

“Love—the high esteem which God has for His human children and the high regard which they, in turn, should have for Him and other people. Because of the hundreds of references to love in the Bible, it is certainly the most remarkable book of love in the world. It records the greatest love story ever written—God’s unconditional love for us that sent His Son to die on the cross (John 3:16; I John 4:10).

“There are two Greek words we find for love. One is *Phileo*, which means ‘to have ardent affection and feeling.’ The other is *Agapao*, which means ‘to have esteem’ or ‘high regard.’ The word *agape* is the term of Christianity. This word for love is used several ways in the Scriptures. Agape love expresses the nature of God and the love He would have us to have for one another. As someone has said, ‘Love can only be known from the actions it prompts.’”—*Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary*.

MEDITATIONS

OBEY THE WORD—Romans 13:8—Love one another—Some people have misunderstood the first part of this verse. It does not mean you cannot buy a house or a car on monthly payments. As long as you make your payments you don’t “owe” the bank! This part of the verse refers back to chapter 13, where we are told to show due respect and obedience to civil authority. As to Christians, Paul goes on to say that what we owe is love for one another; and in doing this, we are fulfilling the law of Christ. **Verse 9**—A person who has true love in his heart for his brother, or others, will not be guilty of the things spoken of in this verse. He will love his neighbor.

A GOOD NEIGHBOR—Romans 13:10—Worketh no ill—Love will not cause one to return evil for evil, but rather good for evil. Christians are different! They will endeavor to help where they can, for your neighbor is not limited to the one who lives next door. The good Samaritan is an example of this.

LOVE IS GREATLY NEEDED—Romans 12:9—Without dissimulation—This simply means your love is to be real! To pretend to love someone when you don’t is being hypocritical. That is one of the things you need to abhor, among many other things. **Verse 10**—Being kind to all men with brotherly love and in honor preferring one another requires a spirit of humility.

UNDERSTANDING LOVE WE ARE TO HAVE—I John 3:16—The love of God—Consider the love of God. God loved His Son so much, yet His love for us was so great it caused Him to restrain Himself and allow sinful men to crucify Jesus! Since God loved us so much, John said that we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

LOVE IN ACTION—I John 3:17—This world’s good—There are many needy people in this world, and there are organizations that are working to help such people, but that does not excuse the Christian from his duty to help those he can, especially to those who are brethren, as John spoke of in verse 16. **Verse 18**—Here again, we are reminded that our love must be real. As was stated in the Introduction, “Love can only be known from the actions it prompts.”

OLD COVENANT EXPIRED—Galatians 5:13—Called unto liberty—Reading a couple verses before this one, we see that Paul was teaching that the Old Covenant had expired, that it was not necessary to circumcise the children, along with other practices, which were only types of the real things that were to come. However, they were not to use the liberty

they had in a sinful way, for there was a new law in force that forbade living after the flesh. **Verse 14**—The law of love was in effect, and “love worketh no ill to his neighbor.”

THE WAY TO HAVE A PURE HEART—I Peter 1:22—In obeying the truth—Jesus said, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31, 32). The truth liberates you from the bondage of sin. It is no wonder that so many professed Christians still live in sin! To be a true Christian, you must obey the Word of God. In the experience of salvation, the love of the world, ill-will toward others, etc., is removed and true love is given to fill the heart.

A GREAT NEED—I Peter 3:8—Finally—When the Word of God is lived out in our hearts, we will strive to be of one mind. Jesus prayed for His disciples to be one. The apostle Paul told the saints at Corinth that there should be no divisions among them, and that they all should speak the same thing. Peter tells us that we are not only to be of one mind, but to have compassion for one another, to love as brethren, be pitiful, and to be courteous. What a different world we would have if this teaching were put into practice! **Verse 9**—If the verse we have just considered were put into practice, we would not have what Peter speaks of in the first part of this verse. Obey the Word and you will have God’s blessings.

A WORLDWIDE NEED—I Thessalonians 3:12—The Lord make you to increase—This lesson has dealt with the thought of our loving one another as brethren. Paul points out here that our love is not just for other saints, but it is to be shown to all men. He also points out that our love is to increase.

CONCLUSION

Love is something taught throughout the Bible, especially in the New Testament. The “Great Commandment” is found in both: “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength” (Mark 12:30). “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (Deuteronomy 6:5). It is safe to say that the more we love God, the more we will love one another. The love chapter (I Corinthians 13) tells us some of the things love does for us. One of those is “Love never fails.”

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

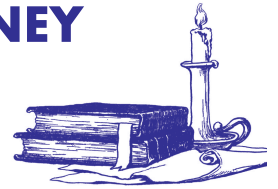
1. Why is love so important in living the Christian life?
2. What is the meaning of the Greek word *agapao*?
3. Can a person really love in word alone (I John 3:18)?
4. What is the connection between love and unity?
5. What is the fulfilling of the law? †

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LIFE IS A JOURNEY

Radio Message

by Bro. David Shaw



THE BIBLE says, “This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” It is certainly another blessed morning in which we are privileged to be alive. We are thankful to God for His blessings upon us as a people, as a nation. I take the pleasure to greet you in the outstanding name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. To Him be the glory, the honor, and the praise for all of the blessings He bestows upon us.

I would like to speak to you from Psalm 39, verses 12 and 13. The Psalmist wrote: “Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.”

I would like to give you a thought for consideration: “Life Is a Journey.” Day by day as we live, we are nearer and nearer to our day’s end. That is not a conscious state upon many people’s minds. Many are alive, and think they have to live, but let me say to you, God allows you to live. Therefore, you are obligated to praise Him, to glorify Him, and to adore Him in your body and in your spirit. The Psalmist saw the unthankfulness of man and declared, “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”

Look at life’s journey with me. If you are planning on taking a journey, you are going to make preparations. The first thing that you will be checking on is your motor vehicle. You have to make sure your vehicle has enough gas, water in the radiator, air in the tires, oil in the engine, and the brakes are working, etc. When all is done, then you are ready for your journey.

Don’t forget this: Life is a journey, and it is filled with many curves. There are unexpected dangers and failures that will be met. Let us work on our journey. Each of us is responsible as to how we will make our journey. We are preparing for time and eternity, and so we pass through time into eternity. Your date of birth precedes a dash between birth and death, and that dash is very important. We should really take note as to how we prepare our journey because our journey is absolutely what we make of it.

The writer who penned the words, “As I journey through the land singing as I go,” could only find himself in that position because he had a friend who was always with him, and the calmness and peace was there for him to enjoy. Why? Because when someone is singing, it means something is happening on the inside. It has to be a joy that’s full on the inside that is sung out in song. We cannot live carelessly and expect to have a happy journey. Only the Christian indeed can say that he has a friend in Jesus.

As we do take a physical journey, so do we spiritually, but as we travel spiritually, the songwriter reminds

us that “All the way my Savior leads me, What have I to ask beside? Can I doubt His tender mercy, Who through life has been my guide?” It is certainly a fact that Jesus Christ is our best guide. I say best, owing to the fact that other people have sought other guides and thought they did well when they did. But the fact remains, we cannot find any other guide like unto Jesus. One writer cried out, “Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty, Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.”

It is important, Beloved Ones, that as individuals we plan our lives correctly. We must try our best, as we journey on, to know where we’re going. If we’re not sure, ask questions. If you’re going to be traveling to Jamaica, I’m sure you’re not going to look at a map of Canada. You’ll be seeking to find a map of Jamaica. A map of Jamaica would guide you to every place in Jamaica.

We are traveling on life’s journey. As we go along, we’ll meet with trials, crosses, and sometimes hardships, but in the midst of all of those, if Jesus Christ has planned your journey, your journey will be enjoyable. As I have mentioned, the writer said, “All the way my Savior leads me, What have I to ask beside?” If you are seeking a guide for life, the best guide is Jesus. There is none like unto Him. No one knows the way like He does. Jesus Christ knows the future, and He is able to lead you over life’s tempestuous seas. Though before you may roll unknown waves, yet in them all, Jesus Christ is able to direct your path. He will take you over the billows and the waves as they spray.

