

The Way of Truth

Vol. 82

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

No. 3

March 2024

WATCHING

Message begins on page 10

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

“And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.”—Luke 22:19.

“After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”—I Corinthians 11:25.

MEMORY is a remarkable gift from the Creator to assist mankind in our journey through life. How would we get along if we had no memory? We would have to be taught how to tie our shoes every day; the meaning of words would have to be repeated every time we use them; we couldn't recall who people are because we would have no memory. The definition of memory is, “the faculty by which the mind stores information; the storing of information.” The human race would be tremendously challenged if we had no ability to remember.

Memories can positively influence us, and memories can negatively affect us. The memory of a positive experience can cheer our hearts, but the recall of a negative experience can be tormenting.

The passing of time can cause us to forget, which can be a curse or a blessing depending on the experience.

In the case of the gospel, it is imperative that the Christian keep his memory sharp, for it is a dangerous thing to let the truth slip from our focus. This is borne out in II Peter 3:1, “This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.”

The week leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection is filled with meaningful celebration. This is a time of remembrance toward God. As the scriptures in Luke 22:19 and First Corinthians 11:25 state concerning the last supper, “This do in remembrance of me.”

Remember that we are God's and what that means. It is an honor and a privilege to belong to the Lord. It is a very high calling. It means we are followers of Christ. The enemy would have us forget. But we need to remember! I Corinthians 6:19, 20, “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

Remember what Jesus Christ suffered for our salvation. We need to remember all the events leading up to His crucifixion on the cross. Do you still cherish the old rugged cross? Do you remember how He was scourged and beaten, spit upon, and abused?

Remember how the people worshiped Him when Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly. He had earned their respect. Remember how He healed all who came to Him. Remember how He taught us how to live and love one another. He is worthy of praise! But remember how the multitudes turned on Him so quickly.

Remember the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing. Study the sacredness of the experience in the upper room. Remember that He willingly shed His blood for us. Be reminded of the price Jesus paid for our salvation. As oft as we observe the ordinances, let us do it in remembrance of Him. Let us never forget!

Remember His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Luke 22:44 says, “And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Recall the agony as He wrestled with the task before Him. Matthew 26:39 declares, “And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” What love! What devotion!

Remember the price of betrayal. One of the twelve, Judas, by name, sold out his Master for 30 pieces of silver. O the love of money! Remember what happened as a result. Judas Iscariot hanged himself!

Remember how Jesus fell under the weight of it all when bearing the cross through the streets of Jerusalem.

“Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for every one,
And there's a cross for me.”

Remember the power of forgiveness. Jesus cried out from the cross: “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). He had mercy right up to the end. When the thief hanging next to Him cried out for mercy, He responded, “Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43).

Remember how He took our place and suffered what we deserved. “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me.” (Matthew 27:46). We deserved to be abandoned by God, but our Savior bore our punishment.

Remember how Jesus could have called it quits. Matthew 26:52-54, “Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?”

Remember rather that He finished the Father's plan of redemption. “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost” (John 19:30).

Remember how Jesus died for you and for me. Luke 23:46 says, “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”

ABOUT THE COVER

On our cover is a picture of the Bible with Mt. Fuji in the background. It is the tallest mountain in Japan. The Word of God is for all people, including those in Asia. On page 7 you will find a report of the 2023 Philippine Convention. We rejoice in the salvation work that was done. The gospel is for all people everywhere.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

(Registered Trademark)

Vol. 82

March 2024

No. 3

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

Published by the Church of God which assembles at 12819 Point Salem Road in Hagerstown, Maryland. Publishing office: 12811 Point Salem Road, Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S.A.

The Way of Truth is published without any given subscription price, and is supported by freewill offerings from our readers and funds supplied by the local congregation. It is sent out free to anyone who is interested enough to ask for it. We shall continue this policy as long as God sees fit to make it possible. FOREIGN READERS are requested to write us at least once a year if they wish to continue receiving the paper the following year. Address all correspondence to: The Way of Truth, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, Maryland 21741, U.S.A. Always when writing, give your name and address clearly, please.

—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

Our telephone number is 301-739-2980

Our fax number is 301-739-7173

Our e-mail address is truth@fred.net

Visit our website at www.wayoftruth.org

Remember how He rose from the grave! Luke 24:5, 6, "And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee."

Remember how Jesus was seen after His resurrection. I Corinthians 15:5, 6, "And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep."

Remember how He ascended into heaven. "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).

Remember how the message was declared that He is coming again! "And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:10, 11).

He did it all for you and me. What can we do for Him? We can receive His forgiveness—even as the thief did as he was hanging next to Jesus as he passed away.

We can accept the responsibility of discipleship. We can appreciate the suffering He bore—and be willing to suffer for His cause. We can desire to fulfill the needs and desires of Jesus. We can allow His plan to operate in our lives. We can prepare to go to the place He has prepared for the faithful and true.

Remember His mercy towards you. Luke 1:54, "He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy."

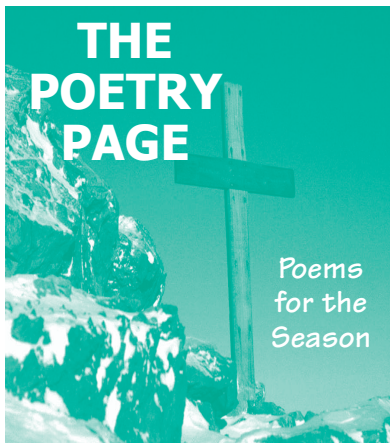
Remember when He saved you and the change that was wrought by the touch of the Master's hand. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17).

Remember the times He came to your rescue through the years. He is just the same today! There are so many things to remember. As we pass through this time of the year and our minds are drawn to the upper room, the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us worship and adore Him and do all in remembrance of Him. †

**"JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY,
AND TO DAY, AND FOR EVER."
—HEBREWS 13:8.**

IN THIS ISSUE:

The Poetry Page	Page 2
<i>Poems for the season</i>	
The Question Box	Page 3
<i>Our monthly feature</i>	
A Friend in Jesus and Others	Page 4
<i>Radio message by David Shaw</i>	
Young People's Page	Page 6
<i>"The Heart of a Servant Is Not Selfish"</i>	
Philippine Convention Report	Page 7
<i>Report by Charnita Richards</i>	
Steps Heavenward	Page 8
<i>Part X of the book by the late R. L. Berry</i>	
Watching	Page 10
<i>Watch Night message by Rebecca Bland</i>	
Discipleship & Stewardship	Page 13
<i>Thoughts from "Bible Illustrator"</i>	
The Blessings of Humility	Page 14
<i>Sermon by Lee Jeffries</i>	
Bible Lesson of the Month	Page 15
<i>"The Baptism of the Converted Eunuch"</i>	
Overcoming Sin	Page 16
<i>Article by Paul Fausnight</i>	
The Children's Corner	Page 17
<i>"My Place," by Rebecca Bland</i>	
Reasons the Resurrection of Jesus Was Necessary	Page 18
<i>Message by G. E. Tyler</i>	



"GOD SO LOVED"

M. A. Monday

"God so loved" is a wonderful phrase,
Enough to fill our hearts with praise,
For it was this and this alone
That moved the Father on His throne
To give His blessed Son.

"God so loved" that He did give
His Son to die that we might live;
He sent His Son this life to bring
To save from sin, remove the sting,
That we might live for Him.

MEDIATOR

Ina Jarvis Kellogg

He died in my place, this wonderful Lord;
He bore my disgrace, His life blood outpoured
Upon the dread cross, where He suffered for me,
Between the two thieves on dark Calvary.

He opened the way to God's holy throne,
So I might have prayer with the Father alone;
The Temple veil rent, from the top to the ground,
Now the holy of holies, by all may be found.

He makes me His child, redeems me from sin,
Through the blood from the cross, I now enter in;
What a privilege, joy, what glory is mine!
Born new, through the Son, Christ Jesus is mine.

RESURRECTION

Julia Ann Janney

No, not until the morning
Did they find my Jesus gone,
Oh, the glorious promise
Of that empty tomb at dawn!

The fragrance of the ointment
Still lingering in the cave
Was kept as a reminder
They had laid Him in the grave.

Christ had rolled away the stone
Coming forth, a wondrous thing!
The grave thus lost its triumph
And death has lost its sting.

O JESUS, BLESSED CHRIST!

Mary J. Helphingstine

O Jesus, blessed Jesus Christ!
I bow my heart to Thee!
Thou who was scourged and spit upon,
And crucified for me!

'Twas I the suffering deserved,
For I committed sin;
But Thou hast borne sin's consequence,
That I a heaven might win!

CHRIST IS RISEN

J. W. Von Goethe

Christ is arisen,
Joy to thee, mortal!
Out of His prison,
Forth from its portal!
Christ is not sleeping,
Seek Him no longer;
Strong was His keeping,
Jesus was stronger.

Christ is arisen,
Seek Him not here;
Lonely His prison,
Empty His bier;
Vain His entombing,
Spices and lawn,
Vain the perfuming,
Jesus is gone.

Christ is arisen,
Joy to thee, mortal!
Empty His prison,
Broken its portal!
Rising, He giveth
His shroud to the sod;
Risen, He liveth
And liveth to God. †

HALLELUJAH!



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

QUESTION: Please explain to me the meaning of “believing on the name of Jesus Christ” before having eternal life. Does this mean going to church regularly to be called a Christian?

ANSWER: No! It means that you believe the teachings of Christ in your heart and live out those teachings in your daily life. Some people “believe” in their head but do nothing about it. But to believe to eternal life is to do what the Word teaches. For a sinner it means to repent, be born again; after being saved then present his body a living sacrifice, be filled with the Spirit and live the gospel daily.

QUESTION: What is meant by the principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness as spoken of in Ephesians 6:12?

ANSWER: The word *principality* means “sovereignty; supreme power”; also, “the territory of a prince; the country which gives title to a prince.”

“Powers,” among other things, covers anyone who has authority over other people. “Rulers of darkness” covers the devil and all his evil works, including the false prophets who rule over false religion; “spiritual wickedness” is found in all false religion.

The Christian is not in a literal battle fighting against flesh and blood, but he is fighting against ALL that is unrighteous, whether it be false religion as such or whether it be evil in civil authority. Prayer is one of our greatest weapons!

QUESTION: Why should young unmarried Christians have the temptation of fornication? Does it mean that it is natural, or are they not saved?

