

The Way of Truth

Vol. 84

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

No. 7



OUR NEED OF COMPASSION

IT APPEARS to me, as I travel through this life in my 73rd year, that society has been robbed of the attributes of basic Christian principles. They have been replaced with selfishness, greed, and pride. I am struck by the lack of compassion. *Compassion* means, “a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.” Some synonyms are “merciful, tenderness, clemency, and sympathy.”

Compassion is a beautiful expression of the Christian experience as expounded in the Bible in the book of Jude verses 20-25: “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.”

We see here that compassion makes a difference by sharing the love of Jesus Christ with others in an attitude of humility in a non-judgmental way. When a woman was caught in the act of adultery, she was brought to Jesus to be stoned. But after the Master rebuked the elders for their hypocrisy, they exited one by one. Jesus asked the woman, “Where are your accusers?” She answered, “No man, Lord,” to which He replied, “Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” He had compassion on her! And, as far as I know, it made a difference upon her. Our compassion on others still has the power to make a difference in lives today!

The Lord Almighty has a heart of compassion that we need to duplicate. Psalm 86:15, “But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.” And again in Psalm 145:8, “The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.”

We are saved through God’s compassion! Micah 7:19 says, “He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”

I am sure my readers are familiar with the biblical story of Jonah the prophet. He was sent by God to preach to the city of Nineveh. Instead he fled from his task. After Jonah was swallowed up by the sea creature which spit him out on dry ground, Jonah finally consented to go and message the people of Nineveh to repent, which they did! This made Jonah mad because God forgave them. This led to God causing a gourd which was giving shade to Jonah to die. This caused Jonah grief, and God was not pleased.

Reading from Jonah 4:9-11: “And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death. Then said the

Lord, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?”

The Master was moved with compassion during His ministry! Matthew 14:14, “And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.” Mark 6:34, “And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.”

Someone pointed out the similarities between Jesus and Paul in Preparation and in Ministry.

Similar Preparation: They had a deep sense of commission, they were well trained by life, they were full of the Spirit and they each had the heart of a servant.

Similar Ministry: Their message was reconciliation to God, they had a worldwide vision, they had a strategy, they focused on basic ministries, they trained disciple makers to carry on the work, they were men of perseverance, they were part of a team, they were men of compassion, and they were men of passion.

It is a fact that if the people who profess Christianity would exercise compassion upon their fellowman, our generation would be greatly improved. It is putting the Bible into action. I Peter 3:8, “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.”

I John 3:17, “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”

Jude 1:22, “And of some have compassion, making a difference.” Compassion always makes a difference! So let us examine ourselves and see how deep we go.

I will close with a challenge for a deeper soul burden. John 4:35 says, “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” How can we stand idly by while souls are dying? Only an absence of compassion could impair us from the task at hand.

I am reminded of a chorus written by the late Sis. Stutzie Craig:

“We have a job to do,
For the world is lost and dying;
Christ will see us through;
On His Spirit we’re relying;
Christ is the world’s great need;
We’ll lift Him up in word and deed.
From the paths of sin we’ll bring them in—
We’ll work and win!”



ABOUT THE COVER

Several pictures from the Hagerstown Convention are displayed on the cover. It was a grand time worshiping God in the unity of the Spirit. This year’s theme was “The Unsearchable Riches of Christ.”

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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

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—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

Our telephone number is 301-739-2980

Our e-mail address is truth@fred.net

Visit our website at www.wayoftruth.org

HAGERSTOWN CONVENTION REPORT

July 1-6, 2025

Theme: "The Unsearchable Riches of Christ"

(From notes taken by

Bro. David Marquiss and Sis. Sarah Arch)

THANK THE LORD we were blessed with His presence during this past convention. Also, we were happy to have visitors from various states and internationally which added to our blessings throughout the convention. Souls were saved, bodies healed, and saints were uplifted and determined to press the battle on. Unity among the ministers and the saints was surely felt during the entire convention.

Prior to the convention, 10 nights of prayer meetings were held as we sought the Lord for His guidance and presence to be with us.

Lord willing, included in each upcoming issue, messages preached during the convention will be included. We trust our readers will be helped spiritually as we share these messages.

Each morning at seven o'clock, prayer meetings were held as we asked the Lord to be with us in each schedule of services. The following saints spoke briefly before we knelt in prayer: *Tuesday*—Bro. Brian Richards; *Wednesday*—Sis. Dorrette Clarke; *Thursday*—Sis. Jodie Crooks; *Friday*—Bro. Oliver Fisher; *Saturday*—Bro. Thomas Harris; *Sunday*—Sis. Andrea Williams.

Below are a few excerpts in *italics* of the messages:

Tuesday—10:30 A.M.—Bro. Doug Koerner: "The Mysteries of Christ." This full-length message begins on page 6.

2:30 P.M.—Bro. Franklyn Bascoe: "The Unsearchable Riches of Christ." Text: Revelation 3:14-18. *A lot of people crave riches and will do anything to get them. The material blessings are for here and are not eternal. It's God intention that we be rich in Him. When Zachaeus received the spiritual riches, the worldly riches were left behind. Only what's done for Christ will last. It is important to ensure that we are rich toward God.* This full-length message begins on page 14.

6:00 P.M.—Bro. Harley McClung: "The Mystery of God's Riches." Texts: Colossians 1:26, 27; Ezekiel 36:25; Revelation 3:20; Matthew 13:10. *A mystery is something unknown. Paul talks about a mystery that has been hidden, but now is revealed to the saints. The mystery of salvation is so unknown to people. Some people believe they've solved the mystery by becoming religious, but it takes a conversion, a new heart, a new spirit. When Christ is in our hearts, He is full of power and enables us to have power, too. We need to know more about God's unsearchable riches.*

Wednesday—10:30 A.M.—Bro. Peter Ramsay: "The Unsearchable Riches of Christ." Texts: Ephesians 3:8; Acts 16. *Paul said he was "less than the least." Humility is one of the characteristics of the unsearchable riches of Christ. Paul was called to preach to the Gentiles. One of the greatest things in winning others is to understand where they're coming from. God has a plan for all of us. Unless we fill our place, we will lose the reward. Sometimes we worship God for what we can*

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get. Job lost everything, but yet he still worshiped God. Stephen was accused of blaspheming God. When he told his accusers that they were the ones who killed Jesus, they started stoning him. We need to be "armed likewise" because we, too, will suffer persecution. Let us pledge allegiance to the Lamb.

2:30 P.M.—The Young People were in charge of this service. Several young people spoke on their chosen theme, "The Value of One." They all did so well in their singing and speaking.

6:00 P.M.—Bro. Doug Shenberger: "The Sparrow." Text: Matthew 10:29-31. *God notes the sparrow that falls to the ground. He is the great I AM. God is from everlasting to everlasting. All-knowing—past, present, future. There's nothing hid from His light. God is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Jesus had compassion on humanity. How do you value yourself?*

Thursday—10:30 A.M.—Bro. Raymond Martin: "Finding Hope in the Unsearchable Riches of Christ." Texts: Romans 12:1-3; Philippians 3:17; Jeremiah 6:16. *We must be an example to the world. They need to see Christ in us. God has standards for His church. We must walk in the good path. A lot of churches in our day are just social gatherings. We all need to go deeper in the things of God.*

6:00 P.M.—Bro. Tim Crooks: "Playing the Fool." Texts: I Samuel 26:21; Acts 5:1-10; Luke 16:23-31; II Kings 11:4-6. *Saul said, "I have played the fool." Playing the fool is making dangerous errors. Life is a stage. We are performing the writer's script—only two writers, and we choose which one—destruction or preservation. You don't know what you'll do if you serve the writer of destruction. You'll do what he says. Saul's life ended in suicide. That's not how he intended to end. Demas had been a help to Paul, but Paul wrote that Demas had forsaken him, having loved this present world. Demas played the fool. Satan is not one to play with. He doesn't care about you. God has a script, a plan for you. He doesn't make empty promises. He will love you and draw close to you. All of us will stand at the judgment. What makes the difference is who was writing the script. There is hope.*

Friday—10:30 A.M.—Divine Healing Service—Bro. David Shaw: "The Cost Is Paid." Texts: Mark 5:6-15; 8:22-25; 10:46. *Jesus came into the world to save and to heal. The demoniac lived among the dead. Society had tried to tame him, but it wasn't possible. Some things require the divine hand of God. But when Jesus passed that way, the healing was done. Jesus spoke with authority and power and commanded the unclean spirit to come out. The woman with the issue of blood was an outcast from society for twelve years. She wanted to touch Jesus and knew she would be healed. She began to press and push through the crowd until she could touch the hem of Jesus' garment. When you touch Jesus, your touch is special. Jesus spoke to her with love, and she was healed immediately! God sometimes tries our faith. The healing may not come right away. It may take endurance.*

2:30 P.M.—Bro. Gary Alwell: "The Unsearchable Riches of Christ." Text: Ephesians 3:8. *I count it a*

privilege and a blessing to serve the Lord. To receive these riches, you have to come to Christ. The riches of salvation and forgiveness are given by Christ. When sin is in the heart, we can't take it out. We have to come to Jesus. Some people try to live the Christian life without being born again. They try, but it is impossible. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." God created us to be happy. It brings joy to Jesus when He sees a sinner coming to Him for repentance. Jesus paid it all and made it possible so that we could have this salvation. When you accept salvation, then you can enjoy the other riches that Christ has to offer.

6:00 P.M.—Bro. Matt Deville: "It Is of the Lord's Mercy." Texts: Lamentations 3:17, 18, 21; II Corinthians 10:4; Micah 7:18. *Sometimes we go through periods when we lose hope. Jeremiah got his mind on God and regained hope. Sometimes we try to figure out things on our own instead of letting God work them out. Mercy means to treat an offender better than he deserves. Satan twists the truth so that people are blind to truth. If God speaks to a heart, that's a guarantee that He will save that person. He longs to have a relationship with us through tough times and tough decisions. God's mercy is beyond our understanding.*

Saturday—10:30 A.M.—Bro. Brian Richards: "Rooted and Grounded." Texts: Ephesians 3:16-19; Proverbs 23:23; Matthew 13:44-46; John 8:32. *Purpose—to comprehend the breadth, length, depth, and height, and to know the love of God. We're strengthened with might by the Spirit. We need a spiritual vision to understand the things of God. We don't have to be up and down, or let Satan beat us down, for there's more that God offers. Strengthened in the inner man—we don't have to be strong physically to have God's power in us. We can all be victorious. The enemy is a liar. If we have an open heart, God will feed and lead us. Strengthened by the Spirit—made stronger through the Word and become grounded. Value your salvation. Buy the truth and sell it not. Do all, sell all to buy the truth. Don't jeopardize your salvation. Protect and nourish it. How do we get rooted and grounded? Spend time in the Word of God. When we value truth, it opens the door to unsearchable riches.*

2:30 P.M.—Bro. Ross Tolbert: "Ye Are the Light of the World." Text: Matthew 5:14-16. *What is the light Jesus is talking about? It's not in us naturally; it only comes from Jesus Christ. When He comes into our hearts, we have a light. As we follow Christ, Satan tries to steal our light. How is our light? We're not meant to hide it under a bushel. God expects us to shine. God wants us to be known as someone who stands for God. Shine the light at work. Don't be afraid. The world needs our light, because we are giving them a chance to see God. When we show our light, something is going to happen. God doesn't want undercover Christians who are ashamed to shine for Him. It's dangerous to cover our light. The Light separates you from the world. Can the world see from my light that there is an almighty God?*

Following this service, a Baptismal Service was held. Nine precious saints were baptized: Sisters—Crystal Gossard, Juliana Gossard, Mary Whorton, Becky Gander. Brothers—Joel Keaton, Ryan Shenberger, Jeremy Duff, Grayson Williams, Joe Gander.