I want to speak to you about the children of Israel leaving Egypt. God sent Moses as a leader and a commander to the people to direct them the way out of Egypt. They had struggles, but the morning finally came when they departed from Egypt. They were on their way to the Promised Land, which is called Canaan. Jesus Christ was their guide. God worked a miracle for them on their way. When it seemed like night was coming, He prepared a pillar of fire by night to guide them. When the sun was getting hot, He prepared a pillar of cloud to cover them by day. As the night was approaching, the light came on the Israelites’ pathway, but on the Egyptians’ pathway, the darkness fell, so when they were walking in darkness, the Israelites were walking in the light.

Now, on our journey there are two things we have to deal with: *light* and *darkness*. God’s Word gives light. David said that it is a light and a lamp unto our feet. They are both guides. They direct aright. If you are willing today to take my encouragement, I would encourage you to make today your beginning day to walk with Jesus. Do not continue to take life’s journey, thinking that you are okay without the help of the Master. You cannot make your journey without Jesus. Once you do, you are going to go astray. You’ll be lost on the byway, and you will never be able to find the way except you’re directed by Jesus. He is the only way. Jesus said to us, and it’s plain truth: “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” If you’re walking with Jesus, your journey will be enjoyable and happy. You will journey without fear and dread, for once He is with you, you are well-secured, you are well-preserved, and well-protected.

While you’re on this journey, you need to have a friend who understands and a friend who knows the way. This friend is Jesus. He desires that every single individual across our land, whether male or female, young or old, would seek Him as a friend. We are to seek a friend like Jesus because we’re going to need someone to guide us along the way. Praise God, when the offer is accepted the righteous individual can say, “I have found a friend in Jesus, He’s ev’rything to me, He’s the fairest of ten thousand to my soul; He’s the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star.” So when you’re walking with Jesus, it makes your pathway pleasant and enjoyable. He is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. He doesn’t just walk with you, but He holds your hand along the way. If the way is rough, if it’s thorny, don’t you worry, Jesus Christ will take you across in safety. Sometimes you think you feel alone on the way, but at that time, He has you in His hands. So He is carrying you across the way because you are unable to go by yourself. The things that would be treacherous to you, He makes them easy. The things that would sadden you, He removes them. Christ will bring light to your pathway where there would be darkness, and the devil cannot interrupt because Jesus is journeying along with you.

Today, the righteous are saying, as I read in Psalm 39:12, “Hear my prayer, O Lord.” Are you praying that the Lord will allow you to make the right choices as you go through your journey in life? He said, “I have set before you two ways—the way of life [good] and the way of death [evil].” May I ask you, “Which road are you on this morning? Are you on the way of righteousness, or are you on the way of sin?”

If you are on the way of sin, I will tell you, you are on the wrong road. You are going in the wrong direction. It might look like that way is smooth, but let me assure you, My Friends, you will make a wreck of your life. Your life at the end will not be happy because you are going in the wrong direction. You are traveling towards eternal disaster. The wide road may look welcoming, but the narrow road is better. Beloved Ones, on a narrow road, we don’t go very fast. We’re very cautious. The best road is the narrow road. Don’t take the wide road for granted. Millions of lives are lost on that road, which is the sinful path.

When you’re walking in righteousness, you’re walking on the right pathway. Beloved, you are either walking in righteousness or in darkness. Don’t think that you can make the race safely by walking in darkness. The Bible declares that if you walk in darkness, you shall stumble, or doubtless, fall. Most people who stumble, fall. You have to be a bit strong not to fall when you stumble. I don’t want to fall into disaster. I don’t want to fall into destruction. You need to make the right choice. Seek the Lord now. Ask Him to guide you in the path of safety, the path that will end in life’s eternal joy. “Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears.” Why? Because “I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, Lord.”

I am passing through this life. I want to know that I am walking on the right path. I want to know that my ending will end in the right place. I ask of us to be wise as we live on. I ask that we be conscious. It’s time

to come out of unconsciousness. Those who live in sin and think they are enjoying life are in an unconscious state. Consciousness will alert you when danger is lurking. Too many are not on the right path. It is really disastrous. Don't wait until it's too late.

Beloved, I'm talking reality. You cannot get away from these things. This is a fact of life. You will leave this world for another land. You are either leaving for heaven or hell. Where are you going to go? A righteous life will take you to heaven. A sinful life leads to hell. Stop living a life of sin and thinking you're walking on the right path and enjoying life. You're not enjoying life. You're only enjoying the pleasures of sin. Let me assure you, if you want to make heaven your final destination, this is the prayer found in Psalm 39: "O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more." You are leaving this world one day. Several of our friends are already gone. Some with a hope, others with no hope.

What is your hope today? Where are you going from here? Where will you spend eternity? Will it be with the Lord, or in a place of regret? Don't allow yourself to be fooled by the masses. You are to prepare to meet your God, and you are responsible to secure your own life. Every one of us will give an account for the deeds done in our body, whether they be good or evil. Beloved Ones, do not live your life carelessly. Don't journey carelessly. Make sure the journey you're on is a heavenly one. Someone said, "I'm on my way to that bright land, where the soul of man never dies."

Let it be, I pray, that you will end life's journey at a place where joys immortal flow, where death shall be no more, where sorrows shall be no more, where tears shall be no more, but there will be joy unspeakable and full of glory.

May the Lord help you to make the right choice on your journey is my prayer. †

STEPS HEAVENWARD

By the late R. L. Berry

Chapter IV

Temptations May Be Avoided



CERTAIN MAN one time wanted to hire a coachman. Three men applied for the situation. The man took the applicants down to a particularly bad and dangerous place in the road over which the coach would have to be drawn, a place where there was a steep precipice on one side of the road, and asked them, "How near this precipice can you drive this coach without going over?" One said he could drive as near as a foot to it without danger; another said he could do better than that, he could drive as near as six inches to the precipice without danger. The last man was asked what he could do. "Well, sir," he said, "I will stay as far away from that precipice as I can get." "You are the one I want for a coachman," said the man.

A little boy was recovering from a serious sickness that made it unsafe for him to eat what the rest of the

family were eating. One day his little sister came in eating cake. The boy's appetite was coming back; the cake looked inviting. "Jennie," he said, "you must run right out of the room away from me with that cake, and I will keep my eyes shut while you go, so I sha'n't want it."

As there is more or less danger in every temptation, it is a part of the young convert's duty to avoid them as much as possible. There will be enough of unavoidable temptations to meet to test us without our inviting some extra ones to come our way. And the temptations that we can avoid and do not are peculiarly perilous to us; they have a power over us the others do not, and there is great danger of falling. Bunyan tells in his *Pilgrim's Progress* of a man in an iron cage, who said, "I have tempted the devil, and he is come to me," and there he was caged up to his sin.

Avoid temptation, young Christian, as you would avoid a deadly serpent. Avoid associations that will lead you away from Christ. Avoid the frivolous, giddy company that seeks only a laugh and fun, for to mingle with such is a detriment to the soul. Avoid the worldly, irreligious person, whose whole attention is on the present evil world, who scoffs at religion and makes fun of Christians, or if not that bad, is living for himself and not for God. Avoid lovers of pleasures; for they will lead you into questionable amusements and doubtful associations. Avoid the wicked, sensual man or woman. Avoid places of worldly amusement, stay away from the movies, the dance halls, the theaters, the card-parties.

It is not meant by this that there are no enjoyments for young Christians; there are plenty of them, innocent enjoyments, innocent plays and games, games that inform, that strengthen the eye and the arm and paint the cheek with a color which no artificial coloring can excel; and there are associations that will give wholesome pleasure. To be a Christian means to give up the evil; but the Christian can keep all the good things that he has.