ANSWER: The desire for a companion is a natural, God-given desire. However, God has reserved some things for marriage and marriage only. Fornication is sin. The Bible says, “To avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband” (I Corinthians 7:2). The devil is a tempter, so it is a natural thing for the devil to tempt the young people on this line. But temptation is not sin, unless one yields to the temptation. This is why young people need to be very careful during the time of what is normally called courtship. Sexual relations are for married couples only. Further, I might add, single young people are not the only ones tempted on this line; married people need to be careful in their conduct toward others, and avoid the traps of Satan. Through God’s grace, and in obeying God’s Word, this temptation, along with all others, can be overcome.

QUESTION: Colossians 2:23 says, “Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and

humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.” Would you elaborate on this verse, or in other words, comment on different words?

ANSWER: In this verse, Paul is referring back to his statement about meats, drink, holy days, new moons, Sabbaths, etc. (see verse 16), and he says this manner of worship is not the proper manner of worship in the New Covenant. “Will-worship” is to be understood as a mode of worship which a man may choose for himself, but it is not of God. There is such a thing as false humility, and a “neglecting of the body” which in no way brings honor and glory to God. It is not an act of true humility to go dirty and in other ways neglect the proper care of your body.

QUESTION: Before Paul repented he was a sinner. In one of his sermons he said he was an Israelite from the tribe of Benjamin. In Romans 11:2, he said God has never cast away His people which He foreknew. In Romans 8:29, Paul also stated that for whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son. The two chapters confuse me greatly. Whom He foreknew, He did predestinate. Would you please explain this for me?

ANSWER: Paul was an Israelite; he was of the tribe of Benjamin. It is true that they were later called Jews, but he was an Israelite. It is also true that God did not “cast” away His people! God did conclude all under sin; but that did not mean they could not be saved. “He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:11, 12). We see from these verses that the nation as a whole did not receive Jesus Christ as their Messiah, and were destroyed as a nation after Paul’s death. But even then, and now, a Hebrew can be saved if he will accept the Lord Jesus Christ.

As to Romans 8:29, Adam Clarke says, “To *foreknow*, here signifies to *design before*, or at the first forming of the scheme; to bestow the *favor* and *privilege* of being God’s people upon any set of men. ... This is the *foundation* or first step of our salvation; namely, the *purpose* and *grace of God*, which was given us in Christ Jesus, before the world began, II Timothy 1:9. Then, *he knew* or *avored* us; for in this sense the word *to know* is taken in a great variety of places, both in the Old and New Testaments.”

As to the word *predestinate* in this verse, this does not mean God determined beforehand who would be saved, and who would not. Notice how the verse is worded. God predetermined that those who did accept His offered salvation should be “conformed to the image of his Son.”

QUESTION: How is the ruler of the world a “servant of God”?

ANSWER: I do not see where the apostle Paul said he was a “servant of God.” Paul refers to the civil ruler as a “minister of God,” but we are not to understand the word *minister* to mean a preacher of the Word. The office he holds, as far as a ruler, is God’s appointment. †

A FRIEND IN JESUS AND OTHERS

Radio Message by
Bro. David Shaw



I DESIRE TO speak to you from St. John, chapter 15, verses 13-15: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." I would like to entitle my thoughts, "A Friend in Jesus and Others."

What is a *friend*? The dictionary says, "one who cherishes kind regards for other persons; an intimate and trustworthy companion; a promoter." Certainly, Jesus Christ has high regard for mankind. It can be seen in that He gave His life's blood to redeem us from sin and death.

Jesus wanted His disciples to understand the companionship and the relationship that could be between them and Him and His Father. When Christ came, He came because He was a Friend of mankind. He is our Elder Brother, as it were. We strayed from home, and He came to bring us back to the Father. He came to span the bridge so that we could find access to the throne of grace.

Jesus loves mankind with a passion, and indeed it has been proven in that He gave His life's blood to redeem us. He said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." I am confident in my heart that there is no love in comparison with the love of Christ. He loved man beyond that of human understanding, and no human love can be compared with the eternal love that He gives to us. So Jesus made it known to His disciples that there is no greater love that any man has, than that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Think of the possibility we have today to become a friend of Jesus. When we were sinners, He loved us. He determined to die so that we could be saved from sin and come back to the relationship of Father and child. We have been privileged to have a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. He loved us even when we did not love Him.

Beloved Ones, Jesus Christ cherishes and regards our personality. He becomes a Promoter. He takes from us from the rank of sin into the rank of righteousness. He wants us to leave a life of filth to a life of cleanliness, purity, and holiness, and a life that can be enjoyed and become worthwhile. He said, "Ye are my friends,

if ye do whatsoever I command you." We see here a requirement. We are indeed happy to be called a friend of Jesus, but are we willing to obey His commandments? The bottom line is, if we do not obey His commandments, we are not worthy to be called His friend, and we will not recommend or promote Him as our Friend. If we want to exalt the name of Christ, if we want to promote Him, we must live holy, righteously, and soberly in this present world. We must allow our light to shine before men that they might see our good works, and then He will be glorified. He will be exalted and promoted and be seen as the Savior of the world. He will be one worthwhile to live for. Because He first loved us, we ought to love Him in return. Certainly, when we keep His commandments, we are telling the world that we love the Lord with all our heart, with all our strength, with all our mind, and with all our might. When we love the Lord in that way, we will be able to love our neighbor also. Jesus Christ is saying that we can become His friend just by keeping His Word and the things He has commanded us to do.

There are some things that Christ has said, "Thou shalt not do," and some things, "Thou shalt do." We need to walk in those precepts as He laid them down so that we can be effective in our lifetime as we go from day to day. Certainly, He is depending on us. There are no others that Christ has on this earth than those He has called from sin to righteousness, those He has called out of darkness into light, and those whom He has said, "Come, follow me." Sometimes the pathway of life may seem dark and dreary. We may not understand what is happening, but Jesus Christ knows the way. If we follow Him step by step, we will go from victory unto victory.

Jesus said, "Henceforth [meaning, now and forever] I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." A servant is not as dear as a friend. A friend is one you can relate to, one on whom you can have confidence in, and one on whom you trust. A friend is a trustworthy individual and one who has compassion on you. A friend is one who desires that you keep his secrets, and he can depend on you to help in the areas that he needs you most.

Jesus said, "You are not just my servants." We are also His friends, and a friend must show himself friendly. Christ is a friend indeed. He wants us to be a friend of His by the things we do and say. We are to regard Him by our attitude and conduct, not just by word. Millions think of Him as their Friend, but they do not obey Him. He said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Whatsoever I have commanded you, do ye." That will prove to the world that we are His friends indeed. Today, Jesus is saying that we are not just servants, but praise God, we are friends of His. "All things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you."

At one time Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." We are

privileged to enjoy the Father's blessings by Christ coming into the world and becoming our Friend indeed. He loves man beyond measure, and today we are happy that He came, because by Him we are exercising our faith in our God that someday we shall reap if we faint not.

In Proverbs, chapter 18, verse 24, it says: "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." This verse speaks of no one else but Jesus, because there is no friend like Him. In all of our undertakings and difficulties, He's always there to assist us. He said He would never leave us nor forsake us. He'll always be with us.

A songwriter wrote—

What a friend we have in Jesus,

All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer.

We have no need to carry any burden on our own, because Jesus declared, "Cast thy cares upon me, for I care for you." He is our Burden-bearer, the one who is willing to take us through, no matter how dark the path may be. The path that seems unsuccessful, He brings success! The path that seems unpleasant, He makes them pleasant. The path that brings discomfort, He brings comfort. The path that seems rough and thorny, He makes them smooth and straight. Certainly, He promised to make straight paths for our feet.

We are thankful we have found Christ in whom we can depend and rely upon. He is a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Glory to His name! Certainly, we need Him today. A friend of this nature is one whom we need in this time world. He's one who can carry us through all the dark periods, who can solve every problem, who can remove every distress, who can heal every sickness and disease, and who can encourage every faint of heart. So we are trusting that as we live today, we will find in Him a Friend indeed, a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. He has promised not to leave us at any time, but He will always come to us any time we need Him most. He's one we can trust. He's one who is always standing firm, and He's the one who listens to the cries of His children.

In the book of James, chapter 2, verse 23, James said: "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God." Can we today be called the friend of God? I assure you in my heart that every individual who serves God sincerely is God's friend. We have found a relationship that binds, and one that continues on a daily basis. Abraham was one who believed God and walked with God on the path God commanded him to go. Because of his faith in God, he became a friend of God. God made him an outstanding individual and a blessing. Abraham lacked nothing. All things were provided for him because he was obedient to the commands of God. That is what

Jesus said in the passage I read earlier: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." If you will keep His commandments, you will be His friend. If you keep His commandments, His Father will love you. If you keep His commandments, His Father will come to you, and He will not forsake you in any circumstance of life. He will be always be there to guide. Verse 14 of St. John 15: "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." We have been blessed to be a friend of Jesus.

Proverbs 27:6 says, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." Now, when your friend corrects you, it means he loves you. The words that are given might not be pleasant, because you've been told you were wrong. But when you can accept that you are wrong by your friend's instruction, you are blessed indeed. It might be a wound, but as the writer said, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend." It's a wound of love, a wound of concern, a wound desirous of seeing that you stand firm and steadfast and unmovable. So a friend needs to know that he is responsible to guide you even when he knows you're going astray. We should not stand and do nothing if we see our friend going astray. If we do so, we are not that individual's friend. We must be willing to help the one who is in need, because we are our brother's keeper.

Beloved Friends, we should be able to live together as one man, one heart, one soul, one mind, and one with determination to please God. He brought us out of darkness to this marvelous light. He is our Friend, and we are His friends. That friendship is one to embrace. We don't want it to be a failure but a success. May God help us that nothing will come between us and God that would break this relationship that we now enjoy. Praise God for the friendship we have found in Jesus. We can bring all of our cares and trials to Him, and He will take them and roll them all away. He will give us joy and happiness.

Proverbs 27:9 says, "Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel." When one is able to give someone counsel that can elevate him in life, it is something outstanding. Such a friend is to be cherished. That is how we promote our friend. That is how we have companionship together. This is how we have compassion towards each other: by seeing them needing help and giving the help that is needed. If you're standing by and seeing someone you call your friend who is in need, and you don't assist, you are not a friend of that individual. If we help others, then we are friends. Do you know something? We can make friends in a very unique way just by giving someone a kind word or a word of comfort in saying, "I am praying for you." Then we become friends automatically. Then we are linked together.

I am glad for the friend that can be found in Jesus. Today, we are searching and seeking and desiring true friends as we worship God together, for certainly, we need one another. No man liveth unto himself. We need each other's help. So as we go along, let us not feel sufficient in ourselves. Let us feel that we are in need of our brother, and that we are our brother's keeper. When we do so, we are doing God a favor. When Christ came to seek us, it wasn't because we were worthy.

