

The Way of Truth

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a residential street at night. The street is wet, reflecting the warm glow of streetlights. Several houses with gabled roofs are visible, some with lit windows. A large, bright lightning bolt strikes the dark sky on the right side of the image, creating a dramatic and stormy atmosphere.

Vol. 83

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

No. 1

"Hope in Stormy Times"

Message begins on page 16

January 2025

DOES YOUR ANCHOR HOLD?

WHEN WE turn over the calendar and behold the year 2025, many of us doubtless are shocked at the reality of the passage of time. The world is on shaky ground. The powers that be do not radiate confidence for the future. War in Gaza, war in Ukraine. The border crisis and inflation causing mistrust in government. I feel we in America were granted a reprieve in our recent election, but our currency declares, "In God we trust." Our confidence for protection and a prosperous future must not be anchored in man, but in Christ. We must have His favor! He and He alone must be our anchor!

An *anchor* is (1) a device, usually of metal, attached to a ship or boat by a cable and cast overboard to hold it in a particular place by means of a fluke that digs into the bottom; (2) a reliable or principal support: mainstay; (3) something that serves to hold an object firmly; for instance, a ship's anchor.

Our anchor as a nation is the result of our collective trust. A life without an anchor is a life drifting towards destruction. An anchor made out of Styrofoam is no good! The apostle is quoted in Ephesians 2:12, "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

So the question we must face is, Do we have Jesus Christ as our anchor in every facet of our lives? It begins in our homes which have been under attack for decades.

Marriage is ordained by God as one man and one woman joined by exchanging vows, yet so many are confused as to what constitutes a man or a woman!

"A faithful companion is a sure anchor." My wife is a support, helper, encourager and anchor for me in times of trouble. I like to think I am the same for her—never pushing her down, never to belittle her or abandoning her in her darkest hour.

Parents should not only be anchors through Christ to each other, but should provide an environment of love in the home that can prove to be an anchor for their children. Mother's love is anchor for the home. Abraham Lincoln is quoted as saying, "All that I am, I owe to my angel mother." One American general said, "My sainted mother taught me devotion to God and a love of country which have ever sustained me. To her, I yield anew a son's reverent thanks."

A father's example is also needed for the home to be considered an anchor. A young minister, when about to be ordained, stated, that, at one period of his life, he was nearly an infidel. "But," said he, "there was one argument in favor of Christianity which I could never refute—the consistent conduct of my father."

Earl Palmer, in his book, *The Enormous Exception*, wrote the following about the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, which is built directly upon the fault zone of the San Andreas fault: It is built to sway some twenty feet at the center of its one-mile suspension

span. The secret to its durability is its flexibility that enables this sway, but that is not all. By design, every part of the bridge—its concrete roadway, its steel railings, its cross beams—is inevitably related from one welded joint to the other up through the vast cable system to two great towers and two great land anchor piers. The towers bear most of the weight, and they are deeply imbedded into the rock foundation beneath the sea. In other words, the bridge is totally preoccupied with its foundation. This is its secret! Flexibility and foundation.

That's like a family: a mom and dad, twin towers of strength providing the family with a great foundation, bending at times to keep family members together.

Whether it be the home, the individual or the nation, the foundation of an anchor is the Word of God—the Scriptures. Psalm 119:89—"For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." Psalm 119:105—"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." As one songwriter penned, "For I've trusted, and tested, and tried it, And I know God's promise is true!"

Ulysses S. Grant is quoted as saying, "Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet-anchor of your liberties; write its precepts in your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future. Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people."

Another aspect of an anchor is truth—not just the letter but the reality of what the Bible means. John 8:31, 32: "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Christ is the embodiment of truth. Hebrews 1:1, 2: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."

The Church of God is where truth is grounded.

I Timothy 3:15, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Matthew 16:17, 18: "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Colossians 1:21-23: "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through



ABOUT THE COVER

Life is not a bed of roses all the time. Often, storms appear which are hard to face. God, in His wisdom, allows this to come to pass for our own good. He wants to show His children that He is near and He gives hope in the midst of the storm. So look to the Lord in stormy times as well as the calm.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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No. 1

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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The Lord Jesus Christ is the Rock we are anchored to! I Corinthians 10:1-4: "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." One chorus declares, "Please don't criticize Him—He's the Rock I'm leaning on."

This Anchor is our hope for the future. Hebrews 6:19, "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast." Hope for our children—hope for our healing—hope for our nation!

When we are anchored we shall not be moved. Romans 8:35-39: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." †

death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister."

Another manifestation of having an anchor is the saints of a given congregation. When you are saved and are a member of a vibrant congregation of the Church of God, the saints are backing you with their prayers and support which prove to be an anchor. I Corinthians 12:26, "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."

Hebrews 10:10, "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

The people you surround yourself with influence you! Ephesians 3:14-21: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

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THE POETRY PAGE

NEW YEAR PRAYER

Edgar Daniel Kramer

As the Old Year seeks the shadows,
That lie black beyond the hill,
Where the summer twilight listened
To a plaintive whippoorwill,
My glad heart is softly praying,
"Though I walk with joy or rue,
Let me have the strength to labor
At what God would have me do!"