Neither is it meant that the young convert cannot associate with those who are not Christians. The young Christian should be friendly toward everybody. What the young convert should avoid are those associations and that company and those things that will be sinful or are of doubtful and unwholesome character. Many of your friends will still want to be your friends, and this friendship should be used to bring them to Christ. You can explain in a kindly way why you prefer not to go to places that you feel Christ would not have you go, then, rather than turn from Jesus turn from your friends. You can explain in a kindly way why you prefer not to go with them, and thank them for their intended kindness in asking you to go. By such means one can generally avoid temptation and still retain the friendship and confidence of unsaved relatives and acquaintances.

Sit down quietly, young Christian, and review the momentous step you have taken in accepting Jesus. What did you do that for? Are not the most tremendous possibilities bound up in that acceptance? You have started out for heaven. Consider, then, the things that will help you gain your goal and the things that will

hinder you. Work for your own interests. Do those things that will make your success more probable. Avoid those things that will make your success less probable. In the Christian life this means that you are to do all the things you know of that will make heaven the surer, and avoid all those things that will make it less sure.

Chapter V

Unavoidable Temptations May Be Overcome

Since you are going to be tempted, it is of the greatest importance to you to know how to overcome temptations.

There is one lesson to learn that is of supreme importance in overcoming temptation, and that is to learn that Christ is all and that without Him you cannot do anything. "Without me ye can do nothing," is the way Jesus puts this wonderful truth. Reflect on your utter weakness to cope with so wise and powerful an adversary as the devil, and at the very outset of your Christian life learn to depend on Christ to make you able to overcome. In a conflict like the fight of faith, the Christian conflict, it is of supreme consequence that you should be in a stronghold or fortress that cannot be taken. You are in such a fortress; "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Proverbs 18:10). This fortress, this stronghold, that cannot be taken, is Jesus. You are in Him. As long as you stay within the stronghold you will be safe. All the wiles and arts he can command, Satan will use to get you outside the stronghold, so as to be able to fight you on the open plain by yourself, and if the devil succeeds, you will almost certainly be wounded, probably killed, spiritually. Settle it therefore in your heart that you are never going to desert Christ; but in every temptation nestle closer into His arms of protection, and trust Him the more fully to fight for you and preserve you.

Learn to fight temptations by faith, is the second lesson to learn. Chiefly, this faith is to be in Jesus Christ. It is He who has overcome the devil and the world, it is He who has won the victory, and from Him alone can we receive power and dominion over the enemy. You are to believe in a most literal way that Christ is able fully to keep you from sin. There must not be the least doubt allowed in your heart but that He will carry you through. If such doubts come along, you must resist them as temptations; for they are temptations of the most deadly kind. It is not sinful to have momentary doubts; almost every Christian has momentary doubts, but these are not harmful if cast out at once. But to allow doubts to stay till we doubt the power and grace of God to help and keep us is virtually like going outside the fortress to battle the foe alone in our own strength. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (I John 5:4). When a temptation assails you, take it to the Lord; gather in your thoughts and set them on seeking a way out of that temptation, or of overcoming it, and if you will trust God, you will overcome it.

But you must also have faith in yourself. Not presumptuous self-confidence, or selfish pride in your own powers and abilities, but faith in your good motives, in your acceptance of Jesus, in your ability through Christ

to win over every temptation. A Christian is a soldier, and soldiers must fight, and victory over temptation is the result, of intelligent fighting on the part of the Christian coupled with faith in the Lord. The victory is won by cooperation; you do your part manfully trusting God to do His part and, lo, the battle is won almost before you know it. Have enough faith in yourself to know that you are decidedly on God's side and expect, by God's grace, to win the goal in the end.

One other thing you must learn, also, and that is to resist. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," says James (James 4:7). Do not expect the devil to go away from you by asking him to. He is not a gentleman and cannot be treated as one. He is to be resisted, strongly, faithfully, heroically, steadfastly, and unceremoniously. Give him no place at all; dismiss forthwith whatever he brings, deal with him as you would with a venomous serpent or a mad dog, commanding him in the name of Jesus to depart. Begin at once, at the start of your Christian life, to pattern after Jesus. See how He resisted the devil when He was in the wilderness and on the mount of temptation. He said, "Get thee behind me, Satan," "Get thee hence, Satan," and the devil left Him, not to stay, indeed, but to come back. But what did Jesus care if Satan did come back when He knew He could resist him and he would flee again!

Moreover, dear young Christian, learn to resist small, foxy temptations just as you do the big ones. One time a brother related how he had been delivered from the tobacco habit. After his deliverance he was in a place and smelled a cigar that was being smoked by another person, and he inwardly remarked on its fragrance. Again he was where there was one, and he was surprised to feel surging in him all the old desire for tobacco; then he thought of the time when the tobacco smelled so good and he did not resist the idea.

Had he resisted the first deceiving temptation, he would not have suffered the great temptation he next had. He fell under a strong temptation, but did not yield, and so did not sin. A temptation is a temptation, and the size has nothing to do with it. Any question that has a moral value or issue can be decided only in one way, if condemnation is to be avoided. Like the old saying, "If you take care of the dimes, the dollars will take care of themselves"; so if you take good care not to yield to the little temptations, the bigger ones will not be hard to deal with.

Still another thing on this line is that a fall is rarely occasioned by one great temptation. There is most generally a yielding, of small points, a neglecting of little so-called "no harms," that blunts the edge of one's resistance to sin. This may continue for some time, and then some larger temptation comes against which the soul cannot or does not prevail. Solomon tells of the "little foxes" that "spoil the vines," and that is a good illustration of the little sins that ruin the soul. Hence in the early days and weeks of your new experience there is nothing of more importance than that you learn to resist temptation with all your soul, and never stop till that temptation is gone and has lost all its power over you.

Your Weakness Is Your Strength

It may occur to you that since you are so weak, having just started in the Christian way, you cannot be expected to overcome evil; that being just a babe, you have no strength to combat evil; that you can be expected to stumble and fall. Do not think so. There is a divine secret here that is wonderful to contemplate. It is this: Our weakness is our chief defense. That may sound strange and beyond belief. Here is the Scripture for it: "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Corinthians 12:9). The simple meaning of this is that the weaker we are the more the Lord will protect us; and, as is usually the case, the more you feel your weakness the more you will trust the Shepherd to keep you. That is it. Another text says: "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength" (Isaiah 40:29). As long as you feel weak in yourself and therefore in need of great help from the Lord, your weakness will be a source of strength to you. If ever you should get to where you feel strong and as though you do not need much help from the Lord, then you will be near to falling; for, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Let yourself also consider that just as mothers and fathers take the more tender care of little new-born babes and shield them from everything that would harm them, so the Lord the more tenderly cares for the lambs of His fold and is at special solicitude for their interest. Be encouraged, then, that your heavenly Father knows every temptation that assails you, and will see that you are preserved against them.

We spoke a while ago about your being in Christ, a stronghold, a place of safety. We desire now to encourage you with the thought that you will have power to overcome temptations because Christ is in you. Hear this from the beloved John: "Ye are of God, little children, and overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4). Here again, as in the former illustration, Christ is all. But this thought is full of comfort to the new beginner that Christ is within; and as long as Christ is within, no power can make us fall. And Paul makes the assertion that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, nothing, no temptation, no persecution, no power or creature. It all depends on ourselves. We can separate ourselves from Christ, but no outside power can separate us from Him.

Sometimes people have said, after they faltered or failed and went down into sin after conversion, that the temptation was so great they could not resist it. Did you ever hear such an excuse? It is often made, and it may have an influence on you young Christian unless you fortify your mind and will against it. Wrong ideas produce some very bad results sometimes. A boy had an idea that he could kindle a fire with gasoline. He kindled a fire all right but not just the way he expected. There is a very definite Scripture promise on this very point. Read it over, please, two or three times, right now while it is here before your eyes. Contemplate all that there is in such a promise. Meditate on its full meaning and compare it with the excuses that have been made that the temptation was too strong. Here it

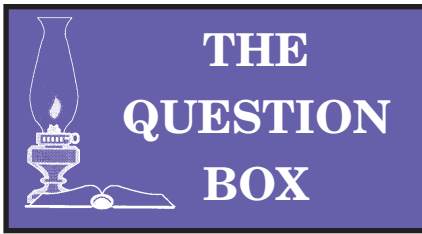
is: "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13).