6:00 P.M.—Bro. Ray Hydes: “Sinful Nature versus Sinful Choices.” Text: I John 1:8-10. *Humans have a sinful nature inherited from Adam. But we still can choose between good and evil. Accountability—we take account for what we do and don’t play the blame game. We can choose to serve God. There are only two destinations—heaven or hell. We are born with a tendency toward selfishness and sin, but we don’t have to stay there. Even though humanity is inclined to sin, we are responsible for our actions. Sin is man’s greatest enemy. We need to live so that we can convince the world it is okay to be a Christian. Don’t water down the gospel. A true dose of Christianity will leave you wanting more of God. Live by example. We are all accountable for the choices we make. We should emulate Jesus, not celebrities. There is abundant life in Christ. Salvation is offered to all. God wants us to be ready to meet Him.*

Sunday—9:30 A.M.—Open Sunday school period. Sis. Dorrette Clarke taught the lesson on “Patient in Tribulation.”

10:30 A.M.—Bro. Harley McClung: “The Facts of Life.” Text: Acts 17:22-25. *Life is existence. Look at what God has given us. The people of Athens worshiped. They thought they had it all figured out. Paul perceived how gullible and shallow they were. He saw the inscription, “To the Unknown God.” Do we really know God? Jesus’ own people didn’t recognize Him, but crucified Him. We can’t comprehend God’s greatness. Jesus didn’t treat the facts of life as trivial. He told Saul on the road to Damascus that he was in danger and needed a spiritual awakening. When he saw who Jesus was, it changed him, and he became an advocate for Christianity. It takes effort to really know God. The Word of God gives us the facts of life, for man’s thinking. We have our being through God. Unbelief does not change truth. We can’t change the fact that we reap what we sow. Sin separates from God. Jesus wanted to give the crowds of people the facts of life. Jesus told them He was the Bread of Life. He wanted to give them abundant life. He is the Source of connection to the Father.*

6:00 P.M.—Bro. Donovan Darby: “Everyone Should Know the Unsearchable Riches of Christ.” Text: Ephesians 3:8. *Not everyone can handle riches and keep their affection on God. The riches of the world will come to an end, but the unsearchable riches of Christ will last. They are what we should long for. One of the unsearchable riches is to be forgiven of our sins. It means something to be forgiven of our sins. Freedom is another of the unsearchable riches. Another of the unsearchable riches is being a part of the family of God. Another is spiritual life. Christ raised us from dead works to life, abundant life. Another is being a part of the Church of God, free from sectism and false religion. Unity—one in Christ. Goodness of God—goodness and mercy are on our side. Only the born again will go to heaven. If you’re not saved, you can be born again.*

Once again, we thank the Lord for a successful convention. Our thanks to all who helped in one way or the other. We really appreciated how the young people took on the responsibility of doing so much in the temporal part of the convention as well as the spiritual.



Dear Young People,
Greetings!

This month’s article is a continuation of exhortations given by the young people in a special Sunday morning service. The thoughts were centered on the I AM’s given by Jesus while here on Earth. He was made flesh to bring the truth that

God is, was, and always will be the great I Am!

May you be blessed by the thoughts given by Sis. Makenna Goodyear on “I Am the Light of the World.”

Blessings!

Bro. Doug

“I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”

By Sis. Makenna Goodyear

I would like to start off by reading John 8:12—“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.”

Let’s take a closer look at this verse. It says that Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” When I think of the light of the world, I think of it as the most important light. Something that we cannot do without. If that light were gone, then there would be total darkness. We as humans do not have the ability to see in the darkness physically or spiritually. Physically, when we try to walk in the dark we have to feel around because we cannot see. It is the same spiritually. If we don’t follow Jesus, the true Light, then we will stumble and fall. The rest of the verse says, “He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.” If we make the choice to follow Him, then we shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life. We can’t have that light if we have not given our hearts to the Lord and asked Him for His forgiveness. Plants are examples of being followers of light. They always turn toward the sun. If you move their pot so that they are facing the other way, they will work their way back to where they are again leaning toward the sun. We need to be like these plants. We need to follow Jesus Christ, no matter where we are turned.

Light is used many times in the Bible, demonstrating how important this is to us. For example, at the beginning of Genesis it says that God called for light when He was creating the world. A star was a beacon of light leading the wise men to where Jesus was born. The lanterns in Jesus’ parable of the wise and foolish virgins were forms of light. We need light to survive physically, and God Himself is light. I think a good example of God’s light is of Moses on Mount Sinai. I’m sure we all remember the story. Moses asked God to allow him to see Him. God said that he could not see His face because no man can see Him and live. Then God told Moses to stand upon a rock. Let’s turn to



THE FAMILY OF GOD

THE CHURCH, THE MOTHER

Scriptures: Isaiah 66:8; Galatians 4:26; Psalm 87:5, 6; Acts 2:41, 47.

Isaiah 66:8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Galatians 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Psalm 87:5 And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her.

6 The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Memory Verse: But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.—Galatians 4:26.

Aim: To show that the Church is the mother in the family of God.

INTRODUCTION

THE CHURCH in the Bible is mentioned by different names, such as Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of God, etc. The Memory Verse quoted above states that Jerusalem is the church and that she is the mother of us all. The Scriptures say that when Zion travails she brings forth children. As the natural mother cannot bring forth children without labor, neither can the church, our spiritual mother, bring forth children without effort. The natural family is commanded to be fruitful and replenish the earth; so also must the spiritual family make every effort to bring lost souls into the Church of God.

The new converts are spoken of as babes in Christ and are to be nurtured and cared for as such. "As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby: If so be that ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (I Peter 2:2, 3).

Thus we can plainly see that it is the duty of the church to watch carefully over the newborn babes so that they will grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The church of today is not giving the proper care and concern to the new converts, for too many of them fail to survive the storms and tests of life. No real mother would leave her new baby to battle the elements alone, so the church should not leave the new spiritual babe to grope alone in his new experience. There are some who have that determination that knows no defeat, but the great majority of people will need our help and prayers to see them firmly established in the truth.

Exodus 33:22—"And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in the cleft of the rock and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by." Moses saw God's back. God had so much glory that when Moses came down from the mountain the skin of his face shone with light, just from seeing God's back. And while he talked with the children of Israel, he put a veil over his face.

Just as Jesus came to earth and was a light or an example to show us the way to live, so also we can have a light. Not a light that burns with electricity or fire, but a light that comes from within from following Jesus and serving Him. Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven." And Ephesians 5:8 states: "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light."

Our light, though small, is very important. We must use our light as something to tell others of Jesus. We don't know who our lights could have an influence on, so we must be prepared and have it shining at all times. In a darkroom someone may ask you to turn on the light so they can see. When we do something kind for someone, or when we tell someone about Jesus, we are turning on our light so that others can see. It may just be something small, like a smile or friendly wave to someone you pass when you're out and about. It may just seem like a birthday candle in a huge darkroom, but even a small candle gives light even if it is just a little bit.

We must not hide our light. Luke 11:33 says, "No man when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light." We need to put our light on a candlestick so that the world can see it. If someone wrongs us, we may not want to smile or be kind to them. We might just want to hide our candle so they can't see it. But that person may really need our light. Maybe they are stumbling around in darkness and couldn't see that what they did hurt us. Our light could be just what that person needs to get on the right side of God. Our light could be a glimpse for them of the path they need to take. The chorus "This Little Light of Mine" is a song about our light. One verse says, *Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm going to let it shine.* That needs to be the constant song in our hearts. Constantly we need to be reminding ourselves not to hide our light. Jesus doesn't hide His light.

May each and every one of us never blow our candle out. May we say *no* to the urge to hide it, so that others who see it may be brought to Christ and experience salvation and true happiness. †

OUT OF BOX 88

Good Morning, Friend,

I am so thankful for The Way of Truth. The message, "Just As I Am," I loved and shared it with fellow employees. Please continue with your love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

—L. P., Kentucky

MEDITATIONS

THE CHURCH IN TRAVAIL—Isaiah 66:8—As soon as Zion travailed—We are made to understand from this verse that when Zion (the church) travailed, she brought forth her children. We are told that the world now has a way of measuring pain and that child-bearing is the greatest pain humans have to suffer. This gives us an idea how earnest we must be in praying for souls to see them saved. We have the promise that the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. But we must be fervent, not half-hearted; we must travail with a soul burden to see others saved. This is a wonderful promise, one that we can claim in praying for our unsaved loved ones, or for any soul who needs God.

THE CHURCH, OUR MOTHER—Galatians 4:26—The mother of us all—We are very plainly told by this verse of scripture that the Church of God is our mother. Some might say, “How can that be?” First, we can never have a family without a mother. We are told in Isaiah 66:8 (above) that when Zion travailed, or prayed, she brought forth children, and so it is the church that prays and labors to see souls saved. God calls the church our mother because she labors and works to see us born again; also after we are saved, she looks after us and helps us to grow strong. The church then is our mother, and God is our Father. When souls are “born again,” they are born of the same Father and mother and must be in the same family, the church. This great truth is also brought out in Revelation 12:2, 5, where we are told that the woman (the church) gave birth to a man child (the children of God). Notice also this verse says that Jerusalem is free. Although a Christian may have his name on a sect church book, his soul is free from all sect spirits; otherwise, he could not be a child of God. When he sees the light on the one church, he must come out of Babylon.

BORN IN ZION—Psalm 87:5—Born in her—There never has been a soul born again that wasn’t born in Zion. The Spirit of God will not commit spiritual adultery. Every soul of whom He is Father must and does have the same mother, the Church of God. “And the Spirit [Father] and the bride [mother] say, Come” (Revelation 22:17). Some tell us that we have to see the church before we can be born into the church, but I wonder how many of us saw our mother before we were born. Others would have us believe that we have to be in a Church of God congregation to be born into the church, but such is not the case. Anywhere you feel convicted and yield to the Spirit, right then and there you are born into Zion, the church of the living God. **The highest himself shall establish her**—The Spirit is directed by Christ to convict a soul, and Christ does this to answer the prayers of the church, our mother. The Spirit applies the blood of Christ to the soul, and it is set free from every committed sin.

GOD DOES THE WRITING—Psalm 87:6—When he writeth up—I am glad it is not left to man to add to or remove our names from the church book, but God Himself attends to this job. God writes only the names of those who “were born there.” Only those who have been born of God, our Father and Zion, our mother, are

members of the Church of God. To retain our membership, we must live clean and holy lives every day, for God told Moses, “Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of MY book.” Only those who have their names in the Book of Life shall enter heaven. All church books will be burned up except the one God keeps, and that is the one you should have your name in.