While the bells fling jubinations
Through the reaches of the skies
In my heart a prayer is lifting,
"Let me be both kind and wise,
As I give myself for others,
As I lean to them and share
All the anguish and the burdens
That their souls and flesh must bear!"

As the New Year comes with singing
Through the wind-stripped orchard trees,
Where ripe apples spilled their fragrance,
Lo, I do not ask for ease,
But my heart is humbly praying,
"As I walk life's crowded way,
God, let each tomorrow find me
More like Jesus than today!"

ANOTHER YEAR

Darrell Shamblin

Another year has dawned,
And with it comes the task
Of doing bigger, bigger things
Than were done in the last.

The New Year! All my own!
Its future I must mold;
The fate of it is in my hand—
A bit of finest gold.

The bright New Year is mine
To use as I see fit;
To make this year a big success,
I must do each day my bit.

NEW YEAR

Marie Barton

I thank Thee, God, for New Year's Day—
The chance to turn a clean white sheet,
To fold past records all away,
So failure-marred, so incomplete.

Grant me to make this year of mine
A thing of beauty and of flame—
A poem strong and crystal-fine,
And at the end to sign my name.

JUST ASK

Sandra Town Lytle

Some days we walk a lonely path
With teardrops in our eyes,
Caught up in worries of the day
Before we realize
That God is there to share the load
No matter what the task;
The weight is eased when shared by two—
All we need do is ask.

FIGHT WITH STRENGTH AND HOPE

Dolores Karides

Worries come in many forms
And heartbreak follows woe,
But put them in the hands of God
For His blessings to bestow.
He heals the sick and reaches out
To soothe the troubled soul,
He helps you find the way to go
To reach your chosen goal.
Remember you can't always win
The daily trials you face,
But you can fight with strength and hope
When you invoke God's grace. †

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

STEP BY STEP WITH THE MASTER

Radio Message by Bro. James Arch

I AM GOING to speak today on the subject of “Step By Step With the Master.” I am going to be reading the words of Jesus from the 8th chapter of St. John, verse 12, and a part of verse 29 from the 11th chapter of Matthew: “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.” “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me.” Jesus had just freed a woman and told her that He did not condemn her, but she must go and sin no more. “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world.”

What is *light*? “A state of awareness or understanding; something that provides information, or clarification, or spiritual awareness.”

The Bible has a lot to say about walking with God. In other words, it has a lot to say about following Jesus and the Light.

There’s an old song in the **Redemption Song Book** that we sing sometimes. It says:

*I must have the Saviour with me,
For my faith, at best, is weak;
He can whisper words of comfort,
That no other voice can speak.*

*I must have the Saviour with me,
In the onward march of life,
Through the tempest and the sunshine,
Through the battle and the strife.*

*I must have the Saviour with me,
And His eye the way must guide,
Till I reach the vale of Jordan,
Till I cross the rolling tide.*

*Then my soul shall fear no ill,
Let Him lead me where He will,
I will go without a murmur,
And His footsteps follow still.*

Walking with God means to be in communion with Him. If you’ll look into the first epistle of John, you will see in chapter 1, verses 5-7, “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” So the closer we live to God, the more we’ll know about Him, and the clearer the light becomes. In other words, light is the means of seeing, and by seeing, we know. The result of seeing the Light is to walk step by step with the Master.

Jesus came as the Light. Isaiah prophesied in chapter 9 and verse 2: “The people that walked in darkness

have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” This was referring to Jesus Christ. We use that scripture around Christmas time in reference to His birth, and so on.

God sent a man to bear witness of the Light. If you’ll recall in the first chapter of St. John, it says there, “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” So salvation is light. It opens our spiritual eyes and takes us out of darkness and places us into the kingdom of light. The Bible calls it “the kingdom of light” as well.

We remember the old man Simeon in Luke, chapter 2. It says of him: “Behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.” What a wonderful message!

For the Light to be effective, we must walk in it. Jesus calls us to follow Him. He said that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. In fact, Jesus invited all of us that are laboring and are heavy laden with anything in life. It could be sin. It could be all sorts of problems in our lives. He said, “I’ll give you rest.” He said, “Come, and learn of me.” How do we learn? We learn by availing ourselves and applying ourselves. Anything about God and Jesus Christ is interesting, if we’ll go after it, and explore it. So for the Light of be effective, we must walk in it. Jesus calls us to follow Him.

God’s Word is light. The Bible tells us in Psalm 119:105, a beautiful verse: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” So God’s Word is a light. It shows us how to get out of sin and to stay out of it. That’s what it really does. Also, how to get on with people, to forgive other people, and so on. Everything applicable to our lives is found in the Bible, the Word of God. So step by step we follow the Master, learning, depending, and trusting. We don’t know all about God. We don’t know everything, but we’re always learning more and more each day if we stay close to God by faith, believing in something that we don’t see.