Notice the full meaning of this promise. "God is faithful," it begins. This faithfulness of God's runs back through all past history, through all the history of the children of Israel, through all God's wonderful plan of redemption. It concerns His sending Jesus to be the Savior from sin. It concerns His making a way of escape from sin. It concerns our eternal welfare; for if God could not have or had not made a plan, a way, that would protect us from the assaults of Satan and whereby we could know for sure that no temptation would be too hard for us, then we should all the time be in a worry as to how it would end with us. But the faithful God saw to it that no such weakness was in His plan, He saw to it that the devil was to have no more chance of damning us in his hell or of getting us back into sin.

"Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able," is the second part of it. This is specific. There is no misunderstanding the meaning. We, you young Christian, cannot be tempted above what we are able to overcome. We have God's Word for it. Do you think He will not make it good? Over against all the failures of all Christians who started and fell, is this Word of God. Their excuses will not stand with God. He said specifically that the very temptation that they fell over was not too hard for them. We must believe that they did not avail themselves of the grace that God had ready for them. It is so with your temptations; they cannot be too hard, nor too long, nor too desperate, nor too severe, nor too anything, for you. When a temptation comes, all you have to do is to remind the Lord of this promise that He made and tell Him that you expect Him to make you able to bear it.

"But will with the temptation make a way to escape," that is the third part of it. Who will make a way of escape? God. Here is His recorded Word. He is to make it good. There is a way of escape, then, a way out, a way of victory over temptation. God says there will be one. Dear young Christian, this is a most wonderful promise to you. When you are tempted, whether sorely or ordinarily, look for a way of escape, look to God to show you just the way out without being swamped or overcome by the temptation. Oh, that every soul had believed God! There need be no going back into sin; for there is a way to escape from it. Hence there is no excuse for sinning, no answer that will allow one to sin and not be under full responsibility for it; for this promise is comprehensive to cover every temptation of every kind, and God says that He is faithful and will not allow us to be tempted above that we are able, but will with the temptation, right along with it, make a way of escape so that we shall be able to bear it.

Take courage, dear young convert; you can stand. You are in a wonderful fortress, a stronghold of unconquerable power. You have in you, Christ, who is greater than the devil and the world, and you have the promise of the faithful God to keep you, so why fear? Lift up your head and your heart and go forward for Jesus. †



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

QUESTION: I know that the dead in Christ shall rise first and they that remain (Christians) meet Him in the air. Where are the sinners during this?

ANSWER: According to John 5:28, 29; Matthew 25:31-46 and Revelation 20:11-15, the unsaved will be resurrected at the same time the righteous will. According to John 6:39, 40, 44 and 54, the *righteous* will be raised in the "last day." So, unless you want to believe the wicked will be raised *before* the righteous, you must believe they will be raised at the last day, along with the saved, or else deny the verses in John 6.

QUESTION: What is sanctification?

ANSWER: *Sanctification* means "the act of sanctifying or to purify from sin; to consecrate, or to set apart." In Hebrews 13:12 we read, "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." Therefore, sanctification is made possible only by the blood of Christ through His death on the cross. In I Thessalonians 4:3, 4 we read, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor." Since God has made it so plain that it is His will that we be sanctified, it is needful that we seek this experience to keep the favor of God upon our lives. Sanctification is for everyone that will consecrate his all to do the will of God. Luke 11:13 shows us how we can obtain it. "If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" So by faith in the Word of God we receive the Holy Spirit into our hearts. But remember, the Holy Spirit will not come into a heart that has not been first cleansed from every committed sin. And he who asks for the presence of the Holy Spirit, in his heart, must do so, having a willingness to surrender his will and his all into the hands of the great and almighty Spirit of God. If this kind of a consecration is not made by the believer, the Holy Spirit will not come and abide forever. When the Spirit is come in and we are sanctified, then we experience the result mentioned in Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

QUESTION: Does a newborn child have Adam's sin?

ANSWER: Adam's sin was in that he disobeyed God. This brought spiritual death to his soul, separation

from God, and a sinful nature. Due to his sin, all mankind that follow are affected by it. Call it the Adamic nature, carnal nature or native depravity, the child comes into the world with a nature that is bent toward evil.

However, the child does not die spiritually until it comes to the knowledge of right and wrong and *chooses* wrong. It dies because of its own imputed sin, not Adam's.

QUESTION: Luke, in Acts 1:18, records Peter as saying that Judas' death was by falling headlong, and bursting asunder, yet Matthew says (27:5) he hanged himself. Why do the two accounts not correspond?

ANSWER: Please note, Peter did NOT say that Judas' death was caused by "falling headlong." Peter simply makes a statement. The two accounts DO agree. Judas went out and hanged himself. The hanging, doubtless, caused his death. Now either the limb broke, or what is more likely, his body began to rot, and when it did, the head separated from the rest of the body, and it "falling, burst asunder."

QUESTION: Will you please explain I Peter 1:13, "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ"? Some seem to feel that all Christians have some grace now, but not enough to stand before God. But the day is coming when the full supply of grace will be brought to him. Then he will be fully redeemed in both soul and body. What all is included in "grace"?

ANSWER: The word "grace" has more than one meaning, so we must look at the verse to understand just how it is used. However, one very important meaning of the word is, "unmerited divine assistance given man for his regeneration: ..." Another, "a virtue coming from God: approval, acceptance." *Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary*.

The apostle Paul wrote, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11, 12). What the grace of God "teaches us to do," the grace of God will enable us to do! The Lord said His grace was sufficient for us, so if one is truly saved, regardless of his state in life, God's grace will see him through. There is no excuse for people living in sin.

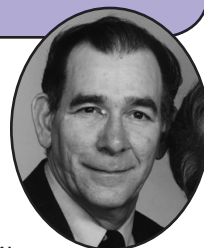
When a person is justified from his sins, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, his soul is "fully redeemed." Of course, there is still room to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." As to the body being redeemed, our bodies will be changed from mortal to immortal when the general resurrection takes place at the end of this the last age. Then I suppose you could say "we will be fully redeemed."

QUESTION: Daniel 12:7 says "a time, times, and an half." How long is a time, times, and an half?

ANSWER: It is understood that the "seven times" that was to pass over Nebuchadnezzar—Daniel 4:32—was seven years; so one time would be one year; times would be two; and a half would be half a year. †

WALK HUMBLY

2023 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Raymond Martin



I WILL BE speaking along the line of the theme of this convention. James 4:10 says, “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” I don’t know of anybody that doesn’t have some problems or troubles. We all face some troubles. Regardless of where we’re from, we have problems. But this scripture is a promise. The Lord has promised to lift us up. With His Spirit, He’ll lift us up out of trouble. He’ll comfort us in the time of trouble. I’ve found that to be true even more so in the last year or two, than it may have been down through the years.

The Lord wants us to speak to people with a heart of love. We must be humble in our spirit. We don’t want to pat sin on the back. We need to tell people what they need to do to have a good life. Micah 6:8 says, “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

Before I get into the message, I’d like to read part of a newspaper article that Bro. Clifford gave me written by a man where he grew up, which was Front Royal, Virginia. It has a picture of a man and his wife and five of their children. She’s expecting another child, and they were being condemned for having those children—

Some countries, such as Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan, no longer have enough young people to fill the ranks of their military. Once remarked for its large, close-knit families, the population of Italy, like most of the European countries, is in decline. By 2050, 60% of Italians will have no brothers, sisters, cousins, uncles, or aunts. Why? People don’t want children. Simple as that. They don’t want a large family. They don’t want the responsibility.

There is some responsibility in serving God. That’s why some are not going to make it to heaven. So the consequences may prove dire sooner rather than later. Both here and abroad, this population shift will result in greater numbers of elderly requiring everything from medical assistance to social security, but with fewer and fewer young people to pay the price of that care. I’m still on the Bible. It is still God’s will for young women to have children. That’s what the Bible teaches. Some might frown at the message this afternoon, but this is still what the Bible teaches. The Word of God tells us in Titus that the older women are to teach the younger women to love their husbands and to be keepers of the home. I could go on and on. This is the Word of God. They are to be pure.