RECEIVING THE WORD—Acts 2:41—They that gladly received—We must receive the Word into our hearts to be saved. David said, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” The Word is Christ, and no one can receive Christ without being born again; neither can anyone receive Christ without forsaking sin. Anyone who has the Word (Christ) in his heart is going to live a holy life. He will not bring shame to his Father and mother, but will bring honor and glory to God. The entrance of the Word gives light. God said in His Word that it pleased Him “through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” After a person has received the gospel, he must then be baptized, thereby giving a testimony to the world that he is through with sin and is going to be a follower of the Lord Jesus.

GOD GIVES FAVOR—Acts 2:47—Having favor—It is wonderful how God can give His people favor even in the eyes of the wicked. When God desires it to be so, a sinner can be a very good, helpful friend. Many times in the Bible we are told how God gave His people favor in the eyes of the wicked. It is God, and God alone, who adds people to His church, and we are led to believe from this verse that—without exception—everyone who is saved is added to the church.

CONCLUSION

We hope that the study of this lesson has enabled you to see the reasonableness of considering the church as the mother in the family of God. As it is the function of the natural mother to bring children into the world, so it is the function of the church to bring forth spiritual children. And as the natural mother cares for her children, so must the church care for the spiritual children. The family of God, or the church, is a wonderful institution when it is functioning as it should under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. It is ordained that those who are older in the faith and well established should lend a helping and protecting hand to the ones who are young in the faith. As Paul exhorts us, “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Who is our spiritual mother? What verse proves it?
2. How is the church our mother?
3. Can anyone be born without a mother?
4. Can two people be born of the same father and mother without being in the same family?
5. Whom did God say He would blot out of His book?
6. How many families does God have? †

THE MYSTERIES OF CHRIST

2025 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Doug Koerner

WE WILL START in Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 1-9: "For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." We'll read verses 4 and 5 again: "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."

Paul is talking here about the mysteries of Christ. One time Jesus prayed, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent." Many people in the world try to figure out the glories and the mysteries and the great things of God, and they can't figure them out by man's wisdom and by man's understanding. It is a gift of God. Paul revealed here that it is a mystery, and it's only given by God. One of the verses in the Bible says, "The angels desire to look into the very plan of salvation." I thank God for the mysteries. I thank God that He's able to reveal some things to us. He's able to reveal His plan of salvation to us. In verse 9, Paul says, "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."

I want to turn over and get one verse of scripture from Ephesians 6. Paul says in verse 19, "And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel."

THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST

Our theme for the convention, as you have read is, "The Unsearchable Riches of Christ." They are the words of Paul. I appreciate the poster that displays the theme. I like that poster. Paul says in verse 8 of Ephesians 3, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Paul mentioned in his own testimony one time, "I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but

by the revelation of Jesus Christ." I thank God for salvation. I thank God for the day He revealed salvation to me. I thank God for revealing the plan. I thank God for the day He came and talked to my heart. When we think about the unsearchable riches of Christ, one of the greatest, I believe, is salvation.

From the very first time when God starts to talk to your heart, speaks to your mind, that's a blessing. As saints of God, sometimes we pray and talk to our loved ones about the things of God. That's what happened to me one day. Somebody gave me a little bit of the Word of God. That seed was planted, and God started to talk to my heart. That was one of the very beginnings of the riches Jesus Christ revealed to me through His plan of salvation.

The second verse of "The Old Rugged Cross" says, *Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me.* Jesus Christ left all the glories of heaven, came to this world, walked among men with one basic purpose only, and that was to die for our sins. I often mention at Easter time that when they took Jesus up to Calvary, there was no need for the men to hold Him down for Him to be crucified. He put His arms out and opened His hands for the nails to be driven in. He allowed them to crucify Him. He no doubt screamed out in pain, but there was no resistance. He willingly did that for you and me.

THE MYSTERIES OF SALVATION

If you're saved this morning, you have the mysteries of salvation. Paul said he received it from no man and neither was he taught it. No one gave you a diploma when you got saved. In our world today, people just want to get baptized and receive a certificate. Sadly, they don't come to an altar and repent. People will leave this world with this hope only in their lives. No understanding of the mysteries of Christ.

We read in II Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." There's something different in our lives. We don't go to some places we used to go. We don't even have the desire for the things we used to do. We don't have a desire to be around certain people we used to be with. Old things have passed away. I believe this is one of the very first unsearchable riches of Christ that people resist. It saddens us. Some people have no desire for the things of God. They have no desire to seek for the things of God.

The thought of unsearchable riches means something that cannot be fully understood or explored by man. We can have some teaching and preaching about the Word of God, but it takes the power of God to reveal truth to our souls. It takes the Spirit of God to do that. It's my responsibility to preach to you the truth, but it's your



responsibility to allow the Spirit of God to talk to your heart. The thought of unsearchable riches meaning *something that cannot be fully understood or explored by man* often refers to God's nature, wisdom, or ways.

Today, I want to look at how we fail or fall short of the riches of Christ because we don't search them out. Because we are human, it is our nature that we not exert ourselves more than we need to in anything of the world. We usually go for the very basics. There are a few people who have excelled in the world of sports. They've gone beyond in that particular sport. Many times, in the physical, we fail to go a little deeper, a little bit further. It's easier to sit in the audience than to be up here on the platform. Most of the time when asked, "Do you have a message?" preachers say, "I do, but I prefer another brother." It's easy to say that.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

We had several people in our congregation at home who sang who normally didn't, and I really enjoyed the song services. I wasn't singing or doing anything at all, so I said to the Lord, "Lord, I really enjoy the singing. Why don't you send some more singers?" The Lord said to me, "What about you?" I realized when God revealed that to me, I couldn't say *Lord, not me*, because that was the Lord speaking to me. I felt I would have gotten into trouble with the Lord if I said no. It's easier for us to ask, "Why doesn't someone else do it?"

I like the little comment Bro. Doug Shenberger mentioned: *When you've done a job really well, we have another job for you to do*. When someone puts himself forward, the next thing you know that person is doing twenty other jobs, and six other people aren't doing anything. We need to say, "Lord, what would you have me to do? Lord, help me to step out of my comfort zone. Use me in whatever way you can use me."

Back to Ephesians 3:8, 9, Paul said, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." Paul said it was a privilege to be able to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ, and I can say "Amen" to that. It's a privilege because the ministry has to eat the Word before it's given to you. I have to study and understand the Word before I can give it to you. Number after numbers of times God has blessed my soul as I studied the Word of God to bring to you. Paul said that it was a privilege to give to you what God gave to him. "The unsearchable riches," he said. Many times people have expressed how they enjoyed hearing a message from God's ministers, but it's the responsibility of the people to seek for the things of God.

Are we blessed when we seek God's face? Let's go to II Chronicles, chapter 16. Verse 9 says: "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars." The first part of this verse is what I want to bring to you: "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in

the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." Do you understand that God desires to bless your soul? God desires to reveal Himself to you in a greater way than what you already understand. As I see this, God is going around and looking, "Who can I bless? Who is going to have faith and confidence and go that extra step to receive some of the unsearchable riches?"

I want to look at my main thought for this morning. Ezekiel 47, beginning with verse 1: "Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles." I want to stop there for just a moment.

STEPPING OUT IN DEEPER WATERS

Ezekiel, having that vision of the holy waters of God, said, "There was a man who took a line and measured out a thousand cubits, and he went out to the waters, and they were up to his ankles." Now, I want you to recognize this spiritually. The list of words underneath the poster of our theme is just a small fraction of God's unsearchable riches. If we could fill this building with posters like that, we couldn't touch the unsearchable riches of Christ. Innumerable unsearchable riches. Have you ever stood in water up to your ankles? Not much of a challenge, is it? Almost no challenge, but if you stood up with water up to your ankles, and you want to go out a little bit further, it can be a challenge. But do you know what we do? We stay there many times instead of going out a little further in the spiritual things of God. We have to learn to lean on Christ. God will bring us to the place where we learn to lean on Christ.

Sometimes we would like to stay on the boat, as it were, like the rest of the disciples when Peter got off. There was a great storm that came up while the disciples were on the water. They were concerned. They saw Jesus walking on the water. They didn't know it was Him at first. Only one person on that boat, Peter, who said, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water." I've read that story many times. Now, if I'm out on a boat in 50 feet of water, and I knew it was Jesus Christ standing out there, I still don't think I would have come out of the boat and walked on water. Think about this now in reality, in the human part. When Peter said, "Lord, if it be you, bid me to come out there," Jesus could have said, *No, Peter, you can't walk on water. Just stay on board. I'll come to you*. But that's not what He said. Jesus said, "Come." He didn't hesitate in saying it. Peter just climbed out of that boat and started walking on the water. None of the other disciples asked Jesus that question. I realized Peter got his eyes off the Lord and started to sink, but he walked on water because Jesus said, "Come." He encouraged him to do so.

I read to you earlier in II Chronicles 16 that God is going to and fro in the whole earth, looking for someone who is saying, "Lord, let me walk on water." He's going to say, "Come." Let us be challenged a little bit. Let us experience some of the very presence of God. Let us experience some of the very precious nuggets that Christ has for His people. The only way we can do that is by getting off the boat sometimes. It's easy to stay in the water ankle deep. It's easy to stay there. God says, "I have some great treasures for you. Are you willing to have greater faith to walk out?" Sometimes faith doesn't always come by just asking.

EXAMPLES OF GOING DEEPER

Paul and Silas were put in jail for preaching the gospel and casting demons out of a woman. We can get discouraged when things don't go like we think they should go. Someone said this to me not too long ago, and I agree with him: "Sometimes we preach and we preach and we preach, and it's like pushing against the wall." Do you know ministers get discouraged? We want to see the results, but God says, "Just keep on preaching." Paul and Silas could have gotten downhearted. They could have questioned, "Lord, why did you allow this to happen?" Sometimes we may go through hard times and blame God. Do you know what Paul and Silas did in jail? They started giving God praise and began to sing praises to God, and He came down and freed them. He not only freed them, but the jailer and his household were saved along with it.

Going that little extra distance, the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment pressed through the crowd. She had a need in her body. She didn't stand in ankle deep water, as it were. She went further by pressing through the crowd to get to Jesus.

We're talking about people who go a little bit further. Ezekiel 47, verses 4 and 5: "Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over." God has experience for every single one of us if we're willing to go a little bit further. I want you to notice in verses 4 and 5, that when he measured out a thousand, "he brought me through the waters."

We don't just go out on our own, so to speak. Peter didn't just go off the boat by himself. He said, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water." Jesus said, "Come." If you say, "Lord, I want to go a little further with you," He will bring you through the waters to the level you're able to be at. If you've only been saved for a couple of weeks, you're certainly not going out on spiritual waters that you can't handle. God says, "I'm going to put you in there by your ankles," and when you're faithful and get a blessing, you'll say, "Lord, I want more." One of the things about being a child of God is that we always want to go further. "Lord, I want to draw a little closer to you. I want some more of the unsearchable riches of Christ"

There are many blessings that God has for His people. How far are we willing to venture? Our days get

busy. Our work schedules get busy. How many times do we stop from time to time and think upon God? How many times do we stop during our busy day? Sometimes it just takes a few moments to say, "Lord, I love you." I understand the Bible says that if we love God, we'll obey Him, but in my own private prayers I say, "Lord, I love you." I've said it out loud. Sometimes we say it silently, but out loud I recognized I told God I love Him.