A part of a song says, “I believe Jesus saves, And his blood washes whiter than snow.” A person could repent all day and night, but unless he believes, he’ll never receive the gift of salvation and forgiveness from God. It comes by believing. The Bible tells us, “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.”

The Bible says, “We follow Christ.” Paul said, “We follow Him.” Jesus called old fishermen from washing

up their nets on the beach, sunburnt, and discouraged, because they hadn't caught any fish. He called them, and they left their nets and followed Him.

A young man came to Jesus one time and asked Him what he needed to do. Jesus told him what he had to do to inherit eternal life, but because his heart was fixed and set on what he had, he turned away. As he left, the Bible says, "Jesus beholding him loved him." Not everybody that Jesus called followed Him. That's a fact. But there were those who followed Him. In fact, the Bible says, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." So the Bible tells us, "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."

Jesus' steps were steps of responsibility and duty. So are ours!

Jesus' steps were steps of zeal and concern and vision. Jesus even prayed a prayer for His people that God would preserve and keep them. He prayed for the church. He prayed for workers in the harvest field.

Jesus' steps were steps of rejection and hurt. He had feelings like everybody else, but He kept on fulfilling the plan of God.

Jesus' steps were steps of submission. In the Garden of Gethsemane, the Bible says "his sweat was as it were great drops of blood." Yes, for you and for me, for our sins.

Jesus' steps were steps of suffering, but He bore it all.

Jesus' steps were steps of peace. He was a Peace-giver, a Peace-lover. He came to bring peace.

Jesus' steps were steps of victory. As He was placed in that old tomb, the stone couldn't hold Him. The stone was rolled away. The Bible says, "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

As His people, how should we walk as we follow Jesus? The Bible says that we should *walk carefully*. Paul said to the Ephesians, "See then that ye walk circumspectly [carefully], not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

We are told to "*walk worthy* of the vocation wherewith ye are called." We are called to *walk uprightly*. Psalm 84:11, "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

We are told to *walk honestly*. The apostle, in writing to the Romans, said in Romans 13:13, "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."

We are told to *walk humbly*. Micah 6:8, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Step by step. "One day at a time, sweet Jesus, That's all I'm asking from You," the songwriter says. His grace is sufficient for every day.

One of these days, if we keep true to God, keep stepping, keep walking, and following our Master, we

will finish the race and end it well. He will say to us on the other side, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

This old world is a dressing room for the world to come. Thank God for the privilege to live for God. It's a rewarding life; and not only that, but there are rich rewards when you wear your crown in heaven. †



Dear Young People,

In II Samuel 22:36, we read: "Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great." Truly a gentle person has found greatness. This isn't something we can achieve through our own strength, but it's through true salvation.

This month's article is a continuation of the series of messages taken from the Young People's service on the *Fruits of the Spirit*. We trust you will receive a blessing from Bro. Benjamin Arch's thoughts on gentleness.

—Bro. Doug

REVITALIZING GENTLENESS

Bro. Benjamin Arch

WHAT THINGS need revitalization today? Patriotism, for one: today's world seems much more bitter at their own country and neighbors than any other time in history. In a time in the 1860s, when brother and brother were fighting against others for North and South, each man loved his cause more than ever. But now we face an even more relevant and important need for revitalization: gentleness. The lack of gentleness is a major problem affecting the entire world.

What does it take to be gentle? Nothing. Legitimately nothing is the cost for us to be gentle. Gentleness and kindness go hand in hand. For example, it is extremely hard to have one and not the other. There is no cost: no monetary loss, no loss of time, no loss of happiness, or any other loss of our possession. It does us no harm to be gentle. However, some people feel that it's too time consuming or out of the ordinary. They're not wrong: it is out of the ordinary to be gentle, but as the Bible says, "We will be hated for Christ's cause." We can't like society's opinion of us to stop us from being an instrument of God.

What does it mean to be "gentle"? Without sounding like a broken record, by living by the Golden Rule: "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." This is a biblical principle found in Luke 6:31. In other words, if we want people to be gentle to us, we have to be gentle to them. Another



reason is that we are Christians: the word means to be *Christlike*. In Romans 2:11, Paul writes, “For there is no respect of persons with God.” We are to do the same: to treat everyone as humans. Not as annoying soundtracks that play in stores, not as incompetent animals that don’t know what they’re doing, and not as inanimate objects that have no moral worth. God looks at all people the same: made in His own image, and He loves them as we are. It is our duty to love everyone as the people made in God’s image.