The writer of this article goes on to say--

The parents of large families, and I know plenty of them, treasure their sons and daughters. They guide them in their education and religious faith. They try to help them to become moral, hardworking, and compassionate adults, and they deserve applause, not condemnation. As for those five or six children that you see with

Mom in the grocery store, some day they’ll grow up. They’ll become doctors, mechanics, teachers, plumbers, moms and dads. They’ll be the ones doling out the hard earned dollars for taxes, serving in the defense of our country, and paying for social security.

So depending on your age, this morning, their future is your future. Think about it!

Less than 25% of American people today are actually working jobs. We’re getting older. I know the Lord will take care of us. But this Bible is here for us to follow and to live by. This is our Roadmap to follow. To have a good life, we’re going to have to follow it. We have to live by it.

I love the young people. The Bible tell us in I Timothy 5:14, “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.” God is not against you having a nice home. He’s not against you having nice automobiles, but the more you have, many times, causes pride. What is wrong with humbling yourself and having a family, taking them to church, and serving the Lord? What’s wrong with that? There’s nothing more beautiful than to see husbands and wives and their little children going to the house of God to learn about Him. There’s nothing more beautiful than that. It takes some humility to do it. We might not have what the next door neighbor has, but if we’re willing to walk humbly with God, He has promised to take care of us. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

Well, what does it mean “to walk humbly with God”? What does it mean for you to walk with God? Enoch was translated because he pleased the Lord. He walked with God. “Noah walked with God” the Bible tells us. If we want the favor of God, we have to walk with God. If we intend to make heaven our home, we have to walk with God. That’s what it means to me. Jeremiah tells us, “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” So in order to live the Christian life and to walk with God, we must be led by the Spirit of God, and also by the Word of God. If we’re going to have favor with God, we have to walk in the Spirit. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14). We have to be guided by the Word of God.

Jesus has set forth the greatest example of humility to show us the value of a surrendered life. He was the Son of God, but the Bible tells us “it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren” (Hebrews 2:17). He did not take on the nature of angels. No, He was made flesh and blood. The Bible tells us in Philippians 2:8, “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Jesus Christ tasted death for you and me. He

humbled Himself and tasted death. He did it for everyone. He didn't seek His own will. In fact, in the garden He prayed, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me," but He went on to say, "nevertheless, thy will be done." We have to be willing to pray like that.

Some people have things that you can't have. Some people have things that I can't have. But God will see to it that we have what we need to make us happy. I've been to Jamaica and Honduras. They don't have all we have, but they're happy. I tell you, when I made my first trip to Jamaica with Bro. Greg, the saints excited me. There were smiles on their faces. They didn't have hot running water coming out of the spigot. They had barrels that were painted black on house roofs in different places. The sun heated their water. A lot of the food that was prepared was cooked outside in a kettle. They didn't have all the appliances that we have in our country today. Some of you have been there. You know what I'm talking about. But they were happy in the Lord. You don't have to have what everybody else has to be happy. You can enjoy the blessings of the Lord with very little if you put Him first in your life. Jesus sees to it that we have those things that we have need of.

Jesus has set forth the example of humility in many ways. You'll find Him in St. John, the thirteenth chapter, where He put water in a basin and washed the disciples' feet. There are a lot of people today who won't wash another's feet. There are a lot of people today who don't want to take part in feet washing. I appreciate when we have feet washing. Jesus set forth this example for us to follow. Jesus is the greatest preacher and teacher this world has ever known, yet He humbled Himself, put water in a basin, and washed the disciples' feet. He said that we ought to do the same. He said, "Happy are ye if ye do them."

Another verse that goes along with our theme is, "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit." Some of these scriptures have already been said by different ones over and over, but they bear repeating. They're good for us. Jesus said, "Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Pride causes people to make a lot of serious mistakes. It causes a lot of heartaches. It brings a lot of heartaches to our homes and families. It causes people to die lost. *If I can't have this, or I can't have that, I don't need to even live* is the attitude some might take.

Humbling ourselves is a requirement from God. It's not a choice of ours. This is what God requires of us. He requires us to show mercy. Tenderness is of great value. It touches the hearts of people. Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Sometimes some things are said that are hard to get on top of, but that verse is still true. A soft answer will turn away wrath. It will bring unity and harmony.

The Bible says, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves." Yes, so much is done through strife and vainglory in our world today. Talents or the ability to do good comes from God. We don't have anything to boast of. If you have a talent to sing, play

an instrument, or the ability to do different things, it all comes from God. He gives you the ability to do these things. It's through Him we have the strength this morning to be here. It's through Him we get to live in His beautiful world.

I tell you, the devil is constantly working on the minds of people. He's trying to build their minds up with the spirit of pride. I don't know about you, but I have loved ones that way. I have some family in that category. They're related to me. The devil is constantly working on their minds, and there are some preachers who pat them on their backs because they put a few extra dollars in the plate when it comes around. Well, there are a lot of preachers who are proud in heart, too. The spirit of pride has destroyed the character or the reputation of millions of people. Some children are taught it from their youth up. I had a family. I know how it works.

We love our children. We like to brag about them. Be careful. We can build them up too much. I'm a grandparent. I love my children and grandchildren, but we can give them too much. We can brag about them too much. Things don't always turn out the way we want them to when we do that. As they grow up, sometimes they begin to see only themselves, and they go after their own desires. I'm afraid their desires are in the wrong places, so we need to be careful. I see pride in children. I see it being taught this from the time they're real small. Some dress them up and try to make adults out of them before they get there. Don't let the world tell you that you're being a fanatic or being too old-fashioned. This is the good way. This the best way. This is what God requires. If you want a happy life and want to enjoy the blessings of God, serve Him. Put Him first in all things. He'll be there for you.

Jesus gave a parable of the rich young ruler. He seemed to not want to put Christ first in his life. Jesus said to him, "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother." He said to Jesus, "All these have I kept from my youth up." He wasn't willing to sell and give to the poor when Jesus said, "Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor." I believe his heart was set on his possessions. The Bible said he had great possessions. But I don't believe that was all. I believe his heart was set on himself. No doubt he was proud of what he had, but he was also proud of who he was. That's what material things can do to people. Again, it's not wrong to have some things, but let's sit at the feet of Jesus. Let's humble ourselves. We're not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think; but to think soberly. Romans 12:10, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."

I remember several years ago here in Hagerstown when Bro. Alvin, in a Ministers' Meeting, asked Bro. Ollen if he would like to speak in a service. Bro. Ollen said, "There are other preachers here younger than I am." I want to tell you, Bro. Ollen set forth an example of humility. I appreciated him for many years. He helped a lot of people. He reached out to a lot of people. He was a humble man. God blessed him with material

things, but he reached out to others. He made it possible for others to go to places that they wouldn't have been able to go had it not been for his help. "In honour preferring one another." That's what Bro. Ollen was doing. I saw the same thing in Grand Cayman from Bro. Alvin when Bro. James spoke to him about preaching the night services. He said, "I don't have to have the night services. Let some others do some of the preaching." I came here on Monday with the same attitude. If I didn't get to preach, I wanted to have the right attitude. I wanted to enjoy the blessings of God. If you don't have the right attitude, you're not going to enjoy His blessings. Simple as that.

At one time, when I first started playing music, I was like Bro. Junior. I played in a lot of places like he did, but I liked to be seen. I was like the Pharisees. I liked to be heard. But when God gets into your heart, it changes things. It makes your life different. It gives you a love for those that are around you. You want to see them advance in the things of God. You want to see them enjoying the blessings of the Lord. Young People, whenever you sing or testify, or whatever you do, God is pleased with it. He'll bless you for it. I'm not saying don't do it, but I'm saying, we need to let the Spirit of God lead us. We need a humble spirit. I love the Church of God. I love the ministers.