One morning, during the transition between spring and summer, I walked up to the door to open up for work. I got my key out, stopped, and looked up at the sky. It was pretty up there. I meditated there for a few seconds and looked deep into the clouds, and I said, "Good morning, Lord." The Lord responded back to me, "Why are you looking way up there? I'm not way up there. I'm right beside you ready to go into the shop." That was a small nugget, a small blessing that blessed my soul. I took a few seconds out of my day to acknowledge God. I looked to God and just said, "Good morning, Lord." It wasn't morning to Him. There is no morning to Him, but He was right there beside me. Ask the Lord to help you to go a little further.

THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST

The song "Unsearchable Riches" was written by a lady named Fanny Crosby. She was born in 1820 and died in 1915. Fanny Crosby, at a young age of six weeks, was blind. Her father died when she was six months old, but she didn't allow those things to affect her life. She went on to write many beautiful hymns. This particular songs says:

*O the unsearchable riches of Christ!
Wealth that can never be told;
Riches exhaustless of mercy and grace,
Precious, more precious than gold!*

One of Fanny's famous quotes was, "If I had a choice, I would still choose to remain blind, for when I die, the first face I will ever see will be the face of my blessed Savior."

Our sight is very precious to us. God has designed the eyes to close and open to protect them. If Fanny lost her sight at six weeks old, she never saw a thing. She wasn't old enough to really see and remember. In her entire life, she never saw a tree, the color of a rainbow, the beauty of the birds and animals. She could have become bitter. People become bitter because of an affliction in their bodies, or because of a death of a family member. I thank God Fanny had an understanding of the great riches that were beyond this world. She wrote over 8,000 songs in her 94 years on this earth. I doubt in the 1900s that any worldly song that was written is even sung today. I imagine across our country that the song "Unsearchable Riches" is sung maybe once a week, once a month, at least, somewhere in some congregation because it is a blessing to the souls of people. We relate to it and understand the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Verse four, which I think is the main thought of this song, says:

*O the unsearchable riches of Christ!
Who would not gladly endure
Trials, afflictions, and crosses on earth,
Riches like these to secure?*

Chorus:

*Precious, more precious;
Wealth that can never be told;
O the unsearchable riches of Christ!
Precious, more precious than gold!*

A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

We have to look deeper than the trials we're going through. When we are going through the battles, and it seems that God is not there, we need to look deeper. I think it was Job who said, "I looked north, I looked south, I looked east, I looked west. I don't know where God is, but one thing I know, He knows where I am." That's precious. Sometimes you get discouraged, but you need to be faithful. Put on the whole armor of God. When you've done all to stand, stand.

Let's go to Isaiah, chapter 55, verse 1: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." The first part says, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters."

If there is someone here this morning who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus Christ, who hasn't come to the place of repentance, understand right now you are at the waters. You made a choice to come to the house of God. Jesus is presenting the waters to you. Jesus is wanting to show you His riches and the plan of salvation. Do you have a thirst for the riches of Christ? Having a thirsting for the things of God is a blessing. To bring you to a place of salvation is one of the riches of Christ. I said earlier, one of the greatest riches, I believe, is having God talk to your soul. We sing a song once in a while, "O What a Difference Since Jesus Passed By."

Verse 6 of Isaiah 55: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." If you're not saved, we're going to give you an invitation to come to the waters of life freely. If you are saved, don't be satisfied in just standing in ankle deep water. When was the last time you've knelt in your private prayers and said, "Lord, I want to be a vessel of yours; use me?"

CONCLUSION

Are we going to stay in ankle deep water? "Lord, help me to go out a little further. Help me to go up to my knees in water." Later on, maybe go a little deeper until we get a vision of the things of God. "Lord, I want to go places that are so full that I can swim in the blessings of God." Don't just stand there because we know what happens when we do. We can get stagnant. We could lose our salvation by just being in one place.

My closing thoughts: Can I ask you this question? When was the last time you asked God to use you? Many times we resist being used because we're afraid of what God may ask us to do. God had to bring me to the place where He needed to use me. I had to surrender to Him. He blessed me and helped me. God doesn't allow us to be very comfortable sometimes. He wants us to walk out on faith. God will be with us every step of the way. †

August 2025

WINNING A CROWN

By the
late
C.W. Naylor



Part
VI

Effects on the Mental Constitution

THE EFFECT OF regeneration on man's mental constitution is important. Not only is his mental point of view changed, but the general course of his thoughts run in a different direction. When we are in the valley of sin, the prospect is quite different from what it is when we are on the mountaintop of salvation. Things do not appear the same to us as they did before. Our horizon is widened, and we view things more truly in their relationship to other things. The mind is often strongly affected by the general course of the sinful life. It runs in the channels of sin and upon the things of sin. It delights in the things of the world and of sin. The converted person thinks rather of the things of God and of the things that are pure and noble and uplifting. His thoughts are turned into new channels and upon new objects. The Holy Spirit illuminates his mind, so that many things that were once dark and mysterious now seem plain and clear. He understands the Bible as he could not understand it before. He understands God, and he understands himself. He sees them in a new light. His understanding may be only partial; he may not understand clearly; but things appear quite different from what they did before.

The effect on his reasoning faculties is very marked. He is now in a position where God can reveal to him through his Spirit many truths wholly unknown before, and his reason is quickened so that he may readily understand the philosophy of many things that he did not know before and that he could not understand even when he heard others speak of them. The problems of life have a new meaning to him, and one by one he finds their solution. He finds the laws and purposes of God such as to excite the admiration of his reason and to lead it on to deeper and deeper understanding. Sinners have deified reason and bowed down to and worshiped it, but man's unaided reason is not a safe guide. Too often it has led him astray into bogs from which he could not easily make his way. Reason, under the direction of the Spirit of God, finds its way into the path of truth and rejoices therein.

We may well say that the whole course of man's thoughts, so far as they relate to moral things, is changed. He thinks now as a son of God; he thinks now with his reason illuminated. He delights to have his mind dwell on that which is right and just and noble and good, that which will bless him and his fellows, and that which will please and honor his God.

Effects on the Physical Being

The effect of regeneration on man's physical being must of necessity be less than that on the other parts of his being. Its greatest physical effects are probably obtained through the cessation of injurious habits that the person followed in his sinful days. His natural func-

tions are not affected by regeneration. They are necessary to his being; they are parts, as it were, of his physical being. It does, however, oftentimes have a profound effect upon his appetites, especially such as are acquired and unnatural. In most instances the appetite for intoxicating liquors disappears as if by magic. The same is often true of the appetite for tobacco and narcotic drugs and other unnatural things. However, experiences are not always uniform in this regard. But in all cases where the appetite leads to sinfulness, the grace of God will be found sufficient to overcome it, God himself intervening usually to destroy the unnatural appetite. The effect on natural appetites is less marked. In fact, these are left to be controlled by the mental and moral constitution of man, according to wisdom and to will.

The least that we can say of the work of God in the human nature and being is that it brings us into a place where we can serve God in holiness and righteousness, in a manner that is acceptable to Him and glorifying to His name. We should stop nothing short of this, for nothing short of this will enable us to live a real Christian life.

The Christian Life Babes in Christ

We must not expect to come into the Christian life in a mature state. This is indicated by the figure of being born. We are at first immature in all our spiritual faculties. We comprehend the things in the kingdom of God with the comprehension of a child and not with that of an adult. Our knowledge at best is only fragmentary. Of experience we have nothing at all. Since we have no data from which to draw our conclusions, our views and conclusions will often be imperfect. We may hear others talk and see them act in a way that seems not to correspond to our views. Their more developed reason may make things appear differently to them from what they now appear to us, and things will later appear to us quite differently in many respects from what they do now.

Then, also, we know and understand little of God in the beginning. We must be patient. We must be willing to learn. We must be willing to be taught. We must be willing to grow and develop according to the laws of spiritual development. If we try to hurry things too much, we shall only do ourselves injury. All we need to do is just to live normally, to live and trust and serve God, letting him take care of the growth, not taking thought about it nor worrying over it, but letting it be in his hands and concerning ourselves with the affairs of life that belong to us.

In the natural life the child is subject to many dangers to which an adult is not subject. The same is true in the spiritual life. One of these dangers is that we shall overestimate our strength, shall suppose we can resist temptation, and therefore we may become careless and go into the way of temptation and at last find ourselves entrapped. The Lord taught us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation." The babe in Christ often has need to pray that prayer and to watch lest he does himself enter into temptation. By their unwise people often bring serious temptations upon themselves, temptations that too often they are unable to overcome.

It is wise to keep on the safe side; to keep where we shall not be tempted above our strength. God will help us to overcome those temptations that cannot be avoided; He will see to it that we have grace to meet those if we will trust Him. But if we throw ourselves into a position to be tempted, then we may have too great a battle and instead of being victorious, be vanquished.

Another danger to which young converts are exposed is their liability to be overconfident and undertake things too great for them, things which only more mature Christians can accomplish. When such is the case and they fail in their undertaking, the result is often serious discouragement. Many battles have to be fought because they reach out too far. It is best to wait on God and let Him direct our undertakings. It is best to be sufficiently modest not to push ourselves forward, especially beyond those who are older in experience in the Christian life. Young converts often have more zeal than wisdom, and this zeal often carries them into things that end sadly unless they are careful and unless they are willing to receive and heed advice and counsel. They are too often prone to estimate too highly their own judgments and wisdom, and therefore not to value as they should the wisdom and the guidance of older Christians. The best advice that can be given such an individual is to "make haste slowly."

Another danger is that of becoming exalted, or proud of one's own self, one's abilities, and one's accomplishments. What we do seems to be greater than what others do. We are so likely to place too high a value upon it. This is true especially of the inexperienced beginner. This pride of self is very destructive of spirituality. We cannot prosper if we give place to it, and sooner or later we shall find ourselves far away from God. The wise man said, "Before honor is humility" (Proverbs 15:33). We should therefore, as beginners, be willing to do the little things, and to fill a small place until we grow up to man's stature. Then and then only can we do a man's work.

Still another danger of the young convert is that of being deceived by false doctrines. His judgment is immature, but he often does not realize it, but feels himself capable of determining the truth or falsity of almost anything he hears, and that oftentimes with very little investigation. I have known scores of young converts who started out well, seemed spiritual, seemed to love God, but who, because of negligence in this regard, were led into false doctrines from which they never escaped or from which they escaped at last after much difficulty and with much loss to their spirituality. The Bible says, "Take heed that no man deceive you" (Matthew 24:4), and this is wise advice to every beginner in the Christian race. Prove all things and hold fast only to that which you are assured is the truth and that which other spiritual Christians accept.