Why is being gentle important? Being gentle is one of the most outstanding things a Christian can do to show, without words, that they are a follower of Christ. In a real life example, my mom and I work different jobs, but we have one coworker that works with both of us. Sometimes this coworker will come up to me and tell me how she saw Mom in the hallway, and also say something about “I love how kind and sweet your mom is!” This makes me smile inside (and outside). I know my mom does her best to be a shining light for Christ wherever she goes, and to know that she is reaping some of the results makes me smile. I know that this coworker notices Mom’s gentleness and kindness, and even if she hasn’t been told, people notice when someone is uncommonly gentle. That is what I think one of our goals as Christians should be every day: to be uncommonly gentle, kind, and Christlike. †

STEPS HEAVENWARD

By the late R. L. Berry

Claim Your Inheritance

(conclusion)

IF NEWS SHOULD reach you today that someone had left a rich inheritance to you, what would you do? Would you treat it indifferently—throw the letter away, and say you did not care anything about it? Of course not. You would be interested through and through, and you would seek to find out all about your inheritance—where it was and of what it consisted. You would bubble over with joy, and run to tell your near friends about it.

Just so will you be pleased to know that a newborn soul is an heir of God. “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:7). “And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29).

There is provided for you through the blood of Christ the most wonderful portions of grace, there are in God’s storehouse riches of spiritual blessings the half of whose greatness has never been told. God’s plan of salvation is so deep that the stains of the deepest sins are completely wiped away, so wide that no extent of evil is wider, so reasonable that the simplest person can understand it. Paul prays that we “may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:18, 19). And

he prays again that, the eyes of our understanding being enlightened, we “may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints” (Ephesians 1:18).

Reference was made in the first texts quoted about an inheritance, about being “heirs.” Paul in these texts refers back to the Abrahamic covenant, a promise by which God would bless all the world through Abraham, besides giving to Abraham’s seed the Land of Promise, Canaan. Now, says Paul, “if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29). Heirs, we ask, of what promise? The land of Canaan? Does God now promise each child of His a temporal home in the Holy Land, Palestine? No, that is not the true meaning of the promise. That was the true meaning of that part of the Abrahamic covenant which pertained to Abraham’s literal seed, the literal, bloodline descendants. They inherited the literal land of Canaan. And thereto hangs an interesting story, a type or shadow of God’s twofold salvation of men through Jesus Christ.

You will remember, or will find by reading, that Abraham’s children, the Israelites, were terribly afflicted in Egypt. This corresponds to the bondage you once endured while in sin, before your conversion. Just as they had to slave with taskmasters at their back, so you and I and all others once were driven by the power of sin where we would not. But the cry of the poor enslaved Israelites reached the ears of God, and He planned a miraculous deliverance under Moses. At the crossing of the Red Sea the power of God opened up the water, and the Israelites went through on the dry ground. Once across, they sang the Song of Moses, the song of deliverance. Thus did God also miraculously convert your soul and bring you out of satanic bondage, and you sang a new song of praise unto the Lord for salvation. But Canaan was the home of Israel. God had, hundreds of years previous to this, promised it to Abraham and to his seed, and Israel was on its journey to that Canaan land. Canaan was a land flowing with milk and honey, a good land: by and by they possessed that good land.

Now, we said a while ago that if we are Christ’s we are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise. This, we saw, could not be literal Canaan, and, hence, we see it must refer to some spiritual Canaan, some spiritual experience corresponding in some way to the Canaan experience of the Israelites. Paul himself explains it when he says: “That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:14).

Jesus promised us the Holy Spirit. “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” (John 14:16, 17). “It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you” (John 16:7). Do you comprehend the greatness of Christ’s promise? “I will send him unto you.” He says, “The Comforter, which is

the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). Jesus says, "I will send him," the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, "whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30).

This is your inheritance then, to possess and be possessed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said to the apostles just before He ascended to heaven that, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8). On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came, filled them, and gave them power to witness for Christ. Every Christian needs this power, this spiritual victory which follows the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon God's dear children. After the Jews had seen, on that great day of Pentecost, the remarkable outpouring of the Spirit, and at the close of preaching the gospel to them, Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:38, 39). Therefore, young convert, the Holy Spirit is for you in His fullness, and you need that Spirit to lead you, teach you, and seal you to the day of the resurrection.

In John 17, Jesus prayed that all who believe on him might be "sanctified." This word may be a new one to you; and some people make light of the idea of being sanctified. But Jesus prayed for you, as one of his believing disciples, that you might be sanctified. Paul said he was sent to the Gentiles "to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me" (Acts 26:18). Here again this great inheritance is spoken of as being sanctification. But the outpouring of the Spirit and sanctification are one and the same thing: for the offering up of the Gentiles is made acceptable, "being sanctified by the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:16). And we are "elect ... through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 1:2).

One thing you will desire to know, and that is how to obtain this outpouring of the Spirit, this blessed experience of entire sanctification. It is by consecration, "present your bodies a living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1), and by faith, "sanctified by faith" (Acts 26:18). We are both to consecrate ourselves and have the faith—these are the conditions upon which we shall obtain our inheritance. Consecration means giving or dedicating ourselves in a solemn covenant with God to be His forever and to let Him have His way with us, always. It is a consecration to obey and trust God, obey His commands and trust His providences. In this consecration we lay ourselves upon God's altar, like the Israelite laid his animal sacrifice on the ancient altar, and forever after consider ourselves as God's, and His will is to be our delight. Whatever, after this consecration, God asks us to do, we shall do, or say, we shall say, or wherever He asks us to go, we shall go. We are to belong absolutely to the Lord and our wills are to be brought to harmonize with God's will. We place ourselves on the

altar and there we stay. Whether we live or die, be sick or well, rich or poor, persecuted or slain, we are still the Lord's alone. Our talents, time, property, and mind and spirit, all are surrendered and given over to God's service.