As has been said, many people didn't accept Jesus. He was full of humility. Pride has kept a lot of people in bondage in false religion. I had one lady to tell me one time, "Well, that's my home church. I don't go along with all that they're teaching or doing, but that's my home church. That's what I was brought up in. That's what I've been in all these years." I tell you, if people leave the truth, you better stay with God. When truth is left out, you don't really have anything. But many stay with false religion because of the activities and the entertainment, if you will.

Well, thank the Lord for this congregation. I appreciate the humility that I see here. I'm not trying to put this congregation above others. I go to Louisiana and to different places, and I see the humble spirit there, too. I haven't been able to go to all the places I'd like to, but I appreciate the true Church of God. I especially appreciate the young people here in this congregation, but also in other places where they're willing to humble themselves.

We're told in Proverbs 22:4, "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life." There are benefits in walking with God. He not only forgives your sins and heals your body, but if you're serving God, you're rich. There are riches and honor in serving the Lord. Most of all, there's eternal life. Let me read that verse again: "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life." Yes, thank God for the benefits. Walking with God has some great benefits and promises from God. You walk with Him, and He'll walk with you.

We hear a lot about grace. We need it. God will give you grace to stand and work out the problems you face in life. There are no problems and troubles that the Lord can't help you with. He can give you grace to be overcomers. James says in chapter 4, verse 6: "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth

the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." You need the grace to stand. God will give it to you if you stay humble before Him. There are no big "I's" and little "you's" in the family of God. We preachers are not above you. We're humble servants of the Lord. We're all on the plain together. We're helpers. We want to help everyone to make it. We want to see you in heaven. We want to make it, and we want to take you with us. If we are true children of God, we'll love everyone. We need God to help us not to overlook that precious one who needs encouragement and help along the way.

In I Peter 5:5, Peter speaks especially to the younger ones in showing respect to others. "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." This is a need we desire to see more of. I don't see people opening the doors for the ladies or showing respect to the elders like they used to. When I was child, people didn't have two or three automobiles. I rode on a bus with my mother to the grocery store. I can remember seeing a lot of people who would get up and give the elderly ones their seat. The bus was full. There wasn't room for everybody to sit. I'm still in line with the Bible. We need to have a humble spirit. *I got here first. That seat is mine. I'll sit here.* That's the attitude some take.

God will bless you for your humility. Peter tells us, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." God sees His people, and He stands ready to help them. He wants us to be gentle, merciful, and longsuffering. God sees the spirit of humility if we have it.

God will bring deliverance to those who call upon Him. He's not changed. He told the Israelites, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." God changes not! We won't see America back like it once was until people heed that verse of scripture. We need to humble ourselves and seek the Lord's face. Call upon Him. He's made us a promise. He's promised to bless His people if they will humble themselves and make their wrongs right. You cannot allow the things of this old world to take first place in your life or they'll become your idols. That's happened to some people. "Well, I had to stay home to take care of my dog and cat." That's kind of a flimsy excuse, but it happens. Some people have idols. I've mentioned this before, some people think more of their dog and their cat than they do their own children.

People are dying to hear the Word of God. I believe there are people hungering to hear God's Word. In sending the gospel to foreign countries, our publishing work can't do all they'd like to do. They would like to do more. I think the postage rates went up recently. They're not able to send literature like they'd like to. They're not able to do all they can to help out. What is your money going to? It might be that some precious soul will miss heaven because of what we fail to do.

There's a parable in the Bible about the publican and the Pharisee. The Pharisee said, "God, I thank

thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican." A lot of people in the world today try to bribe this one or that one. They put pressure on them to get what they want. Saints of God don't do that. God will work things out. Thank the Lord. God doesn't force anything on us. He offers and makes available, but He doesn't force us to live for Him. No, we have a choice in that matter. "The publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13). He humbled himself. "This man went down to his house justified," the Bible says.

We used a sing a song called, "Standing in the Need of Prayer." Don't look at your neighbor. When the invitational song is given, if you're standing in need of prayer, come to the altar. God has something that's good for us. The more we get of it, the better person we'll be. The more our light will shine. At the end of that parable, it says, "For every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Humble thyself to walk with God.

God bless you. †



Greetings!

Overcoming—winning is a natural desire for most people. But, that is not particularly easy to achieve, especially when it comes to overcoming sin and Satan. It is important to want to overcome, what follows that initial desire will determine whether we are

actually victors or not. We must find within ourselves the determination to consistently do the right things according to God's plan and law so that we will have the strength we need to truly be overcomers. All the joys of victory are available if we will claim them as God intends for us.

Blessings,
Bro. Doug

BE AN OVERCOMER OF THE WORLD

By Sis. Lauren Swain

ROMANS 12:21, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

Through His death on the cross, Jesus gave us the power necessary to overcome the world—the world of sin.

There are countless verses in the Bible that exhort us to resist the devil and flee temptations. I Corinthians 10:13 says, "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." The Bible clearly states that as Christians, we are



not to be servants to sin but victors over sin. As John wrote, "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him."

Jesus also said, "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." How can we be in the world while not being of the world? To me, this means much more than just overcoming actual sin. I believe that this means striving for the best in life: the best character, the best reputation, the best relationships. It means casting off the mediocrity of the world and pursuing excellence instead.

Most people are naturally selfish. There are some who love to give to others, but most people inherently look out for their self-interest above that of others. Jesus was the perfect example of a giving, unselfish person. Throughout the gospels, He exhorts His disciples to serve and unselfishly give to others. In Mark, Jesus said, "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." One way we can overcome the world is by living generous, unselfish lives. Unfortunately, in my own life there have been too many times that I have not wanted to share my time or money. I'm not naturally one of those very generous people I mentioned. However, Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." I have received so much from God and from my family; I would be a miserable person if I did not share the blessings I have with others. If we desire to excel as Christians and overcome the spirit of selfishness, we have to seek each day to follow Jesus's perfect example of serving and sharing with others.

Not only is selfishness very prevalent in the world, the world is also full of negativity. You don't have to be a pessimist to be negative, you can be just a realist. Yes, it's easy to be negative, especially with the many moral and political issues in our country. There's a chorus that we sing that asks: "Do you grumble and complain? Do you only see the rain? Then thank the Lord that you can see." The best key to avoiding negativity is thankfulness. If we're going to obey the command, "In every thing give thanks," we have to start thinking about our blessings just so that we can tell God thank you. Almost every generation of people in our country and throughout world history has endured ordeals like wars, famines, or plagues. Our time might be coming. But no matter what trials we may face, if we lose everything else, we can still thank God for His presence. We can still find joy in the fact that no one can take God's spirit or grace from us. As someone once said, "Positive thinking will let you do everything better than negative thinking will." I think it could be rephrased a little and keep the same meaning: positive thinking will let you face anything better than negative thinking will.

One of my favorite verses is I Timothy 4:12, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." To overcome the world, a Christian must be pure. To be *pure* means to be "free from dust,

dirt, or taint.” We’re told that only the “pure in heart” shall see God. Paul instructed Timothy to “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” Being pure begins with the heart, but if purity is in our hearts it will be manifested in our lives as well. The Bible clearly commands Christians to abstain from fornication and all uncleanness. The Bible tells us to fill our minds with things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report. That leaves no room for doubt. God has a high standard of purity; He demands that our hearts, minds, and bodies all be pure in order to serve Him.

As young people, we have a unique opportunity to bring glory to God through our lives. Most young people whether in public school, private school, or home school are allowing the world to influence their thinking and actions. Even if not committing sin openly, many young people are failing the standard of purity that God set for us. Many of them are consumed with dating relationships and pop culture. One of the saddest things now is the number of broken families and divorces. Marriage is treated with no respect or care. Young people often omit it altogether. If we put our focus on God and act with honor, especially when considering marriage, we will shine uniquely and brilliantly in the darkness of the world. A pure relationship before marriage and a vibrant love after marriage will show others the beauty of God’s plan and inspire others to follow our example of radiant purity.

Jesus gave us salvation to overcome sin and death. The Bible commands us to serve others and give thanks always to God. Most of all, God gives us His grace to be pure. If we do these things we will overcome the world.