Sometimes simple things come between two individuals and they break friendship. Do not allow things to break our relationship with Christ. Let us not allow the devil to have the upper hand. When things go wrong, and there are differences, it means the devil has the upper hand. We should be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. We must have on the whole armor of God so we can fight against the wiles of the devil. The devil is often successful, even in churches, to bring division among brethren. There is danger in that. We are not to allow the devil to be successful. Whenever two brothers or two sisters have a relationship in Christ that is broken, it means the devil had an upper hand. We must seek peace and pursue it. Do not forget "the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry" (Psalm 34:15). So if we stand upon God's Word, we can overcome the wiles of the devil. We need to know that we are responsible as individuals to find the strength and grace to do so.

Proverbs 27:10 says, "Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off." Beloved Ones, sometimes you can find some strangers, and they become such sweet friends. The relationship that you have is something outstanding and remarkable. This is because the love of God binds hearts together. You don't have to know someone for a long time before becoming friends. If the love of God abides in your heart, you can meet a brother or a sister for the first time and become friends for life. That is because the love of Jesus Christ binds together in one love, in one heart, and in one determination. We need to understand that we must make friends if we desire to have friends. We cannot be selfish. We must learn to meet individuals with a bright countenance and with a spirit of love and appreciation, so that we can be able to be friends for life.

Proverbs 27:17 says, "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." We are responsible to help each other as friends. It is a blessing to know that we can find words through the anointing of the Holy Spirit to help others along the pathway of life, to take them out of the gutters, as it were, that they're in, and put them on the mountaintop of victory. We must pray one for another and assist one another in any way we can. Prove ourselves friendly. Become a friend of Jesus. May God help us to find a friend in Jesus.

Someone has written—

*I've found a Friend in Jesus,
He's everything to me,
He's the Fairest of Ten Thousand to my soul;
The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see
All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole;
In sorrow He's my comfort,
In trouble He's my stay,
He tells me ev'ry care on Him to roll.
He's the Lily of the Valley,
The Bright and Morning Star,
He's the Fairest of Ten Thousand to my soul.*

Let us so live that we can be able to help others along life's way. †



Greetings!

Servant—the very word doesn't appeal very much to the natural man. But, oh, the beauty if we can come to see it through God's eyes!

The humble example of our Lord and Savior should inspire us to seek the beauty and glory that He intends for those who

can truly die to self and be used by God to bless and help those in need. I trust this article from Sis. Sabrina Shenberger will be a blessing to you!

—Bro. Doug

THE HEART OF A SERVANT IS NOT SELFISH

By Sis. Sabrina Shenberger

IT IS within human nature to look out for oneself. However, in Luke 9:23 we have the words of Jesus: "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." **Deny himself** aren't easy words for us to hear. But when we look at the life of Jesus, we see that He was totally selfless and denied any of His own desires for the will of the Father and for the needs of others.

In Mark 10:45 we read, "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." So if Jesus came not to be served, but rather to be a servant, we should desire to follow His great example. As a servant, we should put others before ourselves. We should willingly relinquish our rights in order to serve God and others. We are unable to do this within ourselves, but in Galatians 2:20, we have the secret to success: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

We have heard it said that the true way to JOY in our lives is Jesus first, Others second, You (ourselves) last.

Jesus First: It is important to be emptied of all self when it comes to our relationship with Jesus. We never want our will, plans, or desires to be unyielded to Him, because we know His ways are best for us. In Isaiah 55:8, 9 we read: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." And we can rest in the words of Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Others Second: In Matthew 22:36-39 we read: "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all

thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” This verse sums up an unselfish life. First, we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind. That love will then compel us to love our neighbor. We will endeavor to live out Romans 12:10, “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour **preferring one another.**” And Philip-
 pians 2:3, “Let nothing be done through strife or vain-glory; **but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**” We will lay aside our own wants and desires to serve the needs of others. Our focus will not be inward, but rather out on those around us. We will endeavor to display the fruits of the Spirit because they bud out of a heart of love for others, not for ourselves. It will take selflessness to exemplify I Corinthians 13:4 and 5: “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, **seeketh not her own,** is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.” May the Lord help us to be willing to give up anything of ourselves for others. Whether it be our time, energy, resources, or whatever it may be required. For in John 15:13 it says: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Lastly, You! After we have done all that we can do to love Jesus and Others, if there is anything leftover we can consider ourselves. However, the beautiful truth is that if we can successfully love Jesus and Others the way He plans, we will have all we need. The most selfless and giving people are the ones who have the truest riches in life. They are not on display, but rather a Christlike image is what those around them see. So many strive to gain all that they can for themselves, and yet they end up losing the most important treasures. Matthew 6:19, 20: “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.”

It’s a privilege to be a servant of God and others. We only have one life, and it is like a vapor.

In conclusion, here’s a song, “Only One Life,” written by Lanny Wolfe—

*It matters so little how much you may own,
 The places you’ve been or the people you’ve known.
 For it all comes to nothing when placed at His feet;*

It’s nothing to Jesus, just memories to keep.

You may take all the treasures from far away lands,

*Take all the riches you can hold in your hands,
 And take all the pleasures your money can buy;
 But what will you have when it’s your time to die?*

*The days pass so swiftly, the months come and go,
 The years melt away like new fallen snow.*

*Spring turns to summer, and summer to fall;
 Autumn brings winter, then death comes to call.*

*Only one life, how soon it will pass!
 Only what’s done for Christ will last.
 Only one chance to do His will,
 So give to Jesus all your days,
 It’s the only life that pays.
 When you recall, you have but one life. †*

PHILIPPINE CONVENTION REPORT

(December 26-30, 2023)

By Sis. Charnita Richards

Theme: “A Crown of Life Awaits You in Heaven”

IT CERTAINLY was a privilege to have had the opportunity to attend the 2023 Philippine convention this year. Fourteen of us made the trip (the Shenberger and Richards families), and for eleven of us, it was our first visit to the island. We arranged to arrive several days before the convention started to give us a chance to acclimate to the time change and recover from the journey. This gave us the opportunity to explore Manila and Corrigidor Island.



Being my first visit to the Philippines, I was anxious to meet the saints I had heard so much about. I had been told that they were sweet, kind, and giving, but until I met them for myself, I never fully grasped how accurate of a description that was. From the first embrace the deep bond of fellowship, that only saints can share, was felt. We were welcomed with open arms and cared for in every imaginable way.

The Sunday before the convention started, our two families split and joined two separate congregations for their morning worship services. The Shenberger family visited the congregation in Santa Maria where Sis. Meldy Santiago is pastor, and our family visited the congregation in Katarungan Village where Sis. Rose Marzan is pastor. After the services, our families met back up and traveled to Paniqui where the convention was to be held.

The convention was five days in length. Three main services were held each day, and Bible activities for the youth were offered in the sanctuary in between these services. The Filipino brethren had the responsibility of the speaking portion during the day services. In years past, there was no interpretation of the messages, but this year Bro. David Goble kindly supplied equipment that made some translation available. Those of us who needed translation wore earpieces connected to a receiver, and Bro. Arvin would summarize what was being said into a microphone for us to hear. This was certainly an added benefit that allowed us to grasp some of what was being said. We were thankful for Bro. Arvin’s willingness to do this for us!

We also really appreciated how the saints made us feel a part by involving us in various ways. The evening services were in English, and Bro. Doug and Bro. Brian were given the responsibility of speaking in those meetings. We were invited to join the Filipinos in special

songs, and our families were invited to sing with the Paniqui choir. This made us feel welcomed and involved.

It was enjoyable to see how quickly the young people integrated together. Not only were our young people encouraged to participate in the Bible activities, but they were also invited to sing specials with the Filipino young people during several of the services.

A Baptismal Service was held at the end of the week, and I believe around 20 souls were baptized.

I personally left the convention on higher ground than I was when I arrived. We thank our heavenly Father for giving us protection, for making it possible for us to go, and most importantly, for blessing us with His presence during the convention.

As I told the Filipinos while I was there, I may not be able to remember all their names, but I will always remember their sweet faces, sincere and humble smiles, and kind ways. For anyone considering the trip, I would highly recommend it. Being with these saints makes it worth traveling every mile. †

See page 21 for some photos.

STEPS HEAVENWARD

By the late R. L. Berry

Chapter X

You Must Be Baptized

THE LAST COMMISSION to the apostles was: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:15, 16). And again: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:19, 20).

This language is very plain, both to the ministers whom the Lord sends out, and to those who believe. The believers, according to this command of Christ’s, are to be baptized. Not only that, but believers are to observe all things that Jesus commanded the apostles to do. As the Chief of the Lord’s army and the Captain of our salvation, Jesus has the right to command us what to do, and as volunteers in His army we are to obey. Soldiers are taught obedience. Whatever the command of a superior officer may be, the soldier is to give unquestioned obedience to that command. To obey is better than sacrifice.

The early apostles followed Christ’s command to the letter, baptizing the new converts soon after their conversion. On the day of Pentecost, three thousand were baptized. That must have been a very great day. The Philippian jailer was converted one night and was baptized straightway. When Peter went down to Cornelius’ house and preached the gospel to the first Gentile audience, the Holy Ghost fell upon the congregation and Peter commanded them to be baptized, seeing they

had received the Spirit. When Paul made his extensive missionary journeys, he, mostly by the hands of his helpers, baptized the new believers.

Baptism in every Scripture instance was administered to the new converts soon after their confession of faith in Christ. In no case do we find long delays, and we infer from this that as soon as convenient or as soon as opportunity presents itself, every new convert today is to be baptized. There is no definite command as to how soon after conversion one should be baptized, as conditions in all the world are sure to vary widely. But the safe rule is to determine to follow Christ in baptism at the first opportunity, or even asking for baptism, in order that the commands of Jesus may be fulfilled.

There is a blessing in obeying every command of God. Baptism is a great blessing to the believer. When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit, in the form of a dove, descended and sat upon Him, and a voice from heaven said: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” You, young convert, can expect a spiritual blessing to accompany your baptism. You will have the joy of obedience, which is a great joy of itself. Then the testimony you bear to the world as you go down into the water, as into a grave, that you are now dead to all its vain pomp, and show, and glory, and sin, and that you are living a new life, will be a blessing. A blessing to you, because your decision is renewed in the baptism and because Jesus, as He looks down upon you, will be pleased with your testimony that you will serve Him. A blessing to your friends because it will refresh their minds that they too should take the same step that you have taken. When you arise from the water and take your place among the saints of the Lord, the Holy Spirit will witness “sweet and clear” that what you have done is well-pleasing to God.