When we give all over to God and feel assured that nothing is reserved to self, then our faith can ask for the Spirit and He will come, to fill, and cleanse, and seal.

Since the inheritance spoken of is for God's saved children, it follows that salvation is twofold; we are first converted to God and justified from our sins, and in the second step we are sanctified, or cleansed from "all sin," and made "pure in heart."

You will feel, if you have not already felt, some things in your heart not exactly in harmony with righteousness. Many young converts have been surprised to find elements of anger and malice and such like stirring in their souls at times, and though they may have kept quiet and held all in check, yet the presence of sin within is very uncomfortable. But it is there and it is that very thing the Lord wants to save you from in the blessed experience of sanctification.

You may find professed preachers and teachers of the gospel, young Christian, who will tell you that you cannot expect to be delivered from all sin while you live. They will quote various texts of Scripture and pervert their meaning to prove this contention for sin. They are false prophets, and to listen to them is dangerous. Why should it be thought illogical for God to save from *all* sin? Is it consistent for Him to forgive past sins and leave the roots of sin in the soul, roots that are liable to sprout up into actual sin? Such is not a consistent view of God's plan. Can we forget that the same holy God who hates sins in the sinner cannot tolerate sin to remain in the believer? Sin is the work of the devil, and Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil. When man was first created, there was no sin in him, hence sin is not a necessary part of man, furnishes nothing for his well-being, and only does him harm. Jesus is the Redeemer, the Restorer of the soul, the Savior, and by the power of His blood the least and last remnants of sin can be purged from your heart.

This, then, is the inheritance standing ready for you, ready to be yours whenever you claim it as your own by faith. Spiritual Canaan, holiness, sanctification, perfect love, is promised to you, and if you will give God yourself by a new and perfect consecration and by faith appropriate this great favor of God, it shall be yours. When Jesus prayed that His disciples might be sanctified, He included all believers (John 17:17-21). That includes you. He prayed that you might be sanctified, and you will want His will to be done in you and His prayer to be answered.

Your hope of standing true, of resisting steadfast unto the end, of finally entering the eternal home of the soul depends upon your being fully saved from all sin. To allow any sinful element to remain within or about you will be tolerating an enemy that may overthrow you. The chances of being overthrown are more when sin is in the heart, the chances and probabilities of being successful in the Christian life are heightened if we receive the perfect cleansing. As you love your

soul, love God, and value heaven, come to God for all He has for you.

Will you have your inheritance? Will you press your claim? God's part is done, Jesus' part is complete, the Holy Spirit stands ready—what will you do? With joyful heart yield your life anew to God and prove His good and acceptable will. Prove for yourself what riches of grace God has for obedient and consecrated souls. Never be satisfied till you have tasted the joys of full salvation, the entire sanctification of yourself to the will of God. You will then indeed be one of the “elect,” and if you keep your part of the contract you are certain to abide with God forever. †



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

QUESTION: II Timothy 2:20 says, “But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.” Does this verse teach that some folks described in this verse were created weak vessels that commit sin and that they cannot help but sin, since God has made them an earthen or wooden vessel?

ANSWER: I do not see anything in this verse that speaks of creation. I suppose because of the wickedness, or the righteousness, of parents, some children may have more righteous tendencies, or evil, than some, but I do not think Paul is speaking of that in this verse.

If you are going to accept the word “house” to mean the house of God, the Church of God, then Paul spoke of some having a more important place to fill than others. He might also speak of some who profess to be in the house, but are not (see verses 16 and 17), for there is no place of “dishonor” in God's church.

QUESTION: Would you please explain Romans 7:21-25?—“I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”

ANSWER: First of all, let me point out Paul is not speaking of himself as a Christian, as some people seem to think. If you want to see Paul as a Christian read Romans 8. Paul, as a Pharisee, knew what the law taught and he desired to do right, but he did not have the power to do so. Why? Because sin was still ruling his life. “Evil is present with me.”

Paul delighted in the teachings of the law of God, but the *will* without the *power* is not enough. Paul came to the place where he cried out, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”

Paul then answers his own question! Through the grace of God, or the Lord Jesus Christ. No church can save. There is only one Savior, and that is Jesus Christ. A man living after the flesh is a carnal man. To be a saved and sanctified child of God one must depart a life of sin and then be filled with the Spirit.

QUESTION: Would you please explain about the “good olive tree” and the “wild olive tree” in Romans, chapter 11?

ANSWER: We understand Jesus to mean by the “good olive tree” the Hebrew people, the ones He entered into covenant relations with, the ones He gave the Old Covenant law to. We understand the “wild olive tree” to be the Gentiles.