There is also much danger of being led into something that will destroy spirituality. Frivolous and foolish conversations, worldly amusements, too much of the society of worldly people, or anything of this sort, is likely to dull the spiritual sensibilities, and to draw the heart away from God. Satan has many traps for the young convert's feet, and he will do well to watch carefully his path and follow only those things which

will tend to uplift and make him better. He must carefully cultivate the tender plants of God's planting in his soul lest they should die from inattention.

Another thing of which the babe in Christ must beware is placing too much confidence in those who may not be worthy of his confidence. There are many who have a form of godliness, even many who pose as teachers, whose private lives are not worthy. There are some who wear the garb of religion who would gladly lead him astray. There are others who are deceived themselves and would lead him into their error. Let him remember that he is but a babe; that he must watch his steps carefully; that he must keep close to God; that he must trust in Him for all things; and that only by this means can he develop into a strong, useful, Christian man. †



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

QUESTION: What is the meaning of I Corinthians 5:5?—"To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." Does this allow a minister in the church to give orders for destroying one who will not obey?

ANSWER: No! No minister has the authority; no true minister would want to have a person killed because he would not obey him. The person Paul was speaking of had committed sin, had relations with his father's wife, and it seems some in the congregation there at Corinth were willing to accept him as a Christian; but Paul makes it clear that the man was not to be fellowshiped. Now I cannot believe that Paul's desire was for the man to be destroyed. It would seem that this was a special case where God had led Paul to place what we might call a curse on him—remember one other time Paul smote a man with blindness, for a season—but the purpose was not evil, but rather to get the man to humble himself, repent of his evil ways, and thus save his soul. The latter part of verse 5 shows that Paul desired this man's salvation as well.

QUESTION: I know that the Word of God does not contradict in any way or condition, but I am asking this question in case I am asked: What do these two portions of the Bible mean—Galatians 4:8-11 and Romans 14:5, 6?

ANSWER: It seems clear from Galatians 4 that some were returning to their old heathen practices, and the days they were keeping were in reference to idols

and the forms of false religion they knew before Paul preached the truth to them. Paul was afraid his labor was in vain because they were doing this. So this was not mere conscience matters.

In Romans, Paul was speaking of those who were sincere, yet held to certain ideas, or personal convictions, which had no real bearing on the soul's salvation. They were not to condemn a brother who did not hold the same personal convictions (verse 13). The two are not the same!

QUESTION: In a previous issue, you answered a question concerning the Lord's Supper. You said at least once a year it should be observed. The Scriptures tell us that on the first day of the week (which we all believe to be Sunday) the apostles came together and broke bread. In Acts 2:42 we are told that the early believers continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread. So I have always thought that the Lord's Supper should be observed every Sunday. Can you please comment on this?

ANSWER: The expression "breaking of bread" does not necessarily mean the "Lord's Supper."

Adam Clarke says, "Breaking of bread was that act which preceded a feast or meal, and which was performed by the master of the house, when he pronounced the blessing—what we would call grace before meal."

You spoke of Acts 2:42, but what about Acts 2:46? "And they, continuing DAILY with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart." Did they observe the "Lord's Supper" every day?

The correct meaning is they went to the temple for daily prayers and then went home, or to the home of a friend, to eat their meal. There is no support that you *must* observe the "Lord's Supper" every week.

QUESTION: Deuteronomy 24:6 says, "No man shall take the nether or the upper millstone to pledge: for he taketh a man's life to pledge." What is your explanation of this?

ANSWER: At the time this law was given, the people had a small hand mill operated by one person. They ground only enough meal for a day at a time. For them to have used these stones as a pledge would have deprived the entire family of their bread. Therefore, they were forbidden to take from another this mill as a pledge, even if the owner offered it! This was so necessary to the life of the family that it is termed "a man's life."

QUESTION: Can you please explain Ephesians 5:12, "For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret"?

ANSWER: Back in verses 3-5 we read, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient [suitable]: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

In Romans 1 we read, "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own

hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet [due]" (Verses 24, 26, 27).

In light of these verses, I would think Paul was speaking in reference to immoral actions, especially homosexual sins.

QUESTION: Ephesians 4:9 says, "Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?" Where did Jesus descend to?

ANSWER: We understand Paul to say in this verse that Jesus came to earth in His incarnation, that He died, rose again, and then ascended back into heaven. The expression, "lower parts of the earth," could mean His time in the tomb. †

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



EARLY

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

MY MOTHER was an early riser. She got out of bed every morning at 4:30 to begin her day. Some mornings she would go to the basement, put a load of laundry into the washing machine, and then sit down on a chair beside it to read her Bible. Other days, before beginning any task, she would seat herself in her recliner in the living room, pick up her big Bible, and begin to read. She especially loved the stories in the book of Acts, because they told of how the apostles traveled from place to place, establishing the kingdom of God on the earth.

We children were amazed at our mother's endless store of energy. She arose in the morning before we did, and she was still working on one task or another when we told her goodnight and went to bed.

As we grew older and left home to live our own lives, our mother continued her industrious ways. She found the time to do her own work, and to come and help us with our work, too. If we told our mother we needed to start a task at 8:00 in the morning, we could be sure her little blue car would pull up at our house at least ten minutes before 8:00. She was never late.

Our mother was even more punctual when it came to worship time at church. If the service was to start at 7:00 P.M., our mother would pull into the church parking lot at 6:45 P.M.—if not earlier.

That is why we were alarmed when our mother was not in her pew one winter evening when the church

service began. We checked the restrooms, but she was not there. We called her house, but no one answered. This was before cell phones came into common use, and so we could not call her personal phone to see if she was stranded somewhere in her car.

Two of my sisters decided to drive to my mother's house to see if she had fallen, or was in some kind of distress. Those of us who remained at church requested special prayer for our missing mother. We had just sat down from making the prayer request when the church door opened and my mother walked in. She was embarrassed because she was late, and she was surprised that her wellbeing was the subject of public prayer.

"Where have you been?" we asked our mother once she had taken her seat.

"I just woke up," she told us. "I got here earlier this evening—before the doors were unlocked. It was chilly outside, so I stayed in my car. I must have fallen asleep."

Because it was a winter evening, the sun had already set, and no one had noticed my mother's car among all the others in the parking lot. She was sitting in it with her head leaning back against the headrest, and so her profile was not immediately evident.

We were so relieved that our mother was all right, we didn't know whether to laugh or cry. We did a little of both.

"Maybe in the future, you won't leave your house so early to come to church," we told her. But the incident did nothing to change my mother's ways. She continued to be among the first to show up at church every time there was a service to attend.

Being early instead of late is a good habit to cultivate. For more than 400 years, people in the English-speaking world have been fond of saying, "The early bird gets the worm." This proverb is about the habits of birds, but its meaning applies to the habits of people. The first birds to wake up have a greater chance of finding worms than other birds do. In the same way, people who arrive early have a greater chance of getting what they need before supplies run out. Their lives will be richer than the lives of those who consistently lag behind.

This is true in people's spiritual lives, as well. Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 8:17, which says, *I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.* Children, you are not too young to seek after the Lord and His wisdom. Children who decide to wait until they are grown up before they seek the Lord often encounter distractions that keep them from ever seeking God at all.

The Bible tells us that we should remember our Creator in the days of our youth. To "remember" God means to search for Him. It means to think about Him, learn about Him, and follow His commandments. God has said that we will find Him if we search for Him with all of our hearts.

Remember to seek God early in your life—while you are still young. The Bible promises you a life filled with peace, joy, and contentment if you do.

Activity

Which prophet recorded the promise that we will find God if we search for Him with all of our hearts?

Answers to Last Month's Activity

1. **Joseph** forgave his siblings, even though they were very unkind to him.
2. **Miriam** watched over her brother to keep him safe from Pharaoh's soldiers.
3. **Joshua** declared that he and his whole family would serve the Lord.
4. **Hannah** gave her son to the Lord, but loved him so much she brought him a new coat each time she visited him.
5. **Ruth** refused to leave her mother-in-law, but cared for her as a true daughter would have done. †

THE POETRY PAGE

WIT'S END CORNER

Anonymous

Are you standing at "Wit's End Corner,"
Christian, with troubled brow?
Are you thinking of what is before you,
And all you are bearing now?
Does all the world seem against you,
And you in the battle alone?
Remember—at "Wit's End Corner,"
Is just where God's power is shown.

Are you standing at "Wit's End Corner"?
Then you're just in the very spot
To learn the wondrous resources
Of Him who faileth not;
No doubt to a brighter pathway
Your footsteps will soon be moved,
But only at "Wit's End Corner"
Is the God who is able proved.

THE WEAVER

Author Unknown

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

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

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

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

GOD'S SUSTAINING GRACE

Christine Welds

We all have numerous problems,
Some great and some quite small;
But God's sustaining grace
Is still sufficient to outweigh them all.

His matchless and sustaining grace
Is more valuable than diamonds or pearls,
And He will bring you out victoriously,
Makes no difference in what part of the world.

We read of how God's sustaining grace
Was good enough for Paul;
And throughout all humanity
It's still sufficient for one and all.

I NEED HIM

Eunice L. Crowell

Ofttimes I'm in need of a Savior
To help me o'er life's dreary road.
I find this great help in my Jesus;
He's promised to carry my load.

I need Him each day and each minute;
Without Him, I surely should fall.
My life all alone would be empty;
On Him I must constantly call.

I need Him when Satan would tempt me;
He then is my comfort and stay.
He's promised to help 'mid temptation;
For, lo, He'll be with me always.

I need Him to help me surrender
My time, and my talents, my all.
He helps me to make this decision;
He helps me to answer His call.

I need Him when I'm disappointed,
To work it all out for my good.
No doubt it will be His appointment;
He knew best, and He understood.

I'll need Him till life's work is ended,
Till I go to meet Him in death.
I'll need Him while crossing the river;
I'll need Him until my last breath. †

**"I need Thee, O I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee."**

THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST

2025 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Franklyn Bascoe

I WILL BE speaking along the line of the theme, “The Unsearchable Riches of Christ.” You know, there are a lot of people who crave riches, and a lot who would do anything to get rich. The Bible tells us that God gives power to get wealth. There are some persons who desire to get rich, but not everybody can handle wealth. But if God permits you to become wealthy, He does that for a purpose, and not many people who become wealthy fulfill the purpose of God. We’re not talking about that kind of wealth this afternoon. We’re talking about the unsearchable riches of Christ. But how can we talk about the unsearchable riches of Christ without mentioning the material riches of this world?

There are times when people get material riches and spiritual riches confused and think because they have some of this world’s goods that they are wealthy. They think, *well, this is it. I am so blessed.* I often hear people talk about how they are blessed, referring to material blessings, but all of these material blessings are for here and now.

I want to draw your attention to a passage of scripture from the book of Revelation, chapter 3, verses 14-18: “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”

Here is a prime example of persons, because of their material possessions, thinking *this is it*. This is one of the congregations that John received the revelation from God to give to them. This was their condition. They were in a state where they had prospered materially. They took comfort in that. They said, “We are rich. We have need of nothing.” I think this is a very sad state to be in. There are a lot of persons, even today, that feel the same way. Because they’ve been afforded material things, they think, *well, I don’t need anything. I can buy whatever I want. I can go on a holiday trip if I want to, so I don’t need anything.* But hear the Word of the Lord to this congregation: “Thou knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” This was their spiritual state.