You should approach your baptism with suitable preparations of heart. So many go through a mere form. They arrive at the bank of the river or baptismal pool chewing gum, talking lightly and frivolously with their companions, or otherwise taking it as a sort of joke. To such it is a joke, a huge mistake, a caricature of true baptism. One had better far stay away from the water of baptism than to go through a form, or mimic a holy ordinance of God.

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death?” (Romans 6:3). Baptism symbolizes death, a spiritual death; not a death in sin, but a death to sin. Baptism represents a burial, a baptism or immersion into Jesus Christ. “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death” (verse 4). “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27). Here we reach the real meaning. This alone is the right life for a baptized disciple; he has put on Christ. He, with Christ, dies to the world and the devil. Baptism symbolizes a raising, a resurrecting. Like as Christ was raised so we rise to walk in newness of life. Thus baptism symbolizes all that is vital in the plan of salvation, and an early opportunity should be sought to be baptized.

Christ, the Great Commander, has asked us to do some other things besides be baptized. He has asked us to eat and drink a Lord’s Supper and wash one another’s feet. How often these things should be done

is not revealed, being left to the conscience or convenience of the people of God. Both of these ordinances bring deep spiritual blessings, draw the Christians closer together, and rekindle the fires of fellowship and love.

The Lord's Supper is not a literal eating of Christ's body nor a literal drinking of Christ's blood. There is something far deeper than that. Christ's flesh, if eaten, would not affect the heart. Neither would His blood if drunk. But the true partaking of Christ, represented by the Supper, is by faith. Christ gave His life and blood for us; we, as we surround the Lord's table to participate in His Supper, partake of the divine spiritual blessings that He purchased for us.

Still deeper, perhaps, is the truth Paul speaks of when he says "we are members of his [Christ's] body, of his flesh, and of his bones" (Ephesians 5:30). Redemption is extended to both soul and body. The soul is redeemed from sin by faith, and the body, while death lays it low, will yet arise again in the resurrection of the dead. The Lord's Supper is symbolical of our future bodily redemption. The partaking of the Supper also publicly announces on our part a faith in Christ as the dying Lamb and as the returning King.

In the Supper, as in baptism, we have symbols of our redemption brought forcibly to view. It goes to the very center of Christ's salvation work—the shedding of His blood, the breaking of His body.

In the Lord's Supper all that Christ did for us is remembered. We see Him hanging on a cross on the hill of the skull. We see the blood trickling down His face and flowing from His pierced hands and feet and side. We know it was all for us. Our hearts palpitate with fresh love to the Son of God. And in this Supper we profess anew our love to Jesus; our minds go back to the time when love wiped out the score of sins against us; we renew our covenant to be true to God and to one another. Such blessings come from the Supper, that as oft as you have an opportunity, young convert, avail yourself of it, and participate in this ordinance.

"Round thy table here we gather,
And commune, dear Lord, with thee.
In thy consecrated emblems,
Lo! thy precious blood we see—
See thy dear atoning passion
And our holy unity,
Oh! we'll keep thy blest memorial,
Till anew we sup with thee."

As in baptism, so in the Supper, a proper heart-preparation should precede our participation therein. Paul says, "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat... and drink" (I Corinthians 11:28). There should be harmony and fellowship between you and all the saints. If you know of anything you have done to cause any lack of fellowship, go and adjust that matter first. Be at peace with all, let all quarrels and strife and offenses one with another be cleared up. Examine yourself: if others unworthy, eat, that is their responsibility.

The communion emphasizes the need of Christian humility and brotherly kindness. In a proud world this lesson is sorely needed. Like Mary, we might delight in

breaking an alabaster box of ointment on Jesus and wiping His feet with our hair; but Jesus assures us that what we do for our brother is the same as if done to Him. We are to show our entire willingness to serve our brother in any way we can. How blessed are these ordinances!

The things we have mentioned are specific commands, set ordinances of the church, instituted by Christ. Obedience to them strengthens the soul, neglect of them weakens the soul. Fall in at once with these commands, and join with the church in observing them. If the church you commonly associate with rejects these commands, it will be well to inquire for a church that keeps them all.

Baptism is not a door into the true church; the young convert is a member of it as soon as he is converted.

There are many commands in the New Testament. All are to be obeyed. The results of disobedience stand out vivid and plain in the history of man. Saul was sent on a mission; but he took counsel of himself, disobeyed the divine command and met a telling rebuke at the hands of the prophet Samuel. Adam and Eve's disobedience in the garden brought sin into the world and planted a depravity in all their posterity.

"I wish I could mind God as my little dog minds me," said a little boy, looking thoughtfully at his shaggy friend. 'He always looks so pleased to mind and I don't.' What a painful truth did this child speak! Shall the poor little dog thus readily obey his master, and we rebel against God, who is our Creator, our Preserver, our Father, our Savior and the bountiful Giver of everything we love?"—Spurgeon. †

OUT OF BOX 88

The Way of Truth,

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$— that we pray will be of some help in all the work that you are doing in the name of the Lord. We enjoy receiving your wonderful publications and the messages contained within.

May God bless and keep all of you. Thanking you for all that you do.
—E. & L. B., Mississippi

The Way of Truth sends out the gospel so well. I am blessed every month that I receive The Way of Truth. It just gets better each year. It was a good message from Bro. Doug Shenberger. All of the gospel of God is good for all of our lives.

I hope all is going well for your brothers and sisters in Christ. My love offering I enclose for you and my love always.

—J. J., Tennessee

Greetings Dear Saints,

We often listen and view the church services on the computer and so enjoy them. It lets us feel like we are almost acquainted with you saints there, even though we live way out West.

The evening church service of January 21st about the Church of God was a real blessing, knowing these truths are still being taught and lived. Thank the dear Lord for His people that stand for the ageless church. ... We love you, Saints, and are very thankful we can "join" the services via the Web.

The message printed in The Way of Truth (December 2023 issue) of "Love Mercy" by Bro. Doug Koerner was such a blessing. ... I am enclosing some support for your magazine.

—M. G., Idaho

WATCHING

Message by Sis. Rebecca Bland

Delivered 12/31/23 in Deville, LA



SI WAS thinking about this service, the question came to my mind, Why do people get together and look for the coming of the new year? I thought, *Maybe it's because it's their way of keeping an eye on the passage of time.* We don't want it to sneak up on us. We don't want to go to bed tonight and wake up in the morning and 2024 came and we weren't there. We didn't see it happen. Time is going to keep on going anyway, so here we are watching for it.



I think in a way for us, as Christians, as children of God, we are doing what the Bible tells us to do. In Psalm 90, verse 12, we read: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Technically, that's what we're doing in our service tonight. We're numbering our days. If you look a little above that verse, verse 9 says, "We spend our years as a tale that is told." Young People, if the Lord tarries His coming, and you're fortunate to live your entire life, this will happen to you, too. You'll live your life as a tale that is told: *beginning, middle, and end.* Then it's done. You're at the beginning, and some of us are near the end, but we're living our lives as a tale that is told, so "teach us to number our days." I know this could sound a little bit morbid, but it's not. It's just being sober, being serious. We're not going to be here forever. The years are going to go by, one after the other, faster and faster. If God is pleased that we live to see 2025, we're going to ask each other, "Where did 2024 go?"

There is nothing, I think, that has ever brought me closer to understanding the passage of time than getting the calendar ready for next year. I just did that. A few days ago, I got the calendar out. I have one on my cell phone, but I have a physical calendar, too. I went through and put in my doctor's appointments, my substitute assignments, and everything else I could think of that I know about. Then I put in my nieces' and nephews' birthdays. That brought me up short. Not only did I put in their birthdays, but I added how old they're going to be. No, that can't be right! I even went back and looked at some of their birth years, and did some math to be make sure I was right. No, they can't be that old! This kind of thing brings us face to face with our mortality.

As I looked through that calendar, I started asking myself some questions. You tell me if these questions are answerable. Can they be answered?—

Will it be a good year? DON'T KNOW

Will I live to see it all? DON'T KNOW

What will happen to me and my family this year? DON'T KNOW

What are my goals for this year? I don't know how those goals will be accomplished, but I can answer that one. At the top of the list it has to be, **TO SERVE GOD MORE THAN IN THE PREVIOUS YEARS.** We can know our goals.

There's another question that came to me that I don't know if we know the answer to: **Who will be watching me this year?** Pretty much anyone that we come in contact with will be watching us to some degree. Do we ever ask ourselves that question? Well, if not, maybe we should.

PEOPLE-WATCHING

I started thinking about "people-watching." We all do it. Why do we watch people? One reason, I think, is because we cannot help it. People are everywhere. They're doing things. We watch them so we can learn. I was thinking about my little niece ... she was about seven at the time. I asked her if she would like to come over to my house for the afternoon to help me make grape juice. Mainly it was because my grapevines grow on an arbor, and there's one area that I can barely get to. I'm too tall. I'm too adult. I need somebody on a little stool with little clippers that can get up under there and clip the grapes that I can't reach. So I thought, *I'll ask Kristen.* And she came. We were together the whole afternoon, and she did such a great job. I watched how she worked. I was amazed that, at her age, she stuck with it. I expected that she would run off. After a little while, she'd be tired of this activity, and she'd go to do something else. But she didn't. She stayed with it all afternoon, and she came into the house afterwards, and instead of going out and playing, she helped me make the grape juice and can it in jars.

The next day, my sister, Kristen's mother, told me that someone gave her (my sister) some grapes, and she made some juice. She asked her little daughter, my niece, to help her, and she did. My sister told me that she got the grapes, and she started cooking them in a pot. Then she took a potato masher and started after the grapes, and Kristen said, "That's not how Aunt Becky does it."

My sister said, "Oh, really?"

"No, she never mashes them."

"Maybe she did when you weren't looking."

"I saw everything Aunt Becky did. I never stopped watching, and she didn't do it like that."

I never thought about Kristen watching me. I was interested in watching what she did to help me, but she also was watching me intently.

Who watches us? Our family, our friends, other saints, sinners. They're all watching us. What if we don't want them to? They can't help it anymore than we can help it. They're going to watch us.

Years ago, I had a conference with a parent at school because her son was using bad language. I wanted to talk to her about it because he wasn't heeding after I talked to him several times. I just needed her to come in, and we would address this. She came in, and I'll never forget something she said to him. "I know," she said, "you hear me say those words, but you're not to do it." I'll never forget that. He was watching her, and he was listening.