Paul is showing that because the Hebrews as a nation rejected Christ—see John 1:11—they would be cut off as a nation. Jesus told them the time would come when one stone would not be left upon another of their beautiful temple, that their house would be left desolate.

The temple was destroyed in 70 A.D., and some years later they ceased to be a nation, being scattered among many nations. However, this did not mean that individual Hebrews could not be saved—see verse 23. Various ones were saved under Christ's ministry, and others were saved through the ministry of the apostles before they ceased being a nation. Some have been saved down through the years, and, of course, they can still be saved by accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Paul warned the Gentiles not to boast about this, “for if God spared not the natural branches [because of their unbelief] (verse 20), take heed lest he also not spare thee” (verse 21). God does not accept sin in our lives whether we be Hebrew or Gentile.

Chapters 9, 10 and 11 should be studied together to get the full picture of what Paul is teaching on this subject.

QUESTION: Does God say that the doubter's proverb would prove worthless and that the time would come when every vision would be fulfilled? (Ezekiel 12:23, 25).

ANSWER: The “proverb” or saying referred to was the statements by unbelievers and scoffers. Because God was longsuffering, they took the position God would not punish them for their evil, at least not in their lifetime. God tells them through His prophet Ezekiel, “I am the Lord: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord God.”

The Lord did to that people just what He said He would, He always does. Had they believed and turned from their evil, then doubtless they would not have suffered all they did. †

OUR ETERNITY-BOUND SOUL

2024 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Tim Crooks



WE WILL TURN in our Bibles to Ecclesiastes, chapter 5. We will read a few verses, starting with verse 13: “There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt. But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand. As he came forth of his mother’s womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand. And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?”

The latter part of verse 14 says, “He begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand.” This is talking about the son as he comes into this world. There is nothing in his hand. We’ve heard it said, “We brought nothing into this world, and we’ll take nothing out of it.” That is true, in part, because there is something that we bring into this world, and that is our soul. The term used in real estate is “real property.” A fixture means that it is something that’s permanently attached. Our soul is the only real property that we have. We can’t sell it. Well, we can sell it to the devil. We can’t give it away. We can’t disinherit it. We can’t leave it to someone else, and we can’t give account of someone else’s deeds. We can only give account of our own deeds with the real property that we have. Verse 16 says, “What profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?”

In Philippians, chapter 2, there is a verse that people only like to quote a part of. The part of it that they like to quote is “work out your own salvation.” I’ve heard that quoted so many times. “You know, the Bible says to work out your own salvation.” In other words, if you think it is okay, then God will accept it. But Proverbs 16:2 says, “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.” It’s God that weighs our soul.

CONSIDER YOUR SOUL

Many people don’t even think about their soul. This usually starts when young people begin to think about a job. Parents brought them to church as children where they began to understand the things of God, but when they grew up and began to drive, they got a job. With that job came a little money, and then a little freedom. They start to put their hopes and treasures in the future. They start thinking about what money can help them with, but what happens a lot of times is, they neglect their soul. The scripture says that they labor for the wind. What that means is, material things are fleeting. They’re going to perish. They’re not attached. A lot of times we say at home, “We’ve never seen a Brinks truck following a hearse.” We can’t take earthly possessions with us.

Think about your eternity-bound soul tonight. It’s the only thing you own. It’s the only thing you own, and

people will say, “Make your own way. Work out your own salvation.” If you’ll read that verse, it says, “Work out your own salvation *with fear and trembling.*” That means it’s a very weighty matter. It’s a weighty matter to consider your soul. A lot of times many people don’t even think of it. It’s a fleeting thing to them. They don’t give account of it. They don’t take time to consider what is entailed by working out your own salvation with fear and trembling. In other words, with great respect, or in awe, or in light of the consequences.

WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION

There are consequences with working out our salvation. That verse is absolutely true. Every one of us works out our salvation. We work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. Bro. Doug can’t work out my salvation. In other words, there are things I must give account of. There are things I must work through. There are things that will affect me that won’t affect others. There are things that may affect others that won’t affect me. I have to work through that. Whenever God speaks to our hearts, saints and sinners alike, we need to take heed. In these services, God spoke to my heart and showed me some things I could do better on. Do you know what I have to do? I have to work those out with fear and trembling. I can sit and listen to it, and just let it go, but do you know what would happen? My soul will go with it, or I can give account of it, and say, “Lord, help me not to make that mistake again. Help me, Lord, that I can do better.” Yes, that’s working out your salvation with fear and trembling. Every one of us must do that sometimes in a service. Sometimes it’s multiple times in a service. That’s the way it is. This is not just for the sinner. This is for saints and sinners alike. Why? Because our soul is so valuable to God.

God is the one who gave us our soul. Some people would like to separate soul and spirit, but I believe they’re synonymous. A lot of times *soul* is used to mean “your entire being.” But every one of us must give account of our soul. We must give account of it. If you’re not saved tonight, that doesn’t exempt you from giving account of your soul. When you sit in a service and the Spirit talks to you, you can’t push Him away and say that you’ll deal with that at a later time. There may not be a later time.