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

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



DON'T BE AFRAID

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

“Now remember,” said my mother. “You need to keep your eye on the pressure cooker gauge. Don’t leave the kitchen and go do anything else. This is your only job for the next 25 minutes.” The monstrous metal pot on the kitchen stove was really a “pressure canner,” but we all called it a “pressure cooker.” It was a very important piece of equipment at our house. Most of the time, it lived in the canning room in our basement, but several times each summer, my mother brought it upstairs to use in canning green beans, peaches, tomatoes, or pickled beets.

My mother pointed to the round gauge on the top of the pressure canner lid. “Look at the gauge,” she said. I looked at it. “It is at ten pounds pressure right now,” she continued. “It has to stay at ten pounds pressure for 25 minutes. If it starts to creep up past 10, turn the burner down just a little bit. If it falls below 10, turn the burner up, but only a very little bit.”

My mother turned and left the kitchen. She had more green beans to pick. There were seven quarts of green beans in the pressure canner now, and seven quarts of green beans cooling on a rack on the kitchen counter. Thanks to my mother’s hard work, we were well on our way to having enough green beans to see us through the winter.

I stood in front of the kitchen stove, my eyes glued to the gauge I had been instructed to watch. My mother would not have entrusted this task to any of my younger sisters. I was almost fourteen—old enough to understand the importance of monitoring a pressure canner. In fact, I was more than a little nervous about taking on the responsibility.

The kitchen was quiet except for a soft gurgling sound that came from within the pressure canner. The water inside the canner was boiling, creating steam that was trapped by the tightly fitting lid with its rubber gasket. This trapped steam had created the pressure that I was monitoring. The round pressure gauge stood like a stern, round-faced guard atop the canner lid. The numbers on the gauge ran from zero on the left to 20 on the right. Beyond the 20, there was a solid black line above which was written the word CAUTION. I shuddered to think what would happen if the needle of the gauge should stray into CAUTION territory.

As I watched the gauge, I thought of a conversation I’d once heard when we visited my grandmother in Pennsylvania. My grandmother told my mother about the time her pressure canner exploded, sending food all over the ceiling of her kitchen. I couldn’t remember the details of how it had happened. I only remembered

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the horrified expression on my mother's face as she listened to the story.

Just remembering that conversation made me shiver. *What if this pressure canner explodes?* I thought to myself. I imagined the canner lid flying off with a tremendous bang, and I pictured cooked green beans all over our kitchen ceiling.

I backed away from the stove, my eyes still staring at the gauge. If the canner exploded, I didn't want to be anywhere near it. The bubbling sound continued to come from inside the canner. Was it my imagination, or had the bubbling become louder? I thought about my grandmother, and I wondered if she'd had any warning before her canner blew up.

The more I thought about my grandmother's story, the more frightened I became. The more frightened I became, the further I backed away from the kitchen stove. Soon I was standing in the hallway that led to the kitchen, my neck craned around the corner and my eyes on the pressure canner. I could still make out the numbers on the gauge, but my body was protected by the wall that separated the hallway from the kitchen.

That is where my mother found me a short while later when she came into the kitchen. "What in the world are you doing?" she asked in surprise when she saw me peeking around the corner.

"I'm watching the pressure canner," I told her.

"Well, get into the kitchen where you can see it!" she said.

"I'm scared," I told her.

"Scared?" she asked in surprise. "Scared of what?"

"I'm scared the pressure canner will blow up," I told her.

"Humpf!" my mother said. "Do you think I would leave you alone with the pressure canner if there was any chance it would blow up?"

"Grandma's blew up," I reminded her.

"Well, there was a reason that happened," said my mother, "and we learned from it. It's not going to happen again." She looked at the timer. "There are only ten minutes left," she said. "See if you can quit worrying for that long." She started to leave the kitchen, and then she turned and looked back at me. "I'm not going far," she said. "It's not like I drove to town and left you alone."

The pressure canner didn't explode. When the timer buzzed, I turned off the stove burner and the canner began to cool down.

I had learned a big lesson about fear and trust. My mother was right. She had not left me alone to do a job that was too big for me. As long as I followed her directions, I was safe. And if something happened that I didn't know how to handle, she was near enough to hear me if I called out to her.

It is that way with our heavenly Father. He never asks us to do anything that will harm us. Sometimes we may feel lonely or afraid, but we must always remember that God is near. He will hear us if we cry out to Him for help or reassurance.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 1:33 which says, *But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.* To

"hearken" is to "listen." It is important to listen to the voice of God. That voice is full of wisdom and love. We hear God's voice when we read His Word. If we obey God's Word, we can live in quiet peace, trusting Him to keep us from all evil.

Activity

Here are some Bible verses about trusting in God. Fill in the blanks with the words you think best fit in them. Then check yourself by looking up each verse with the given location.

1. "Offer the sacrifices of _____, and put your trust in the _____" (Psalm 4:5).

2. "And they that know thy _____ will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not _____ them that seek thee" (Psalm 9:10).

3. "Some trust in _____, and some in _____: but we will remember the _____ of the Lord our God" (Psalm 20:7).

4. "Trust in the Lord with all thine _____, and lean not unto thine own _____" (Proverbs 3:5).

5. "Every word of God is _____: he is a _____ unto them that put their trust in him" (Proverbs 30:5).

Answer to Last Month's Activity

1. We must believe in God. *Hebrews 11:6*
2. We must be born again to enter the kingdom of God. *John 3:3*
3. We must love everyone, even our enemies. *Luke 6:27*
4. We must be obedient to God's Word. *Matthew 4:4*
5. We must resist the evil that is in the world. *I John 2:15 †*

CHRISTIAN, ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR?

By the late Bro. H. R. Matthews

*"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ."
—II Corinthians 5:20a.*

SINCE WE ARE ambassadors, perhaps it might be profitable for us to take a refresher course and brush up on how we became ambassadors and the responsibilities that accompany such a position.

Politically, an ambassador is appointed by the head of state. In the United States of America, the head of state would be the commander-in-chief, or president. Appointed ambassadors are delegated to all countries of the world with whom the United States has diplomatic relations. In the countries to which the ambassadors are assigned, they become residents. The host country typically allows the ambassador control of specific territory called an embassy, whose territory, staff, and even vehicles are generally afforded diplomatic immunity in the host country. In that country, the ambassador represents the country from which he/she came, and coordinates between the heads of state. The respon-

sibility of U.S. ambassadors in foreign countries is the protection of citizens from the country of which he is a citizen. The ambassador system has been used to disperse information and protect smaller states from being taken advantage of by larger states. One of the more important tasks of the ambassador is to work for peace between nations, especially where terrorism is involved.—info. taken from *Wikipedia*.

But there is an ambassadorship of far greater importance than that of a political nature. In this ambassadorship is found no corruption, rather, it is established in righteousness. Although there are similarities between the two ambassadorships, there are variations; for instance, in the United States of America, the head of state is called Mister President and his tenure is limited to eight years. In the heavenly country we represent as Christian ambassadors, the Head of State is the Lord of lords, and the King of kings whose name is Jesus Christ. His headquarters is in heaven, and He is seated on a throne next to His Father's (God's) throne. Since He is a king, the country over which He is Head is called a kingdom. His tenure is an everlasting tenure, and the kingdom over which He reigns "shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44). Of this kingdom, it is said, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Highway of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion [violent person] shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there" (Isaiah 35:8, 9).

In the United States, only one ambassador is sent to each of the nations with which we have diplomatic relations. Totally, there are approximately 185 U.S. ambassadors now serving.

All who have become citizens of the heavenly kingdom of which Christ is Head are delegated as ambassadors; not just one country-one ambassador, for Jesus told His ambassadors with which He had met after His resurrection from the dead, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). We then become representatives of the heavenly kingdom and its Head. We are residents of planet earth, but it is not our home. We are only passing through.