We can tell someone all we want, “Don’t watch me, don’t listen to me,” but they’re going to do it. So we don’t have a choice. I know the Bible tells us that. If we look in Romans, chapter 14, verse 7, we find: “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.” That made me think about a writing that’s very old. You may remember learning in school about an English writer named John Donne. He wrote something that is quoted today. He wrote it in 1623. Four hundred years ago, he wrote this:

*No man is an island,
Entire of itself ...
Any man’s death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell
tolls;
It tolls for thee.*

What does it mean by *for whom the bell tolls*? Back in those days in England’s villages, when someone passed they rang a bell (They didn’t call each other on their cell phones. They didn’t have them.) to let the village know. What they did, they rang the bell twice if it was a woman. They did that three times. They rang it three times three if it was a man. Then after that, they began tolling the bell once for every year that person had lived. So if you lived in that village, you pretty much knew everybody. You had a pretty good idea who had passed.

John Donne said, “Therefore never send out a messenger to see who that is. It tolls for thee.” What did he mean by that? We’re all interconnected. We’re all watched. Someone is always watching us. We cannot change that. We cannot say, *I’ll be the watcher. You all be the watchees. Don’t watch me.* It doesn’t work like that. We’re all watched.

DETERMINATIONS

We need to make some determinations. We need to determine to live a life that’s worth watching. Years ago, I went through a struggle where I thought, *It seems like the more I agree to do at church, the more I open myself to criticism. The more visible I am, the more people notice me, and then they may find fault with things that I do, so I’m just not going to do so much. The less I do, the less I’ll be noticed, and the less I’ll be criticized.* How did that work? Well, they noticed that I wasn’t participating as much, and it wasn’t a good testimony. So we can’t do that. That’s like being a Jonah, isn’t it? “I’m just not going to participate because I don’t want people to criticize me.” They’re still going to watch, and now they have a valid reason to criticize.

Now, what we have to do is to decide, “Alright, watch me, and you will see Christ.” That’s what we have to make up our mind to do. “Watch me.” You’ve heard little children say, “Watch me, watch me!” They’ve just learned to do something. They’re going to climb up the monkey bars or swing real hard on the swing. They want someone to watch them, right? Or climbing a tree, “Watch me! Look!” Don’t they? And we stop what we’re doing because it’s really important to them for us to watch them.

Well, we need to say “watch me” by our lives. Not so that people will see us—like a little child would do.

But “watch me, and you will see Christ.” The apostle Paul said that, didn’t he? I’m going to read a very familiar verse in I Corinthians 11:1—“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” He just put it right out there. “Watch me, but not for me. Watch me, so that you’ll know how to get to Christ.” That needs to be our determination.

THREE THINGS PEOPLE SHOULD SEE

There are three things that people should see when we want them to see Christ:

Number 1: *That we glorify God.* People should see that when they watch us. Matthew 5, verses 15 and 16: “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. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” In this dark world, a little light shines brightly.

Number 2: *That we love others.* What did Jesus say? John 13:35, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” Who is “one to another”? Who was Jesus talking about? He was talking about everybody—all men—humanity, because God loves humanity, and we are His children. So we love all humanity.

Jesus also meant to *love the brethren.* I know that because I read in Ephesians 4:25-27, “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.” All my life, I have thought of that verse: “Be ye angry, and sin not,” on a personal level. If I get upset at somebody—and I know we all do get upset at people from time to time—but don’t go to bed mad. In other words, don’t keep being mad, and mad, and mad, and not straighten things out. All of us do get upset from time to time, but we have to make it right. When I looked at that verse again recently, I saw that it comes right after the words *we are members one of another.* “Be ye angry, and sin not.” It’s more than on just a personal level in my personal life. It’s in the body of Christ. We will sometimes have disagreements with other brethren in the body of Christ. We may even be angry at something that happened. What does the Bible say? “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.” Fix it. Don’t allow bitterness to creep in. Don’t complain to people about other people unless you have spent time in prayer and fasting for the Lord to have His way and help things to be right.

I know sometimes I’ve complained about things, and then I think to myself, *Have you prayed about it?* If it’s serious enough for you to be upset, have you fasted about it? If we haven’t, then we really shouldn’t be complaining yet. God has a way of fixing things, and helping us to fix things if we pray and fast, because we’re that concerned about it.

We love and care about our young people. Don’t forget our young people are watching. They’re watching to see how we handle differences. They’re watching us to see how important the work of the Lord is to us, and they will copy what they see us do.

Number 3: *That we are not afraid.* I have heard people say so frequently, especially in the last number of years, “I dread to see the world that my children and grandchildren will be facing. It’s frightens me to think what my children and grandchildren will be facing in their lives.” I’ve heard that, but I’m telling you right now, I’m going to try to stop saying it, and this is my reason—Hebrews 13:5 and 6—“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” Our children and grandchildren should see us with bravery and courage in our hearts. In other words, we should not terrify them by saying, “I hate to see what my children and grandchildren are going to face.” (I have a feeling that our parents and grandparents said the same thing.)

God doesn’t change. His power is not diminished by any evil in this world. His greatness is not relative to the situations on this earth. Yes, this world is evil. It appears to be getting more evil all the time, but God is not weaker because there is more evil. We need to face what is coming with courage and show that courage to our children and young people. We don’t need to frighten them about what the world is going to be when they go out into it, because they have the same God we have. He is able to help them and keep them. So my determination is, from now on, not to frighten them about what the world is going to be when they go out into it. I’m determined to be bold, and to show them: Be not afraid. God is able. It doesn’t matter what you face. Don’t fear what man can do unto you.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I’d like to look at Philippians, chapter 3, verses 13 and 14: “Brethren, [Paul was writing to the Philippians, but he was talking to us today, too.] I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Here’s another verse I always pictured that meant “I’m reaching forth toward heaven.” Well, I am. But that is not the prize that was identified in this verse. It doesn’t say, *I press toward the mark for the prize of heaven*, though we do press toward the prize of heaven. It says that we “press toward the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” We are pressing toward that prize: that *God may use us*. That is a prize.

There are children in school who ask, “Are we going to get a prize?” I think they live for prizes. “If we behave, are we going to get a prize? If we say the right answer, are we going to get a prize?” People like prizes, right? Well, there is no higher or greater prize to reach toward: the high calling of God. God calling us to do something for Him. Anything for Him is a high calling, and it’s a prize. We can’t ever, ever want anything greater than that. In this coming year, that’s what we want to press toward.

I’d like to call your attention to something else I read before that: “Forgetting those things which are behind.” THINGS. It didn’t say *forgetting those PEO-*

PLE. There are people behind us watching us. It didn’t say *forget those people*. It said, “Forget those things”—things that have happened, things in the past, things that are not worth our time. Don’t forget the people behind you, because they’re watching. People in front of you are watching, too.

Age doesn’t matter. Do you know Bro. Mick Akers? Some of you do. Do you know Bro. Doug Shenberger? Some of you do. They were both students of mine in elementary school. But I’m watching them. They’re behind me in age, but they’re ahead of me in other ways, and I’m watching them. They encourage me.

We will be watched by others, even after we’re gone. Have you heard about “the cloud of witnesses”? “Well,” you might say, “I don’t want to be in the cloud of witnesses. That will mean I’m gone.” Well, what is your life? It is a vapor, so one day you’re going to be up in the cloud. One of these days, if we lived to please God, we’re going to be up there. We’re going to be watched, even after we’re gone. We’re to think about that, too. That cloud of witnesses is still cheering us on. Bro. Junior still cheers me on. I don’t see him with my physical eyes, but he’s up there in that cloud. I’m watching him. I’m watching what he left behind. It may have been the last time he was in Hagerstown that he and Sis. Emma were celebrating a landmark anniversary. It was on a Sunday, the last day of convention. I was in charge of the singing, so I thought that I would ask them to come up front so we could sing “Happy Anniversary” to them. I asked Bro. Junior for his favorite song, and he wanted us to sing—

I mean to go right on until the crown is won;

I mean to fight the fight of faith till life on earth is done.

*I’ll nevermore turn back, defeat I shall not know,
For God will give me victory if onward I shall go.*

*I’m going on, I’m going on,
Unto the final triumph, I’m going on;
I’m going on, I’m going on,
Unto the final triumph, I’m going on.*

*I see a shining crown awaiting over there,
I see a mansion all prepared and decked with beauties rare:*

Shall that which intervenes deprive me of my right?

Nay, on I’ll go until I reach that city of delight.

*I’m going on, I’m going on,
Unto the final triumph, I’m going on;
I’m going on, I’m going on,
Unto the final triumph, I’m going on.*

Bro. Junior lived a beautiful life.

(to Bro. Albert in the audience) “You’ve lived a beautiful life, Bro. Albert.”

People will always watch. May we leave behind us a life that was worth watching.

Young People, we’re watching you, but not in a critical way. We’re watching you because you inspire us. We can see you love the cause of Christ. We can see it, and we’re watching you. We want you, as you watch

The Way of Truth

us, to see nothing but what would improve your spiritual lives.

My prayer for this coming year is, “Lord, help me to watch every word, every action, so that when others watch me, they’ll see the way to Christ.” †

DISCIPLESHIP & STEWARDSHIP

Following are some thought-provoking ideas presented by the *Bible Illustrator*:

Three Kinds of Givers

There are three kinds of givers—the flint, the sponge, and the honeycomb. To get anything out of a flint you must hammer it. And then you get only chips and sparks. To get water out of a sponge you must squeeze it, and the more you use pressure, the more you will get. But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness. Which kind of giver are you?

The Sevenfold Blessing of the Tithe

1. It blesses the heart by making it receptive to God’s will.
2. It blesses the life by lifting it to a higher plane of grace.
3. It blesses the hands by making them willing to do God’s work.
4. It blesses the mind by giving it the satisfaction of doing the right thing.
5. It blesses the nine-tenths that remain because God has been honored.
6. It blesses the individual by giving him a part in God’s worldwide program of work.
7. It blesses the church by enabling it to carry out a greater ministry.

A Matter of Fact

I have never known a generous person to complain about how much money it takes to run a church. Poor givers gripe about how much it takes; generous givers express concern that they don’t do more.

I have never known a family who tithed for any length of time who quit.

I have never known a generous family that was not generally happy.

I have never known a stingy, miserly family that was not generally unhappy about many things.

I have never known a person who was critical of most things, mad about many things, who was generous.

I have come to believe that most people who feel we talk too much about money, never really want to talk about money at all. Generous people enjoy talking about it.

I have come to believe that there is a direct connection that exists between a person’s faith and a person’s generosity. Those who give generously tend to become more faithful; and the reverse is true in both instances.