Let’s look at Luke, chapter 13. Jesus was teaching and He was asked a question. Verses 22-24: “And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.” I like to look at different versions, so I want to look at the *Amplified Bible* on verse 24: “Strive to enter

through the narrow door [force aside unbelief and the attractions of sin]; for many, I tell you, will try to enter [by their own works] and will not be able.”

Many will try to enter in by their own works. Many people have said, “Well, I’ve been a good person. God sees that I’m a good person. I help my neighbor. I love my brother. I would lay down my life for him. I would do anything if someone asks. I’ll help a stranger. I give money to feed the poor.” That’s striving to enter by your own way. It won’t get you through the gate. No, we have to push aside self also. We have to push those things aside. We can’t enter by our own works. The word *strive* means “with great effort, great work, great involvement.” The word *strive* causes us to believe that it’s something extremely difficult. It is difficult to push aside sin.

Moses said that he would rather suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Think about that! Sure, there are pleasures in sin. We would be lying if we said that there were no pleasures in sin. That’s why it attracts people. They want instant gratification. They don’t want to work out their own salvation and wait for the reward. They would rather try to get a little reward now. You’ve heard people say, “I’m sowing my wild oats.” They would rather sow their wild oats and live it up for awhile.

YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE

Someone has said, “You only live once.” The thought behind that is *you only live once so you might as well live for today. Do what you want to. Live it up.* The truth is, you live every day, but you only die once. Therefore, your soul is more valuable. Your soul is much more valuable than any of the pleasures of sin this world can give. Yes, your soul is much more valuable. That’s why the question was asked, “Are there few that be saved?” Jesus answered, “Only a few will be saved.” There are relatively few that will be saved. Do you know why? Because many people don’t want to strive. They don’t want to force aside the pleasures of sin. They don’t want to force aside the attractions of the world. They don’t want to force aside the pleasures and the instant gratification. Maybe they don’t want to force aside their job. Maybe they don’t want to force aside a bad relationship. There are many things that stand in people’s way, but that doesn’t change the fact that we’re going to give account of our soul.

We are to put off the works of darkness. We need to make a choice because it involves our soul. This is not just a choice that we can make like buying a vehicle. “What kind of vehicle are you going to buy? What kind of vehicle are you going to drive? What kind of house are you going to live in?” This is dealing with our soul. Romans 13:12 says: “The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.” Let us put on the armor of light. Verses 13 and 14: “Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” Too many people are making provisions for the flesh. They want to make sure the future is secure. They want to fulfill their lusts and desires. “I want to

get this; and Lord, after I get this, I will serve you. Lord, I want to get married and after I get a family, I will serve you. After I get my house paid for, I will serve you.” It keeps jumping to after, after, after. The day is far spent. The truth is, we don’t know when night comes. No one knows when night comes. Night comes to each of us at different times. We don’t know when our lives will be required of us.

DON’T PRESUME ON GOD’S MERCY

Many people live on presumption. They live on presumption, especially, on the mercies of God. They presume on the mercies of God that He will allow them to live for a long time. I spoke to a brother in our congregation who had just turned 35. I said to him, “You’ve reached middle age.”

He said, “No, I haven’t.”

I said, “The Bible says three score and ten. That’s 70. Half of 70 is 35.”

He said, “I don’t like to think about it like that.”

No one likes to think about it like that, do they? But the reality is, we’re all speeding toward eternity. Some people nurture and value their soul because they know they have to give account of it. With some people it is just something that tags along.

I’ve heard people say about rough guys saying that they love their mother so much that they wouldn’t take her to a certain place where they go. Yet, they take their soul there. I’ve heard people say, “I wouldn’t talk like that in front of a preacher,” and I said, “You talk like that in front of God all the time. You act like that in front of God all the time. He’s the one that sees you.” But they don’t think about their soul. They see God as up here, and He’s watching over them, so one day they’ll go to heaven to be with Him. Well, I hate to tell you, but everybody that dies doesn’t go to heaven. Everybody that dies doesn’t go to heaven—young and old alike. We must realize that we have a soul attached to us, and that it is the most valuable and most important thing in all of this world. It is more precious than life itself. We should treat it that way. Our soul must be saved. But many people are trying to work out their own salvation. In other words, they want to get in any way they can.

We read about the wedding guest in the Bible. He was at the wedding feast without the wedding garment on. The way I understood it is that whenever the invitation was sent out, there was a certain attire that was required that went along with the invitation. When the king came out to see the guests, he saw that a man there who didn’t have on a wedding garment. He said, “Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?” He was speechless. Do you know why? Because he knew the requirement, and yet he tried to bypass it. He decided, “I’m going to go the way I want to go.” Putting this in our terms, “They said I need to be wearing a white shirt and a black tie, but I’m going to wear a red tie.” That sounds foolish, doesn’t it? But that’s what people are doing all over the world tonight. They’re trying to get into the wedding feast. In other words, they’re trying to get into heaven without meeting the requirement they’re given. We don’t set the requirement. Bro. Greg didn’t set the requirement. Bro.