Their being ambassadors or representatives of Christ and His kingdom, Jesus said to His followers, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house [world]. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

It is very important that Christ's ambassadors all speak the same thing. The apostle Paul pointed this out in his first epistle to the Corinthian church: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Corinthians 1:10). Jesus also made this point very clear as He prayed to His Father in heaven, "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I sent

them [ambassadors] into the world. ... Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one" (John 17:18-22).

For all to speak the same thing, we must all be taught by the same Teacher who said, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye" (Psalm 32:8). This divine Teacher does not guide into confusion, nor does the heavenly manual (Bible) contain contradictions. The ambassadors that represent the heavenly kingdom and are taught by its Head, will all speak the same thing. The reason there is so much confusion in the religious world is because many have departed from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. They have forgotten the exhortation of the psalmist David: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). When arising in the morning, would not the ambassadors of Christ do well to pray as did the Psalmist, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer"? (Psalm 19:14). If we as ambassadors would let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom, in that heart will be reflected the acceptable words of which the psalmist David spoke.

In Psalm 19, the psalmist David describes that precious Book from which the precious Holy Spirit guides the ambassadors of Christ: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honey comb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward" (Psalm 19:7-12).

From this Book of perfection, containing the Word of God, is drawn up a constitution containing a set of laws by which the constituents of the heavenly kingdom are governed. In John 1:1-4, we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men." What these verses are telling us is that the Lord Jesus Christ is the very epitome of this Book of perfection. It is the Lord Jesus Christ and this Book of perfection which the citizens of the heavenly kingdom are representatives. There are many, many citizens of the countries on planet Earth that are not citizens of the heavenly kingdom. It is the commission to the ambassadors of Christ to present this Book of perfection to those of planet Earth who are not citizens of the heavenly kingdom. Not only so, but the heavenly ambassadors are responsible to one another in exhorting, admonishing,

and encouraging one another to the good works we find in the Book of perfection.

We teach much by precept, but the more effective mode of teaching is by example. The apostle Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ." Christ was our example in all aspects of Christian living. Our example speaks louder than words. That is why Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

No man can establish peace unless he himself follows after peace. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). This verse teaches us that for peace to be effective it must be accompanied with holiness. In the absence of the peace of God, there is strife. This is why Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). This is the message the representatives of the Prince of Peace delivers to the citizens of the heavenly kingdom: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). King David did not always possess the peace of God within his heart, but when the Lord became his shepherd, he could then say, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them" (Psalm 119:165).

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea-billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."*

—Horatio G. Spafford

The ambassador, many times, acts as an intermediary in assisting refugees fleeing from tyranny. This is true in a spiritual sense as well as in a political sense, for there is the kingdom of darkness as well as the kingdom of light. Those who are in the kingdom of darkness must flee to the kingdom of light, else the kingdom of darkness will be their eternal abode. The ambassadors of Christ are exhorted to sow beside all waters. This is what Jesus meant when He commanded His ambassadors to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. King Solomon spoke wisely when he said, "He that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30), meaning, much wisdom is required in the winning of souls to Christ, for we are laboring among many cultures and personalities.

Dear Saints, the apostle Paul, in exhorting the Corinthian ambassadors of Christ, said, "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." Therefore, we are husbandmen. The husbandmen are sowers of seed. The seed we must sow is "love, joy, peace longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Galatians 5:22, 23). Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). Paul exhorted his son in the faith, Timothy, "The husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits" (II Timothy 2:6). †

DENOMINATIONALISM IS DIVISION BY ANY OTHER NAME

By Bro. Darrell O. Sanford

HOW IS IT possible to justify denominationalism in Christianity? The early church was forbidden to allow sects, schisms, and conflicting doctrines in their midst. The apostles denounced such things as perversions of the true gospel, and even heresy. So how was this multiplicity of "denominations" developed and accepted as normal by Christians today? It happened through the very things which the Scriptures warn against: perverting the gospel, apostasy, schisms, false teachings, and divisions. Paul saw it coming and warned Timothy in II Timothy 4:1-4, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." Unfortunately, these who "turned away their ears from the truth," continued to profess themselves as Christians, and promote their teachings as Christianity. Paul, Peter, John, Jude, even Jesus, all warned us these things would come; in fact, the defection from truth was beginning in their very lifetimes, and they were already engaged in the battle for the integrity of the gospel. How much more today?

At risk of beating a dead horse, let me say that, coming together to praise and worship across denominational lines will not restore the church and Christianity to its pre-apostasy, pre-schismatic state; we need what begat Christianity in the first place—1) repentance producing clean hearts, regenerated minds, and the love of God in our hearts; 2) sanctified lives devoted to serving God in righteousness and true holiness; 3) and an understand of, and unwavering obedience to, the Word of God.

The world has sunk into the greatest depths of wickedness, perversion, and unbelief since when Jesus came and established the church in the first century, and then sent the apostles and disciples to go forth preaching the gospel of the kingdom to the dark, idolatrous world about them. THAT Gospel was sufficient to deliver souls from their sins, and call them to truth and holiness. They were said, by their detractors, to have turned the world upside down (though they were really turning it right side up). They accomplished this by preaching a pure and powerful doctrine, from pure and Spirit-filled hearts, in the name of a pure and holy God. It was a good formula then because it was of divine origin; it is still a good formula today. When the world is at its worst, it needs the church at its best.

The Bible Forbids Division in Christianity

I Corinthians 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among

you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

Ephesians 4:4-6, “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

Ephesians 1:22, 23, “And hath put all things under his [Jesus Christ] feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

I Corinthians 1:13, “Is Christ divided ...?”

John 17:20-23, “Neither pray I for these alone [the apostles and disciples alive at that time], but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

Jude 1:3, “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common [shared by all] salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once [once for all] delivered unto the saints.”

Galatians 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

God’s Church—God’s People Are United By Love and Holiness

John 13:35, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

Titus 2:11, 12, “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

I Peter 2:9, 10, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” †

THE POETRY PAGE

JUST FOR ME

Ann Davis, 2002

I can’t imagine what Christ saw in me of any worth,
As He looked through the ages at the people on the earth.
And yet I know if I had been the only person lost,
He would have suffered just for me and died upon the cross.

This world could do without me; my achievements are not great.
I’m just the ordinary kind; some love and others hate,

Yet had I been the only one who’d ever need His grace,
My Savior would have looked through time and pitied my sad face.

And whisper to the Father, as He told salvation’s plan,
“I’ll do it, God, if only for one sad and lonely man.
So hopeless is their plight without redemption from the fall.
Thy will be done, I’ll do it for just one among them all.”

So when I’m feeling worthless and realize how small
I am, beside the millions, who have served the Master’s call,
I think of how much Jesus cared that day on Calvary,
And know I really matter ... Jesus did this, just for me.

I MET THE MASTER

Melvin Miller

One day when life was gloomy
And the sun was hid from view,
I heard a sweet voice whisper,
“My life I gave for you.”
I turned, and, lo, what splendor
Greeted my burdened soul!
I saw the Christ of Calvary
Who came to make me whole.
I knelt in humble submission
In the dust at His pierced feet.
’Twas when the burden was lifted,
And my life was made complete.
Now life has a grand, new meaning
As o’er life’s road I tread,
And my soul is constantly singing,
“Glory to the Son of God.”

TRUST

Lucena C. Byrum

O soul, be not afraid to trust;
The great “I Am” is true.
The God of heaven never fails;
His grace will take you through.
Whatever time unfolds of grief,
Of disappointments, pain,
God will work out for good to yield
At last eternal gain.
Rejoice, be glad, sing praise to God;
No evil can befall
Except what God permits, and He
Will sanctify it all. †

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COMING MEETINGS

2023 Escondido Camp Meeting
Escondido, California

November 8-12, 2023, Lord willing
Bro. John Romero, Host Pastor

2023 Philippine Convention
Paniqui, Tarlac

December 26-30, 2023, Lord willing
Bro. Rey Fabian, Host Pastor

2024 Honduras Convention
Coxen Hole, Roatan

April 2-7, 2024, Lord willing
Sis. Ethlyn Soto, Host Pastor

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Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

(Aired on Sundays unless otherwise noted.)

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

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

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

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

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