The Pearl of Great Price

The Bible says the kingdom of God is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of real worth, he sells everything he has and buys that pearl. Of course, according to traditional thinking, man is the pearl of great price and Jesus the merchant who sells everything to make the purchase. Now I understand that He is the Pearl of great price and man the merchant.

So when a man finds Jesus, it costs him everything. Jesus has happiness, joy, peace, healing, security, eternity. Man marvels at such a pearl and says, “I want this Pearl. How much does it cost?”

The Seller says, “It’s too dear, too costly.”

“But how much?”

“Well, it’s very expensive.”

“Do you think I could buy it?”

“Oh, of course. Anybody can.”

“But you say it’s too expensive. How much is it?”

“It costs everything you have—no more, no less—so anybody can buy it.”

“I’ll buy it.”

“What do you have? Let’s write it down.”

“I have \$10,000 in the bank.”

“Good, \$10,000. What else?”

“I have nothing more. That’s all I have.”

“Have you nothing more?”

“Well, I have some dollars here in my pocket.”

“How many?”

“I’ll see: 30, 40, 50, 80, 100, 120—120 dollars.”

“That’s fine. What else do you have?”

“I have nothing else. That’s all.”

“Where do you live?”

“I live in my house.”

“The house too.”

“Then you mean I must live in my garage?”

“Have you a garage, too? That too. What else?”

“Do you mean I must live in my car, then?”

“Have you a car?”

“I have two.”

“Both become mine. Both cars. What else?”

“I have nothing else.”

“Are you alone in the world?”

“No, I have a wife, two children ...”

“Your wife and your children too. What else?”

“I have nothing else, I am left alone now.”

“Oh, you too. Everything. Everything becomes Mine: wife, children, house, garage, cars, money, clothing, everything. And you, too. Now you can use all those things here but don’t forget they are Mine, as you are. When I need any of the things you are using you must give them to Me because now I am the Owner.” †

—Reprinted from the January 1997 issue

THE BLESSINGS OF HUMILITY

2023 Hagerstown Convention Message

by Bro. Lee Jeffries

WE WANT TO give the Lord thanks for this convention. I can truly say my soul has been blessed. I believe we have been sitting together in heavenly places. The blessings of the Spirit of God have been upon us. We are conscious tonight that without Him, we can do nothing. I am expecting your support and prayers that the Lord will help us in this service.

I want to thank Bro. Greg and this congregation for their kind hospitality towards us. We give the Lord thanks very much for you all. May the Lord continue to bless you all as we labor together for the Lord.

If you have Bibles, turn with me to the book of James, chapter 4. I want to read verses 6-8: "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." The subject on my heart is, "The Blessings of Humility."

I appreciate very much the theme of the convention—"Humble Thyself to Walk with God." I believe it is a beautiful, beautiful theme. I believe in order for us to be a blessing, in order for us to be saved, we need to be humble. There is no greater blessing in the Christian life than when we can walk humbly.

The Word of God reminds us that God giveth grace. God's grace is bestowed upon the humble. Listen, it is God's grace that saves us. It is His grace that justifies us. It is His grace that sanctifies us. It is through humility that God grants us His grace. It is such a blessing to be under the grace of God. It is such a blessing to walk in humility, because the Word of God tells us that God resisteth the proud. The Word of God declares that He hates a proud look. It does not please God when we are proud, for the Word of God declares that He giveth grace unto the humble. The Word of God says, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

We are blessed to be a part of the family of God, the greatest thing there is on this earth. People from all nations and creeds should thank God for His grace and mercy and love tonight. It is a blessing when we can humble ourselves, when we can come before God with our needs, and look to Him to help us. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). In Him we live and move and have our being. We are conscious that without Him we can do nothing. We are dependent upon the grace of God. We are dependent upon His mercies.

God bestows His blessings upon those who are humble. He bestows His blessings upon those who will

submit to His will. God bestows His blessings upon those who are willing to say, "Lord, in the midst of the obstacles, in the midst of my difficulties and trials, I am willing to submit to your will. I am willing to do whatever you ask of me." God expects that from us.

We read in the Word of God of the greatest example of humility: our Lord Jesus Christ. He left the splendor of heaven, knowing His destiny. He spoke with love and compassion. He was willing to drink of the bitter cup. What an example of humility! Jesus took off His kingly robe and made Himself of no reputation. "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him" (Isaiah 53:3). He was bruised for our iniquities. He was mistreated. There were those who spat on Him. They were rude to Him. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

A song says—

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!*

God is expecting something of us tonight. He's expecting us to be humble. He's expecting us to submit to Him, to draw near to Him, and He will draw near to us. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

We have an example of a two men in the Bible: a Pharisee and a publican. The two of them went into the temple and presented themselves. One was full of pride. He felt himself higher than God. He looked toward heaven and said, "I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." He was boastful and proud. But there was one who was broken, one who needed the help of a Savior, one who made himself available so that God could bless him and use him. He didn't even lift his eyes toward heaven, but he smote his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me a sinner." Listen, he humbled his heart. He came before the one who could meet all of his needs. He submitted, recognizing he was a sinner. The Word of God says, "This man went down to his house justified rather than the other." He walked away with a blessing. Listen, the only way God is going to bless us is if we are willing to submit to His will, submit to His precepts, and submit to His Word.

God loves us so much. He cares about us, even though sometimes we may be boastful and proud. But God is wonderful! He doesn't judge us according to our iniquities, but if we come humbly, He will save us, as the Psalmist has said, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit." God wants us to humble our hearts. He wants us to humble our being to Him. If we do so, He will save us, sanctify us, and keep us. He's able to keep us from falling, and to present us blameless before Him. God wants to bestow all of His blessings on us. He's asking of us that we would humble ourselves.

The songwriter wrote—

*Humble thyself and the Lord will draw near thee,
Humble thyself and his presence shall cheer thee:
He will not walk with the proud or the scornful,
Humble thyself to walk with God.*

*Just as the stream finds a bed that is lowly,
So Jesus walks with the pure and the holy;
Cast out thy pride, and in heartfelt contrition
Humble thyself to walk with God.*

Humble yourself to walk with God tonight.
The Lord bless you. †

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

THE STEPS OF THE RIGHTEOUS THE BAPTISM OF THE CONVERTED EUNUCH

Scriptures: Acts 8:26-31, 35-39.

Acts 8:26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Memory Verse: And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

—Acts 8:38.

Aim: To set forth a Bible example of water baptism.

INTRODUCTION

All truths are not learned from the Word of God by clear and plainly stated facts; however, through an earnest, honest study of the Bible, under the inspiration of the true Spirit, one can gain much light.

March 2024

There is no scripture which instructs us to go down into a river or pool and there have our bodies “buried” for a moment beneath the water in order to fulfill the command of baptism, but by examining the methods of the early church—who had been taught by Jesus Himself—we learn that immersion is the proper mode.

Zondervan’s *Pictorial Bible Dictionary* states: “Immersion ... depicts more clearly the symbolic aspect of baptism since its three steps of IMMERSION—going into the water, SUBMERSION—going under the water, and EMERSION—coming out of the water, more closely parallel the concept of entering into the death of Christ, experiencing the forgiveness of sins, and rising to walk in the likeness of Christ’s resurrected life (Romans 6:4).”

MEDITATIONS

DIVINELY LED—Acts 8:26—Angel ... spake—

Philip was one of the seven men appointed to look after the material affairs of the early church (Acts 6). Being filled with the Spirit, he was also used mightily in the ministry. Following his successful revival among the Samaritans, Philip, through an angel of the Lord, was sent on a journey toward the south. Proverbs 3:5, 6 encourages us to believe that God will direct our paths too if we will sincerely acknowledge Him in all our ways.

TO A SEEKING SOUL—Acts 8:27, 28—Eunuch ... who ... had come ... to worship ... was return-

ing—The evangelist was prompt in obeying, which is always necessary when God speaks, for He has been working at the other end. To delay will mar His plan. This servant of Queen Candace of Ethiopia had a thirst for God, and the Scriptures were attractive to his soul. The high position he held did not hinder him in his search for truth. We must be of the same mind if we would be entrusted with the rich treasures of the hidden wisdom of God. **Read Esaias—**During his visit at Jerusalem perhaps the eunuch had heard Isaiah and his writings discussed. He was trying to get a better understanding, so he read as he journeyed homeward. It is only reasonable to suppose he was also calling upon God for assistance.

GOD’S PLAN WORKING—Acts 8:29—Go near

—Foreseeing the eunuch’s hunger for truth, God had prepared Philip to minister to him at the appointed time. Unannounced he joined himself to the chariot. Why did not God teach the eunuch directly what he desired to know? He could have, but, as a rule, it is God’s will to reveal the plan of salvation through the “foolishness of preaching” (I Corinthians 1:21). **Verse 30—Heard him read, ... and said, ... Understandest thou?**—Philip was well-acquainted with the reading that fell upon his ears, and he knew its meaning, which was hidden and needed enlargement. **Verse 31—Some man should guide me—**To the eunuch the passage was merely a group of words which neither fed his soul nor enlightened his mind. How blessed he was to have Philip, a man of God, to guide him! One great hindrance in getting the truth to people today is that their minds have been darkened by the errors of false religion.

JESUS, HUB OF ALL CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY —Acts 8:35—Preached unto him Jesus—Philip

made the proper application of the prophecies concerning Christ from the book of Isaiah, the passage we know as Chapter 53. The center of all preaching and Christian endeavor today should be the Man Jesus, but since it is not, we see a grave departure from holy and righteous living.

THE EUNUCH SEEKS TO BE BAPTIZED—Acts 8:36—What doth hinder me to be baptized?—The message of Philip had accomplished the purpose God intended. From the Gospel of the Old Testament, as Isaiah is called, enough truth had been revealed to convict and save this treasurer of Queen Candace.

BELIEVING COMES FIRST—Acts 8:37—If thou believest—Philip would baptize the eunuch under one condition only—that he actually believe first that Jesus was the Son of God. Head knowledge is quite different from heart belief. One who believes in his head only will go on living a life of sin; he who believes in the heart, as well as the head, will allow his life to be changed by Christ's doctrine. This man believed in his heart and confessed with his mouth, which Paul tells us (Romans 10:9, 10) is salvation.

FULFILLING THE COMMAND OF BAPTISM—Acts 8:38, 39—Went down both into the water—Here again we catch a glimpse of the method used by the early saints in baptism. The evangelist Philip and the converted eunuch “went down both into the water” for the purpose of having plenty of room for the “burial.” **On his way rejoicing**—What joy must have filled the heart of this babe in Christ as he emerged from the water, having fulfilled Christ's command!