Jesus Himself said, “Man shall not live by bread alone.” There is a spiritual side which needs attention, even more than the physical side. To the spiritual side, those people gave no thought, because the material side

was fine with them. Life is about balance, and the Bible says, “God hath given us richly all things to enjoy.” It isn’t wrong to have some wealth if we have it, and we gained it in the right way, but we need to remember God. God needs to have first place in our lives.

Here we see these people taking comfort in their wealth, but thank God, the Word came to them. The writer said, “I counsel thee to buy of me gold [truth] tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment [righteousness], that thou mayest be clothed.” It is God’s intention that we be rich in Him. Those are the best riches to have. The same words are for us today. We need to be clothed in righteousness. These are some of the unsearchable riches of Christ.

There’s a line in the song “Unsearchable Riches” that says: *Pearls that the poorest may wear.* I like that line. Even the poorest can wear the pearls of the unsearchable riches of Christ. Listen, when we have these unsearchable riches, they are going to be manifested in our lives. They’re going to show in our attitudes, too. They’re going to show that we are wearing these pearls.

I thought about Stephen as he was being stoned to death because of his testimony of Jesus Christ. This wasn’t anything natural. This was something supernatural that a man who was under the shower of stones could wish his enemies well. This is not something that a man can do of himself. If Stephen wasn’t wearing those pearls of the unsearchable riches, he would have had a revengeful heart. He would have wanted revenge, but because he was possessed with those kinds of riches, he said, “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.” Because of this, I believe it had an affect on Saul, because he was consenting unto Stephen’s death. Saul was a highly religious man as well, but he did not have these qualities. He knew what he would have done if he were in that state. But here is Stephen under the shower of stones wishing his enemies well. The Bible says that when the Lord appeared to Saul, He said, “It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.” So when we are adorned in the unsearchable riches, our lives will have an affect on the people we come in contact with.

We can think about a lot of persons who have gained the unsearchable riches. The Bible talks about Zacchaeus. Materially, he was rich. The Bible says that he was rich. There are a lot of rich persons who will not admit that they are rich, but since the Bible says this man was rich, he was rich. Zacchaeus sought to see Jesus who He was. The Bible says he could not because of the crowd, but he had an idea. He wanted to see Jesus. Listen, if we want to see Jesus enough, we’re going to do something. We’re going to find a way. We’re going to put forth some effort. Jesus isn’t going to fall



in our lap and we sit unconcerned about Him. But if we'll seek Him, we'll find Him.

Zacchaeus ran ahead of the crowd, and he climbed up in a tree. I often picture him by faith. He had no idea that Jesus would look up. Maybe he thought the crowd would just pass, and he would get a glimpse of Jesus. But Jesus knew. If we want to see Jesus, He knows about that. The Bible says that Jesus stopped under the tree and looked up. He called his name. He didn't have to ask the crowd, *What is this man's name? Does anybody know him?* Jesus knew his name. He said to Zacchaeus, "Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house." Zacchaeus came down and received Jesus joyfully.

We have often heard people say, "You know, I wasn't ready to be a Christian. I was forced." If we can't receive Him joyfully, we're not saved. Zacchaeus received Jesus joyfully. Because he received Jesus, it brought a change in him. We cannot receive Him and be the same. We will never be the same, and it doesn't take a period of time before that change comes about. Immediately, after Zacchaeus received Jesus, there was a change. He said, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." Because he had received the unsearchable riches, the temporal riches were not the most important thing to him. There was something Zacchaeus received that he valued more. Therefore, it didn't hurt him to give away half of what he had. Jesus didn't tell him to do it, but the change that was wrought in him caused him to do it. The Bible says, "By their fruits ye shall know them." Right away, Zacchaeus started bearing fruit. There was a change. He knew very well that he had taken some things, but he wanted to give back. He wanted to make it right. When Jesus comes into our hearts, we want to make our wrongs right. Jesus saw Zacchaeus' heart. He said, "This day is salvation come to this house." Thank God for the change. The unsearchable riches of Christ.

There is so much in regard to the unsearchable riches of Christ. Paul wrote to Timothy giving him some instructions. I Timothy 6:17-19: "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." If we become rich it is because God allowed it. He has given it to us to enjoy. Riches are not a sin. But Paul said to Timothy, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded." It takes the grace of God to humble ourselves. There is that pride in man, and if God does not keep us in control, it is easy to be lifted up with pride. We have to be humble.

Listen, Paul said in I Timothy 6, "Uncertain riches." Riches can be in your hand today and tomorrow they are gone. They fly away. They're taken away from you. But the unsearchable riches of Christ are not uncertain. When we leave this earth, we don't leave them behind. Death comes to the rich as well as the poor. It comes to all. The Bible says, "A man's life consisteth not in

the abundance of the things which he possesseth." If you have plenty, you're going to die, and if you have little, you're going to die. That is something to be mindful about. Paul told Timothy in this very chapter, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

I have heard that there are persons who requested that when they die, a certain amount of money must be put in their casket. I was conducting a funeral once for a man who lived in my community. He wasn't saved. While the casket was being lowered, people were throwing money into his grave. I said, "What a waste!" Maybe this man needed some of that very money in his lifetime. I knew him. He was poor, but here money was being thrown into his grave. Yes, the Bible says, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." As much as was being thrown into his grave, he carried nothing out. These are uncertain riches. If you have a lot, you're going to die and leave them.

Let's look at Luke, chapter 12. We'll start at verse 16: "And he [Jesus] spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods." That wasn't a bad idea. That was good planning. What a waste it would have been if he had all these fruits and had nowhere to store them! Yes, he could have given them to the poor, but he didn't consider that. He wanted to store them up. Here is where the rich man went off line: "And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry."

We don't know how long our lifespan will be. One songwriter wrote: "May He find me in my place when my King shall call for me." There's a sister back in our congregation that is up in age. She's 90+. We went to visit her, and we were singing that song. She said, "I don't why Jesus doesn't call for me." She wanted to go, but I told her she'd have to wait until He called for her. That is a sign of someone who's prepared to go.

Again, we see in Luke 12 that the rich man was making plans. "I'm going to have goods laid up for many years. I'm going to take my ease, eat, drink, and be merry." How sad! The Bible says, "But God said unto him, Thou fool [There are still a lot of fools in the world today.], this night thy soul shall be required of thee [Maybe he might've gone to his doctors and passed a good report of health. Doctors tell people that all the time. There are times when doctors give people a certain time to live, and they pass that time. Doctors don't know, but when God says, 'This night,' it is this night.]: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" People can't come from the dead to see who has possession of their possessions.

Listen, we have a limited time here on Earth, and we don't know how long our lives will last. There's a part of a song that says, "I don't want to leave this earth with an unfinished task." I believe God has given all of us a task and has given us limited time. I believe if we waste our time, we will not complete that which God

has given us to do. Reading from what Paul wrote to Timothy in his last letter, he said, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only [Paul wasn't selfish.], but unto all them also that love his appearing." We are included if we don't waste our time. Our task is not yet finished. Paul said, "I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." This tells me then that the task we've been given to do, we only have a certain time to finish it. Paul was certain he was finished. God allowed him to know that his time was at hand. Not many people get to know if their work is finished and their time is at hand.

The rich man in Luke 12 gave no thought about laying up treasures in heaven. We must be careful that we don't do likewise. Verse 21 says: "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Listen, it is important that we insure that we are rich toward God. We have treasures in heaven. In Matthew 6:19-21, we read: "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: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." So we need to lay up treasures in heaven. How do we lay up treasures in heaven? By doing the will of God and by doing what He says.

The lawyer in Luke, chapter 10, asked Jesus a question: "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus told him, but He also told him the second to that is to love thy neighbor as thyself. The lawyer was willing to justify himself, saying, "And who is my neighbor?" and Jesus gave him a story. But before I continue Jesus' story, I was saying to someone quite recently: how we treat one another is so important to our salvation. There are some persons who are really, really unkind to other human beings, but yet they believe they're on their way to heaven. What a disappointment!

So Jesus told the lawyer about a certain man who was on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among thieves. He was wounded and left half dead. A priest came along who was supposed to be a representative of God, but he passed by on the other side. The Levite came along. He looked on him, and passed by on the other side. Here came the Samaritan. He stopped and saw that there was life in the wounded man. He bound up his wounds. He didn't leave him there, and say, *Maybe somebody else will come and take you up. I don't have time to put you on my beast and carry you.* He put him on his donkey and brought him to an inn. The Samaritan didn't know the wounded man. We don't have to know someone who needs help. The Bible says, "He [the Samaritan] took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee." Jesus asked the lawyer, "Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?" He answered, "He who

showed mercy on him." Then said Jesus unto him, "Go, and do thou likewise."

We have some work to do. I often think, *how is it that we are on our way to heaven, and we can't get along with a brother or sister?* But we sing, "We shall have a grand time up in heaven." We need to start having a grand time right here. We need to settle our differences and work them out. The Bible says, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men," especially when it pertains to the brethren. There are people in this world who don't want any peace. We have a man in our community who said, "I don't want anyone from that church to call to me." He's so bitter in himself. He hates me very much. Some have asked him, "What did he do to you?" He couldn't say.

Jesus said, "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you." Sometimes if we're not careful, we'll waste time marveling. Jesus said, "Don't marvel." It happens, and it will happen, but we have a responsibility to love them. Jesus said, "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you." If we get an opportunity to do good to them, do it, because we have the unsearchable riches Christ talks about.

Paul said it was given to him the responsibility to preach the unsearchable riches to the Gentiles. We still have that task today. Cornelius was a Gentile, but somehow he knew about the Lord, even before he was fully informed. By the qualities he had and the things he did, he must have been saved. The Bible says that Cornelius was a just man. "A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway" (Acts 10:2). How could a man with sin in his heart do this? None. Yes, I believe Cornelius was saved. He was a just man, but the Lord wanted him to know more about Him.

We can never know too much about the Lord. We want to know more. One songwriter wrote: "More about Jesus would I know, More of his grace to others show; More of His saving fullness see, more of his love who died for me." We need more of Jesus. The Bible says, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

The unsearchable riches of Christ—pearls that the poorest may wear. It's something to put on, something to wear. A songwriter wrote:

*Are you adorning the doctrine,
The glorious doctrine of God,
Walking so holy before him,
Following where he hath trod,
So when the world looks upon you,
Nothing but Christ is in view?
So when the world looks upon you,
Nothing but Christ is in view?*

When we are clothed and have found the unsearchable riches of Christ, they are something more than gold. A songwriter referring to Zacchaeus wrote this: "A certain man of whom we read, Who lived in days of old, Though he was rich, he felt his need of something more than gold." I like the words of that song. "O yes, my friend! There's something more, Something more than gold; To know your sins are all forgiven is something more than gold." The Lord bless you. †

THE SECRET OF A LIVE CHURCH

BY THE LATE W. H. HUNT

SINCE THE LIFE of a congregation is dependent upon its membership rather than upon its name, size, or location, it follows that the life of the members is a very essential factor in its power and usefulness. A nominal membership in some local congregation is of little consequence, does not contribute to the church as a living organism functioning in the world for the moral and spiritual regeneration of mankind. Someone has said, "Without the soul, divinely quickened and inspired, the observances of the grandest ritualism are as worthless as the motions of a galvanized corpse." In other words, it is utter folly for any group of individuals to bear the name "Church of God," believe in the doctrines of the Bible, and fail to be quickened into a life that is more than a mere mechanical expression of a dead profession of religion. Each individual needs an experience that will energize the soul and quicken the life into an ever restless passion for the redemption, regeneration, and restoration of man to God.