CONCLUSION

He who has embraced the gospel of the Lord Jesus is “dead” to the world, and dead things should be buried. So as a symbol of the spiritual burial of one who has died to sin, God has instituted the ordinance of baptism. Since the newborn child of God is dead to the world, and he is also to walk in newness of life unto Christ, it is necessary then that he be raised from the watery “grave” to serve the Lord.

Salvation, conversion, a change of heart, admits a soul into God's true church, His family. Baptism is, however, of great importance. To refuse to partake of this rite when the truth concerning it is known, is to be eventually expelled from the family of God.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. From what source did the eunuch learn the truth about salvation and baptism?
2. Why was it so necessary that Philip obey promptly the leadings of the Spirit?
3. Compare this with our Christian experience today.
4. Why did not God instruct the eunuch directly rather than using Philip?
5. By what method was the eunuch baptized?
6. Of what is baptism—the burial in and resurrection from the water—symbolic? †

OVERCOMING SIN

By Bro. Paul Fausnight

DON'T LET anyone deceive you with this “we all sin” satanic lie! Rather, the truth is that we all *have* sinned, but our Redeemer came to deliver us from sin's power and Satan's work. Sin no longer has power over us as Satan's servants pretend.

(Willful sin is not to be confused with the human mistakes common to all mankind. “Christian perfection” which is commanded by our Lord, who said, “You, then, must be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect,” does not mean that other humans will see us as being perfect, a proclivity to human faults being universally common to varying degrees, to be sure. One can be perfect and blameless in God's sight in the spiritual sense, even though others might see a human tendency to pokiness, frumpiness, messiness, etc.)

On the contrary, in John 8, Jesus says, “If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. I am telling you the truth: everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave does not belong to a family permanently, but a son belongs there forever. If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free.”

Of course, after our initial salvation by grace, God's undeserved mercy in Christ, we ourselves have a part to play in reaching our final salvation!

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence [continue to], work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12).

In this way, God qualified Christ as a perfect High Priest, and He became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey Him.—see Hebrews 5:9.

“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:7, 8).

Our initial salvation is received by faith in God's undeserved mercy, His grace. But God's grace teaches us how we then must live! Our final salvation depends on both God's grace and our obedience and continued faithfulness. You see, without faithfulness, faith is only pretense. Jesus said that the one who remains faithful to the end will be saved.

For the *grace* of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “no” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness, and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good. These, then, are the things you should teach.—see Titus 2:11-15.

For God will reward each of us according to what we have done. Some people keep on doing good, and

seek glory, honor, and immortal life; to them God will give eternal life. Other people are selfish and reject what is right in order to follow what is wrong; on them God will pour out His anger and fury. There will be suffering and pain for all those who do what is evil, for the Jews first and also for the Gentiles. But God will give glory, honor, and peace to all who do what is good, to the Jews first, and also to the Gentiles. For God judges everyone by the same standard.—see Romans 2:6-11.

Our final salvation is brought by Jesus at His return (which is on the last day, the time of resurrection and judgment) for those who have faithfully followed Him. And so shall we ever more be with the Lord in the Father's eternal kingdom.

Just as man is appointed to die once, and after that to face judgment, so also Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await Him.—see Hebrews 9:27, 28). †

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



MY PLACE

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"Where did you get that shirt?" asked my mother.

"It was in the back of my closet," I replied.

I looked down at the shirt I had put on a few minutes earlier. It was white with short, puffy sleeves. The fabric had a design of pink and purple tulips with bright green stems and leaves. I had liked the shirt from the moment I had first seen it.

"Seems a little tight on you," said my mother with a doubtful look. "When was the last time you wore it?"

"I wore it a lot of times when I was in first and second grade," I told her. And then I added with pride, "I can still wear it, even though I am in the third grade now!"

My mother continued to look doubtfully at my shirt. "Well, you got the buttons fastened," she said. "I guess you can wear it, but I don't think you're going to be very comfortable."

There was not a doubt in my mind that I would enjoy wearing that shirt all day long, and I headed to the bus stop with my younger sister, Twila, a smile on my face.

"Do you like my shirt?" I asked my teacher when I entered the classroom. My third grade teacher was an artist. I was sure she would appreciate the brightly colored tulips on my shirt.

"It's pretty," she agreed.

"I wore it when I was in first grade, and I can still wear it!" I said proudly.

"Doesn't it feel kind of tight on you?" my teacher asked.

The shirt did feel a little constrictive, but I didn't like to admit it. "It fits me fine!" I assured her.

As the day wore on, my discomfort grew. It was impossible to take a deep breath without fearing I might pop a button or two. The bands around the bottoms of the sleeves pressed into my arms, chafing them. Each time I raised my hand for permission to speak in class, I had to pull on the bottom of the shirt so it wouldn't ride up above my waist.

I was only too glad to change my shirt for a more comfortable one when I reached home that evening. I took the tulip-covered shirt to my mother. "It's too small for me," I admitted.

"I thought so," she said. "After I wash it, you can put it on Twila's side of the closet." Twila was two years younger than I. The shirt would be a perfect fit for her.

"But I'm sad," I told my mother. "I liked that shirt. I wanted to keep wearing it."

"Don't be sad," said my mother. "You're growing up, and you have to act like it."

I thought about her words all evening as I did my farm chores, ate dinner, helped with the dishes, and worked on my homework. "You're growing up, and you have to act like it," my mother had said.

In some ways, I couldn't wait to be "grown-up." I wanted to be taller, be taken more seriously, be allowed to stay up later at night, and be given more important responsibilities.

At the same time, I wanted to spend more time playing than working. I wanted the freedom to run through the yard, explore the woods behind our house, climb trees, and chase butterflies.

The truth is, we cannot be children and grown-ups at the same time. Each of us has a place in life right now, and we should fill that place in the very best way we can.

If you are a very young child with fewer responsibilities, enjoy the freedom you have to play and explore this beautiful world. Ask God to help you appreciate His handiwork and share it with others. You can help grown-ups remember the joy of God's creation.

If you are an older child with more responsibilities, enjoy the feeling of being dependable. Ask God to help you do your very best with each task you are assigned. In that way you will be an example to younger children and an inspiration to grown-ups.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 27:8 which says, *As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place.* To wander from your place is to leave the position you are supposed to fill, and try to fit in somewhere you don't belong.

Imagine what would happen if a mother bird wandered from her nest. Who would keep the eggs warm so the baby birds could hatch? Who would feed those little baby birds after they hatched? Just as a bird knows that her place is in her nest, so we must realize that our place is the age we find ourselves right now. We should want to be the very best example for God that we can be—whether we are young children, or older children, or teenagers, or adults. God will bless

us if we work diligently for Him in whatever place we are today.

Activity

Jesus values children. When He was here on Earth, He spoke kindly to them and blessed them. See if you can fill in the blanks to complete the story below. It is taken from Mark 10, and so when you have finished, you can check yourself by looking up those scripture verses.

And they brought young _____ to him, that he should _____ them: and his disciples _____ those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much _____, and said unto them, _____ the little children to come unto _____, and _____ them not: for of such is the kingdom of _____. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of _____ as a little _____, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his _____, put his _____ upon them, and _____ them.

Answers to Last Month's Activity

Seven Bible characters who faced adversity bravely and became stronger because of it:

1. JOSEPH
2. MOSES
3. DAVID
4. PAUL
5. RUTH
6. ABRAHAM
7. JACOB †

REASONS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS WAS NECESSARY

Message by Bro. Gregory E. Tyler

INTRODUCTION

THE DISCIPLES were with Christ at the midnight hour, they were with Him in the morning, they were with Him through the day. Sometimes He would go apart alone and pray, but generally speaking, the disciples were with Him and they believed He was their Messiah. He was the Messiah that was prophesied from the Old Testament time. But you know, when Jesus was taken and put on the cross, they were all disappointed, they were all let down. They didn't understand the teachings of Christ, and they felt like the three and a half years they had put into following this Christ were wasted. Get the picture now. They originally felt like Christ was the Messiah—and He was. But you know, when He was nailed to that cross they still felt like He would come down. They still felt He would come down and build a kingdom. The disciples did! And when He cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" and then gave up the ghost, they couldn't believe it. Their Christ had died, their Christ had left this world, and He had not done what they expected Him to do. The disciples left. They left weeping, no doubt. They were heartbroken. They didn't know what to do next. Peter and John had left their fishing boats; they

left their business behind to follow this Christ. Matthew had gotten up from the table when Jesus called him and followed this Christ. The disciples one by one had left their occupations when Jesus gave out the call, "Come and follow me," and they followed Him. They gave Him their time and their effort. They gave everything they had to Christ, and here He had died.

Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus down and gave Him his tomb. We're not told too much about Joseph, only that he and Nicodemus had a part, I believe, in the burial. They put Jesus in the tomb. A few days later, some sisters came to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. They were weeping, they were sad; they were beside themselves, as it were. They came to the tomb, and there the stone that was in front was rolled away, and they didn't know what was going on. The Bible tells us that two men were there, and they said to the women, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" and they ran back to tell the disciples what they had found. The angels told them, "Jesus is not here, Jesus has risen from the dead." Can you imagine the joy these women felt? Jesus had risen from the dead. He's not dead; He's alive, and they ran to tell the disciples. They told the disciples, "Jesus is alive," but they didn't believe the women. Mary was there at the tomb weeping. Jesus appeared to her, but she didn't know it was Jesus. She thought it was the gardener, and she said, "Where have you taken Him? Tell me where you have taken Him so I can go get my Lord and put Him back in His tomb." And then He said, "Mary!" Can you feel the joy that Mary felt? "Mary!" and then she knew it was her Lord. "My Lord's not dead, my Lord is alive." And then we are told in the book of John that Peter and John ran to the tomb. The Bible says John outran Peter. John stopped outside the tomb and looked at the graveclothes. Peter ran inside and found out that it was true that Jesus was not there and He was alive. He had been resurrected from the dead!

Jesus came to the disciples the first time and they did not fully recognize what had happened. He came to them a second time and they didn't really comprehend the reality of the event that had taken place. Peter said, "I go a fishing," and the other disciples said, "We go too." They went out on the Sea of Galilee fishing and fished all night and didn't catch a fish. Not one! And here came this Stranger on the shore and asked them what they were doing. "We fished but we have not caught a fish." He simply said, "Cast your nets on the other side." That's all. They did what this Stranger told them and their nets began to get full with the fish, so full they could hardly bring them in. Where did those fish come from? They were under the control of that One on the shore. Jesus was there cooking and had some fish on the fire ready for them. Oh, wouldn't you have liked to been there? I would have liked to been there. I believe then that it finally sunk in that the Master did not want them back in the boats. The Master did not want them fishing for fish. He wanted them to go out and fish for men.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

Our message is, "Reasons the Resurrection of Jesus Was Necessary." First of all, I'd like to call your atten-

tion to the 15th chapter of I Corinthians, beginning with verse 10: "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed. Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins."