And what is this life-giving agency? There is probably no more concise and truer answer to be given than that found in Acts 1:8: "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." The word *power* is in this case indicative of the spiritual life which was to characterize the future activity of this newly-founded church.

There are very few professed Christians who have not heard about the Holy Ghost, and most of them have read about Him; some have even written about Him. But too few have an intelligent knowledge of His attributions, offices, and relations to the individual life and to the church. It is an evident reality that to many He is not in actual existence, nor do they know Him as a personality of the Godhead.

The first work of the Holy Ghost is to impart life to the soul. He is the giver and the sustainer of spiritual life. Where there is no life, there can be no power. D. L. Moody said, "When the Spirit imparts this life, He does not leave us to droop and die, but constantly fans the flame."

Far too many are attempting to do the work of the Lord without the vitalizing power of the Holy Ghost, and thus the church is being constantly vexed by those who depart from the truth or seek to modify it to suit their own materialistic philosophies. One of the cunning arts of powerless leaders in the ranks of the church is to reason away the plain statements of the Scriptures, or to rearrange and interpret them to substantiate some peculiar, personal opinion rather than to readjust their own thinking to the truths plainly stated in the Holy Scriptures. The church is being weakened and the cause of the kingdom of Christ is being retarded by another class of would-be leaders who are void of the life that the Holy Ghost imparts, but for fear of losing prestige among the brethren and for fear of losing their much-coveted position they are attempting to teach and practice the truth without believing it.

If the description were applicable to all the saints, then the world would be hopelessly doomed, and the church would soon become so confused in its belief and religious practices that no clear vision could be maintained and no certain standard of living would be presented to the people. But praises be to God for the Holy Ghost given today to all who are truly Christians and wholly sanctified to the service of the Master! From time immemorial the Holy Ghost has guided man back to God and maintained a wholesome fellowship between all who belong exclusively to Him. Holy men of all ages have spoken the message of the Lord to the people as the Holy Ghost gave them utterance. Thus did the prophets of old guide the people in the ways of the Lord. The early church challenged the strong paganistic philosophy of its day. Mighty men of God, through the life given by the Holy Ghost, have since then been leading the people of the Lord in the restoration of the gospel to the world. The same Holy Spirit that inspired the prophets of old and qualified the apostles of Christ, continues to animate, guide, and empower all who will receive Him.

To the real Christian the personality of the Holy Spirit is more real than any theory, scientific or otherwise, which is based upon the constantly changing inferences of human observation. Yes, the Holy Spirit is as real to that person as the Word of the Lord itself. Jesus said: "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). Paul said: "The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life" (II Corinthians 3:6).

All Christian teaching and preaching, when divorced from the Holy Ghost, become mere trappings of the dead. D. L. Moody said, "Like the Eternal Son, the Eternal Spirit having life in Himself, is working out all things after the counsel of His own will, and for the everlasting glory of the tribune Godhead." We become powerful in the ministration of the things that pertain unto the kingdom of God when we have been quickened by His Holy Spirit. Enthusiasm, eloquence, and perseverance are worthy characteristics in the Christian, but the life of the Holy Spirit is imperative if we would succeed in being the light of the world or the salt of the earth.

The church without the Holy Ghost is a dead institutional affair, and can never meet more than mental and material needs of the people. Men and women without the Holy Ghost can never rise above nominal professors of religion. But when quickened into life and endowed with gifts by the Holy Ghost they become mighty in the hands of God to the pulling down of the strongholds of Satan and the redemption of mankind from the ruinous powers of sin. When filled with the Holy Ghost, saints become lively stones in the building of God, and the church becomes a living organism against which the powers of sin and darkness become defeated foes. The church against which the powers of hell shall not prevail is the church made alive by the presence of the Holy Ghost. †

—Reprinted from June 1990 issue

"I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead."—Revelation 3:1b.

HOW DOES GOD LOOK AT US?

Radio Message by Bro. James Arch

I WILL BE drawing most of the thoughts from Psalm 103, and I'd like to ask a question: "How does God look at us; that is, the human family?" What a question! Although I'm not going to read the whole Psalm, I'd like you to bear in mind, as I go down through this message today, a few of the words that are taken from verse 2, which says "forget not all his benefits."

I'll be reading from verse 8 down to verse 17: "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plentiful in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children." The word *fear* in verse 17 should be interpreted to mean, "reverence and honor to God; to respect God."

A man by the name of Jack M. Scharn wrote, and I quote: "If God can plan a universe and spin Earth's globe in place, direct its path, control its course with regal rule and grace, He's surely planned a path of life so man won't be alone. Yes, He directs and charts life's course across the vast unknown." (End of quote).

Quite often we sing this song in the church services. It says—

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms!
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms!*

*O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms!
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms!*

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms!*

*Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Of course, that song seemingly is based on the verse of scripture taken from Deuteronomy 33, where it says: "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the

everlasting arms." What a wonderful thing it is to be able to sit down for a few minutes on a Sunday afternoon and think about the Lord and meditate a little bit about God and what He has done for us and what He's continuing to do for us, and thank Him for His blessings.

Psalm 103 is a Psalm of David. The theme of this Psalm is the enduring goodness of God. The theme has been developed into four main parts—

Number 1: *a self-exhortation to praise God for blessings personally received.*

Number 2: *gratitude for God's fatherly goodness to the Israelites and all of us.*

Number 3: *a reflection on God's enduring faithfulness in contrast to man's passing life.*

Number 4: *an exhortation to the heavenly host and the created world to praise the God of the universe.* What a mighty God we serve!

The Psalmist called on his total personality to praise the Lord. If you'll notice, he says "my soul." The mercies received were abundant, both in the material and in the spiritual sense. Of course, the world is still passing through very difficult times because of the situation that is existing. However, the Lord has promised to see us through. The Bible says, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

We live in a world of variety. Every country looks different. Everywhere you go it's different. What a world, what a universe, what a globe we have! I haven't traveled to many far places in the world, but I've seen some. Every place is different. Some countries are so amazing with their creation, God's created work: the grass, the hills, the trees, the rivers, the animals, and all of these things we take for granted every day, God created all of these. It's amazing. Not only that, no two people are alike. But one thing we all share alike, and I'm not going to leave it out because it's a fact of life: we will pass this way but once.

It doesn't take long in life to discover that there is an enemy of our souls, although so many don't seem to believe it these days, but there is a real enemy of our souls. He's one who delights in keeping us far from God or as far from God as possible. It doesn't take long either to learn that there is a God, One who delights in giving us everything to live for. In fact, the Bible tells us that He giveth us richly all things to enjoy.

God made us twofold human beings: spiritual and physical. We are told of that in the Scriptures. The Bible tells us that very clearly. God made man a physical being. He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. Mankind had a relationship with God. He was placed in paradise, where there was no evil, no sin, no wrong, no sickness, no disease. Everything was clean and pure, but because the first pair that God created failed Him, they lost that holy estate with God. This brought sin upon the whole world.

Jesus taught that living for the temporal world only would be very profitless. If you'll look into the sixth chapter of Matthew, you will see in verse 25, "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" So true. Life means a lot

more than the things we see in the material sense. God sent Jesus into this world to make us what we could never be alone. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17). We don't hear that scripture quoted too many times, but that is a fact. Sin had already brought condemnation, and we needed to be delivered.

How does God look at us? So many times we're so worried about what people think about us. Nothing wrong with that. It's good to have a good name. The Bible teaches that. It's good to know that people have a good view of us, but how does God see us? The Bible says that He has higher thoughts than our thoughts. God is not like man. He never errs. He never makes a mistake. The Bible tells us in Isaiah 55:8, 9, "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." We can't fully comprehend the great mighty God of heaven, the Sovereign of the universe.

As human beings, *God sees us in need of a Savior.* The Bible tells us that all of us have taken the wrong path. That's why Jesus came. He came to save us from sin and to deliver us from that life that we couldn't deliver ourselves from. It's a wonderful plan. Do you remember the story of Zacchaeus? As he was in the tree, Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house" (Luke 19:5). "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

God sees mankind as potential for service in His kingdom. He looked at a man who was fighting against Him and the Christians as he was going along the road. God spoke to him in a very extraordinary way. His name was Saul. After that, he was called Paul. God did something for him and changed his life. He turned him around. Paul fulfilled a life of Christianity. After that, Paul was able to say, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." God saw the potential in him. Regardless of how much potential we might have, we have to give it to God. We have to avail ourselves to Him.

God sees us through the eyes of unconditional love. John said, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1). We sing a song from our hymnal which says: "I am so glad that our Father in heav'n, Tells of His love in the Book He has giv'n, Wonderful things in the Bible I see; This is the dearest, that Jesus loves me." He cares for you, My Beloved Friends.

God sees us as recipients of His transforming grace. Go back to the text I read earlier—Psalm 103. Verse 10 says, "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities." It doesn't matter what the degree of sin might be or the depth of sin might be, God can change our lives. That doesn't matter to God. God sees us for who we are. A lot of people believe they must clean up their lives before they come to God. No! When you come to God, He'll clean up your life. That's what He does.

God sees us through the eyes of mercy. I read about it from the text a while ago. "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children" (Psalm 103:17). Verse 11 says: "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him." What a Psalm!

God sees us through the eyes of forgiveness. Do you know that when God forgives, He forgives completely? When God forgives us, we as Christians have to forgive others. Otherwise, we won't make any spiritual progress. That's the Bible. There is no such thing as an unforgiving Christian. It cannot happen. The Bible says in verse 12 of Psalm 103: "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." I'm reading the Bible. This Psalm is one of my favorite Psalms. I use this all the time in funerals as well.

God sees us through the eyes of sympathy. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him" (Psalm 103:13). All of you who are fathers know how pitiful it is when those little children come around wanting some little thing, and it's so hard not to give it to them. That's the way it is. That parental feeling and love for those little children.

The Bible says, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." All of us are God's by the right of creation. We are valuable enough that He sacrificed His Son for us. I Peter, chapter 1, verses 18 and 19: "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."

God sees us as eligible for a better home. Some people have it real rough in this world today. Let me tell you something, Friends, some people really have it rough. I tell the church here all the time, we should be down on our knees thanking God day and night for His blessings. This church building should be packed with people giving God thanks and glory all the time for what He has done for them.

Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." So don't worry too much if you don't have too much materially down here. You'll have something better up there. It doesn't pay to have too much, I tell you the truth. People can't handle prosperity sometimes. They even forget God, and when God blesses them and gives them more than they had before, they leave God out of their lives. That's when they need God.

God wants us to embrace the opportunity here to make our heavenly home. I Corinthians 2: 9, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Thank God for the love of God and for His condescension to men of low estate. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). †

MISSIONARY PAGE

JAMAICA CONVENTION REPORT

(submitted by Sis. Grace Ramsay)

Church of God (Universal)

Cornwall Mountain, Westmoreland, Jamaica

March 4-9, 2025

Host Pastor: Bro. Peter Ramsay

Theme: *"Eternity! Two Roads, Which One Are You On?"*

Scriptures chosen as part of the theme: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19). "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13, 14).

This year marked seventy-five (75) years since this work started here. Bro. Peter Ramsay is the congregation's third pastor, while Sis. Ruth Cummings who succeeded Bro. Edward A. Brown is still alive. She served as secretary, Sunday school teacher, and deaconess for decades.

The lovely moments spent in prayer meetings were indeed a blessing. Those in charge were namely: Bro. Tracey, Sisters Enid Jones, Hyacinth Goodlitt, Sônia Golding, and Molly Darby.

Here is a synopsis of each general service:

Tuesday—7:00 P.M.—Our opening Evangelistic Service. Speaker: Bro. Peter Ramsay. Excerpts: *We are in our convention. God is faithful. He turns us around. The Bible says that every prospect pleases God, except man. Jesus is precious to me. We boast about what we have, but it's only what's done for God that will last. It is God who is keeping us. What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his soul? Our records have been written up. Eternity is real. Ezekiel 33:14 says that the day you turn to God, your sins will be forgiven, and it will be a glorious day. If you harden your heart and stiffen your neck, you will be cut off and that without remedy.*

Wednesday—10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. Franklyn Bascoe. Excerpts: *When you are in God's hand, you are safe. What a good place to be! Under His wings my soul shall abide (saved). When you are under His wings, it is good to walk in the way that leads to life eternal. In Matthew it states that the shepherd shall divide the sheep from the goats. God knows who the sheep and the goats are. The road you are on will determine if you are a sheep or a goat. It will tell by the life that you live. Let us trust Him with our whole lives like Job did, so that He can have confidence in us. We can't buy out God. God is no respecter of persons. We are bought with a price. There is no middle ground. Get on the glory road. God loves you, and He wants you to be saved.*

2:30 P.M.—Speaker: Sis. Linette Jutan. Excerpts: *If you are a vessel of honor, let the Lord use you. If you are not a vessel for the Lord, you are a vessel for the devil. Jeremiah said, "I feel like the fire shut up in my bones." Feed the soul with prayer and fasting. If you find out that God is not using you, do something about it. Jesus use me; don't refuse me. You must pay your tithes and offerings. Don't rob God. Look at what He has done for you. We want some more committed Christians in the church. When God wants you, you are special. Christians need to be satisfied with how the Lord fashions them. We need the power; we want to be Holy Ghost filled. How near are we to eternity? We need to measure up.*

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. David Shaw. Excerpts: *There are two roads before you! Which one are you choosing? Eternity—not many people think about eternity. God gave us two ways—the road to life and the road to death. Hebrews 11:25—"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." We have to give an account to God. We have to walk in the pathway of God. Which road are you on? We do not know what tomorrow will bring. To wear our crown, we have to take up the cross. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to us! We are not to stand in the way of sinners.*

Thursday—10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. O. Bascoe (a young aspiring servant of the gospel). Excerpts: *I always want to gather with the people of God. People want to be happy. They will seek after different things: girls, drugs, or anything for pleasure. All this world will show you is pleasure, and people mistake or use pleasure for happiness. God wants you to be happy. Give your life to Him. This way of life is the best. God will prosper and protect you. You don't have to worry. In the midst of trouble, we have an anchor that keeps the soul. When you want God to be proud of you, you will have to go through some trials. There is power in prayer. God is able to do all things. God has never lost a battle. When we desire to serve the Lord, we will lose some friends. Read the Scriptures. It is our daily food.*

2:30 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Tracey. Title: "God Is Able." Excerpts: *I have been blessed from the beginning of this convention. We serve a mighty God, and He is able to deliver. We serve a God we can depend on, a God that will be able to sustain His people, and a God that we can trust. When I look at the lessons, I am encouraged to trust God. We as the people of God must have faith in Him. Sometimes we have it hard as God's people, but we must know God is in it. When we trust in His Word, He works for us. He is an on time God. Nothing is too hard for Him to do if we trust Him. The Word of God is for you, Sinner Friends. Choose heaven before it's too late. There is danger in living in sin. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).*

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Sis. Dorette Clarke. Title: "Jesus Is in the House." Excerpts: *Have you touched the helm of His garment? Jesus is passing this way. He may not pass this way again. Matthew 7:14 says, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." If you die without God, you will be lost. The greatest decision*

you will make is concerning your eternity-bound soul. You are standing at a crossroad. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Jesus can look beyond your fault and see your need. Someone said that He took me out of the mire. There is no love like the love of God. There are two roads before you. Take your choice. Choose life. It will be your best decision.

Friday—10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Sis. Shaw-Allen. Text: II Samuel 3. Excerpts: *Our lives would be much better if we inquired of the Lord. We need to learn what is the mind of God. Nothing beats consultation with God. Peter was willing to listen to God. He held unto the Holy Spirit. Do we inquire of the Lord when we are going through our struggles? Many times we tell the Lord what we want, and where we want to go, and the Lord must follow. We should do nothing without the consultation with God. We have to be sure we are on the right road. If we don't put ourselves where the Holy Spirit can work, then the blessings will pass us by. Let God lead. Put God at the forefront of everything. Let the Holy Spirit direct your path.*

2:30 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Donovan Davis. Excerpts: *What a privilege to be a child of God! God is good all the time. Sin is the broad road that leads to destruction, and the narrow way to holiness. There is life in Jesus, the only way you can be saved. If you give God a chance in your life, you can be saved. Your soul is worth more than a billion dollars. We must be determined to fight our way through to heaven. Strive to enter in at the strait gate. God is real, heaven is real, and hell is real. Lots of people die with heaven on their minds. Consider your eternity-bound soul. There are two roads. He wants us to choose life.*

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Donovan Darby. Excerpts: *Freedom is a wonderful thing. God made us free moral agents. Everyone desires freedom. Even animals desire freedom. If we are not free from sin, we are not altogether free. How much do we appreciate freedom from sin? Sin brought us into bondage. Sin has power. We can't free ourselves from it. It takes the love of God. The Christian life is a life of freedom. If you are saved, you are free. The Christian life is a wonderful one. Sinner Friend, I challenge you to seek freedom over bondage. Accept Jesus. If you don't, you are not wise.*

Saturday—10:00 A.M.—Divine Healing Service. Speaker: Bro. David Shaw. Excerpts: *The world is becoming more and more ungodly. Our duty is to cry aloud and spare not. Find a need to be concerned. Seek God earnestly. Ask Him to be our help. It's time the echoing goes across the entire nation that God is God. God promised never to withhold any good thing from them that love Him. If we submit ourselves, God will give us the blessings. It's time we get busy for the Lord. I must have the dear Savior with me. We complain when we are tested, yet we say where He leads me, I will follow.*

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Hezekiah Lamey. Excerpts: *It is a wonderful convention. The devil would like us to stop, but I'm on the battlefield for my Lord. God is not forcing you to serve Him or believe on Him. Satan is not giving up, and we should not give up either. Sinner Friend, it's time to serve the Lord. Time is winding up; seek Jesus, don't be ashamed of Him. Jesus came to take*

us off the broad road of sin. Whether you believe it or not, we are still on the battlefield. Christ felt the pain and suffering just to save us. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Come and seek the Lord. Come and surrender your life to Jesus.

Sunday Morning—Divine Worship Service. Speaker: Bro. Franklyn Bascoe. Excerpts: *I greet you all in the sweet name of Jesus. It is a privilege we can gather in this fashion. We have had a glorious time since Tuesday. Hebrews 6:10—"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Don't look to man for your reward. If you are here and not saved, give God your heart. You will be rewarded. We have a responsibility to feed the souls of men. Our souls are the most important part of us, and it gets little or no attention from us. There is a soul in man. A place is prepared for you, Sinner Friends. Give God a chance in your life. He wants to save you, keep you, and protect you.*

Crowning Service—Speaker: Bro. Peter Ramsay. Excerpts: *John 3:16—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." There is a consequence for us not choosing life. Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent, and the blame game still continues today. Some of what we are yearning for are the same things that Moses rejected. It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this comes the judgment. Jesus wants us to change our direction. We do not want to go to hell. Can you imagine living in eternity forever and ever, no way of escape? What are you exchanging your soul for? Someone has written, "You know nothing, until you know the love of God."*

We certainly give thanks for the unity of purpose during our convention. Thank God for the singers in Zion. We rejoice in the fact that souls were saved. Saints were strengthened in the faith of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We give thanks for the many ways in which God answered our prayers. We thank the community for their overwhelming support. Thanks to Sis. Marva Green and the many other persons who made this report possible. †

OUT OF BOX 88

Hello Church of God Family,

My brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, I commend you all dearly on your efforts and works of light. I've been with you in spirit and presence ever since I've received your magazine in February 2025. ... You have touched my life with your outreach and furtherance of the good news in a clear and precise way, and I appreciate that from the bottom of my heart. I often find myself praying for the welfare, goodwill, well-being, unity, harmony, etc., for your ministry and congregation. I always pray that the Holy Spirit Himself will give you the heavenly wisdom to keep on keeping on. I am astonished at the longevity of your magazine series. Truly, I tell you, you make a big difference in this world. The love of God is true love, and it's evident that He has made you all a beacon of His greatness and unfailing love for His children.

Please pray for me ...

—D. L., West Virginia †

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Revival Services
DEVILLE, LOUISIANA
October 9-12, 2025
Bro. Doug Koerner, Evangelist
Bro. Terry Deville, Pastor



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- ___ #1726 The Unsearchable Riches of Christ—Peter Ramsay
- ___ #1727 The Value of One (YP)—Various Speakers
- ___ #1728 The Sparrow—Doug Shenberger
- ___ #1729 Finding Hope in the Unsearchable Riches—Raymond Martin
- ___ #1730 Playing the Fool—Tim Crooks
- ___ #1731 The Cost Is Paid—David Shaw
- ___ #1732 The Unsearchable Riches of Christ—Gary Alwell
- ___ #1733 It Is of the Lord's Mercy—Matt Deville
- ___ #1734 Rooted and Grounded—Brian Richards
- ___ #1735 Ye Are the Light of the World—Ross Tolbert
- ___ #1736 Sinful Nature versus Sinful Choices—Ray Hydes
- ___ #1737 The Facts of Life—Harley McClung
- ___ #1738 Everyone Should Desire the Unsearchable Riches of Christ—
Donovan Darby

THE CHURCH OF GOD
STANDS FOR

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

YOU SHOULD KNOW MORE
ABOUT THE CHURCH OF GOD

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