We need to see the significance of the resurrection of Christ. Paul did not say if Jesus be not crucified your faith is in vain, and he did not say that if Christ was not crucified our preaching's in vain, but he put a great emphasis on the resurrection of Christ.

Our first reason why the resurrection of Christ was necessary was to confirm the divinity of Christ. Were it not for the resurrection, Jesus would have been just another teacher. If it were not for the resurrection, He would be just another good master who had taught some good things and died like everyone else. But because of the resurrection, we know that Christ was of God.

I marvel sometimes how those people back there that knew about the miraculous birth of Christ did away with Him as just another teacher. There were things in the birth of Christ that were miraculous and that alone should have told them that this was the Messiah. Some 33 years later, a lot of those things that had happened at the birth of Jesus had been forgotten. And had Christ not been raised from the dead, the religion of Christianity would have died. Had Christ not been raised from the dead, Peter and John and the other apostles would have gone back to their regular labors. They might have talked about Jesus as a good man, they might have wished Jesus was still around, they would have talked about how it might have been, but Christianity would have died. Were it not for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we would not be saved here. Do you see how important it is? The resurrection of Jesus Christ confirmed, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that this Man was of God. Now, the Jews today, you can talk to some of them about Jesus, and you know what they will tell you? They will tell you that Jesus was a good teacher, but He was not the Messiah. Beloved, I want you to know, either Jesus was the Messiah, or He was a liar. He was either the Son of the living God, our Savior, or He was an imposter and a good-for-nothing man. It's impossible to say He was a good teacher, and at the same time say He was not the Messiah. If you believe what He taught, He is the Messiah, He is the Son of God, He is the Savior of the world and nothing less. Because of the resurrection, and because of the resurrected joy, and the resurrected faith of the disciples in their Christ, Christianity did not die. We're told in the book of Luke that after Jesus was with the

disciples for some 40 days, then He was carried up in a cloud, and He left them with some teaching, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the endowment of power from on high. Were it not for the resurrection, all of Christianity would have died right then and there. So the first reason I'd like to mention tonight is to confirm the divinity of Christ. Without that, the death on the cross would have meant nothing. Without that, His teachings would be for naught. It was the resurrection alone that really proved the divinity of Christ.

THE NEW COVENANT USHERED IN

Jesus' resurrection was necessary to usher in the New Covenant. The Old Covenant had reigned supreme. I know the writer of the book of Hebrews refers to the Old Covenant and the teachings of the law as being nailed to the cross. That is true, but again, were it not for the resurrection, the New Covenant would have never been ushered in. Why? Because the disciples would have gone away and forgotten about Christ, in effect. And the Old Covenant would continue right on down. So the resurrection was necessary to completely usher in the New Testament or New Covenant. The resurrection of Christ confirmed that the teachings that He made there on the Sermon on the Mount were indeed God's plan for us. The resurrection proved, beyond a shadow of any doubt, when Jesus said, "You have been taught an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, Love your enemies." The resurrection proved that God's will was that no longer could you kill a brother who killed one of yours; no longer could you hate someone that hated you. It was a new way and it was taught beautifully. But again, Saints of God, without the resurrection, the New Covenant would have never been ushered in as we know it today.

IT GAVE US A FIRM FOUNDATION

The New Covenant contains a lot of things, and there's a scripture in the book of I Peter that leads us to our next thought—I Peter, chapter one, beginning with verse 18: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God." It was necessary that Christ be resurrected that we have a firm foundation in which to set our hope and our faith. Without the resurrection of Christ, it is possible that we could believe in a Jesus, and if the laws of Jesus had been passed down to us, we could believe in His teachings. You know there's a Mohammed, and there's a big following of Mohammed in the earth today, but Mohammed is not worthy of an individual to set his hope and trust upon, because Mohammed was not resurrected from the dead. But because Christ was resurrected, Saints of God, we have a firm foundation in which to put all of our hope and trust and faith. We cannot be disappointed because we

serve a Christ who lives. If we follow the teachings of a man who was a good teacher but is dead, and the tradition has been passed down, we might live carefully, we might live good if his teachings were right, but still it would not be a firm foundation in which to put our whole lives into, because he died, and he was just another prophet.

But *Christ* is different. Christ is not dead! Christ was resurrected, therefore, we make no mistake in putting our trust, our faith, and our hope in Christ. "Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God."

VICTORY OVER SIN

Another reason why Jesus needed to be resurrected was to give us victory over sin. Romans 6, beginning with verse 1: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." Dear Ones, were it not for the resurrection of Christ, we would be in our sins and we would not have power over them. But inasmuch as Christ died and was risen again, when we're saved we die to sin, and are made alive unto God. Just the same way as Christ was resurrected, we are resurrected, and we are resurrected with power over sin. I know a lot of religious people will take issue with me on that, but I believe the Bible backs me up. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid." I believe that's the end of the matter. "How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" How plain can you get than that? You can't get any plainer on that.

VICTORY OVER DEATH

Another point: The resurrection was necessary to give us victory over death. We're told in I Corinthians 15, beginning with verse 45, about Adam and the second Adam which was Christ, and because Christ was resurrected, then we shall change this corruptible to incorruption. If Christ was never raised from the dead, Beloved, we would have no hope for changing this mortal body into an immortal body. If someone had the doctrine of changing our mortal body into an immortal body, it would be nothing more than a doc-

trine were it not for the resurrection of Jesus. But because Christ was resurrected, we too have a hope of resurrection. I Corinthians 15:45-50, says, "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [which was Jesus] was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that *flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.*" No matter what premillenists might want to say, the Bible says, "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." In other words, Dear Ones, we shall not all die, but we all shall be changed.

Verse 52, "In a moment." When Christ comes, it will be in a moment. Some have a hope of getting right at the last minute, but I want you to know, when Christ comes, it will be in a moment. The very moment He breaks the blue, that condition you're in will be your condition for eternity. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye [in other words, a split second], at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound." Did you know that? The trumpet shall sound. Now, what shall the trumpet sound like? Did you ever think about that? When Jesus comes, somewhere it will be morning, somewhere it will be the middle of the night, and somewhere will be middle of day. You could be in your bed sleeping when the trump sounds, or you could be at work working, or at school at work, or you could be at home in the evening. You could be sitting at breakfast in the morning, but Beloved, I want you to know, when that trump sounds, this old earth is coming to an end. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." Without the resurrection, Beloved, we would have no hope for an eternal home—we would have no resurrection of the dead. But because Christ was risen from the dead, I someday hope to have a brand new body.

THE COMFORTER WOULD COME

Another reason Jesus had to be resurrected was so that He could send us another Comforter. Jesus, while He was here on Earth, was the Comforter of the disciples. We're told in the 14th chapter of St. John that He said to His disciples, "When I go away, I will send you another Comforter." And, Beloved, if He would have stayed in that grave, He could have never sent another Comforter. So because of the resurrection, we're able to have another Comforter in the Holy Spirit. He told the disciples to wait there in Jerusalem until they be endued with power from on high, and they waited, and because of Christ's resurrection, He was able to do what He said He was going to do; He sent them another Comforter. The Holy Ghost fell upon them, and they went out with power, and thousands were saved. Peter and John were able to walk up to the Gate Beautiful there and see that lame man, and say to him, "Silver

and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” And that man got up and walked. Why? Because of the resurrection of Christ. Were it not for that, Peter and John would have never done that. So the Comforter has come because Jesus was raised from the dead. He sent the Comforter.

CONCLUSION

I’ve mentioned a number of things, and a number of reasons why the resurrection of Christ was necessary. I suppose there are many more reasons, but there’s one more I’d like to mention, and that’s this: Christ was resurrected from the dead so that He could judge the world. He is the Judge. Right now, He’s your Savior, Sinner, if you come to Him, but some day He will be your Judge. Sinner Friend, some day He will be *your* Judge. You don’t like to think about that, do you?

Christ was risen from the dead and now sits at the right hand of the Father. Part of the reason why He was resurrected from the dead was so that He could judge the world. I want to tell you, He will judge the world. There are people who will refuse to bow their knees before Christ, but there’s coming a time when every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Christ is Lord. If you won’t do it now, there’s coming a time when you will do it. But if you wait till that time, He will be your Judge and not your Savior. Today is the day of salvation; now is the accepted time.

Christ was raised from the dead. He was raised for our justification and for our sanctification. He was raised to give a firm foundation for our faith. He was raised from the dead, so that *you* could be saved and go to heaven. †

—Reprinted from the April 1999 issue



Photos from the Philippine Conven- tion

Church of God (Universal), Inc.
The Way of Truth
P. O. Box 88
Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088 U.S.A.

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Mercersburg, PA
Permit No. 15

COMING MEETINGS

2024 HONDURAS CONVENTION

Coxen Hole, Roatan

April 2-7, 2024, Lord willing

Sis. Ethlyn Soto, Host Pastor

**2024 INTERNATIONAL
CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION**

Hagerstown, Maryland U.S.A.

July 2-7, 2024, Lord willing

Bro. Gregory E. Tyler, Host Pastor

Revival Services

Essex, Maryland

April 17-21, 2024

Bro. Tim Crooks, Evangelist

Bro. Doug Koerner, Pastor

Hagerstown, Maryland

April 24-28, 2024

Bro. Harley McClung, Evangelist

Bro. Greg Tyler, Pastor

RADIO LOG

The Way of Truth Broadcast

Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

(Aired on Sundays unless otherwise noted.)

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

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

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

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

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

Listen live—tunein.com/radio/whip-1350-s29320/

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

Listen live—Go to www.kfxi.com

Pennsylvania, Altoona, WRKY 104.9-FM, 9:30 A.M.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHORTWAVE

WWCR, Nashville, Tennessee 4.840 on SW band

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

Listen live—Go to www.wwcr.com

WINB, Red Lion, Pennsylvania 9.320 on SW band

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

Listen live—Go to www.winb.com

INTERNATIONAL

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

Heard throughout Jamaica

THE BIBLE STANDARD BROADCAST

Church of God (Universal)

James Arch, Pastor

Radio Cayman

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

Grand Cayman