Alvin, who was pastor here before him, didn't set the requirement. God sets the requirement. He sets the requirement that we must meet if we're going to make heaven our home. That requirement is in regard to one thing, and that is our soul. Every requirement is dealing with our soul.

Some people will say, "God knows all about that. I don't know this or that. I'm not sure." The Bible says that God weigheth the spirits. You can say, "I'm not sure, I don't know," but in your heart, you know. Deep down inside you know, or at least you know enough to know that you need salvation. You don't need to know everything else. As long as you know that you need a Savior, that is all you need to know. Once you know that, you're accountable. Once you realize that you'll never make it to heaven without a Savior, without giving account of your soul, that is what is required. Galatians 6:7 tells us, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Whatever we do in life we will give account of. We can't hide things in a closet. We might hide things from our friends and family, but we can't hide them from God. He sees and knows, and we'll give account to Him. If we don't repent of them now, those things will meet us at the judgment.

EVERYONE MUST GIVE AN ACCOUNT

The verse I read earlier says that when the son came out of the womb, he had nothing in his hand, and when he goes into the ground, he will carry nothing with him, but he will give account of his soul at the judgment. You will be there. You will give account of the deeds you've done in this body. Everything that we've done, if we don't make them right now, they will stand before us. That's why it is important that we take heed to the Spirit of God when He's talking to us. Whenever He's dealing with our soul, it is important to give heed to it. Don't shy away from that still, small voice. Don't turn it off. Don't walk away from it. Listen intently because it's regarding the only thing that we own, which is our soul. That's the only thing we can take with us. That's all we have. That's who we are.

The devil will lie to you and say, "You have plenty of time." Have you ever considered what the Bible says? "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." That's quick. A snap of the finger. So whenever you consider your soul, you should wink your eye and ask yourself, "Where am I now in relation to eternity? Where will I go?" That blink of the eye represents death. You could be sitting here right now and in a blink of an eye you could be dead. There have been people preaching the gospel who have fallen dead. People driving down the road have fallen dead. Some lie down at night and never wake up. In a blink of an eye! All of this is dealing with our soul. If you ask yourself, "Where am I in relation to eternity?" and answer honestly, and you can't say, "I'll be in the presence of God," then you need to run to the altar. You need to ask God to have mercy on you. Ask Him to forgive you, because that soul is the only thing that we all are going to give account of for what we've done and how we've lived. The things we have done are what we are. We can't fool God. He sees and knows all. He even sees the very intent of the heart. He knows what is going through your mind right now. I don't need

to know what's in your heart. God knows what's in your heart. He sees your heart now. If He's speaking to you now is because He knows that you need to ask for forgiveness. He's extending His mercy. The never-ending love of Christ is speaking to your heart.

Matthew 16:24-26 says: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

There is nothing you can exchange for your soul. Now, you can give your soul to the devil. I preached a message sometime ago about life is a play, and we are actors on a stage. There are two masters. However, in this play we choose our master, and he chooses the script. Did you know that? Yes, that's the truth. You'll do what your master says. I've heard people say, "I would never do that." Do you know you don't have control when Satan is your master? You don't have control. But with God as your Master, you can live free from sin. You can live free from condemnation. It's the greatest life there is. Do you know what? You'll have the greatest support group there ever was. What does it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his soul?

There are people who are losing their souls. There are people who are throwing away their souls for a puff of a cigarette and a drink of alcohol. People are throwing away their souls for gambling. They are throwing away their souls for nothing, for just a chance at something.

D. O. Teasley wrote the song "Eternity." It says:

*I stood at the time-beaten portals,
Where many a pilgrim had passed
Out into the infinite future,
To be with the pure and the blest;
And, musing in silent devotion,
Eternity seemed to draw near;
And strains from the choir of the faithful
I seemed in my fancy to hear.*

*I lingered, and silently listened
To the dull, heavy tread of the years,
And thought of the fate of the guilty,
When Christ in his glory appears;
A shudder came over my spirit,
As I thought what a moment might cost,
For eternity's stillness was broken
By the groans and the sighs of the lost.*

*I saw then the Judge in his splendor,
As he stepped to his great judgment seat,
And tho't of the crashing of ages,
When time and eternity meet;
For Time, who has laid many millions
To slumber in death's silent shade;
Shall reel at eternity's presence,
And sleep in the tomb he has made.*

*Let us work while 'tis day, brother, sister,
For soon shall the Master return,*

*To garner the wheat that we harvest,
The chaff in his fury to burn.
Then in haste let us rush to the rescue,
But few can we save at the most:
Soon millions shall be at the judgment,
Forever, eternally lost.*

CONCLUSION

The scripture in Revelation says that the books will be opened. Revelation 20:12-15, "I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God [that's us]; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

It's important that you take inventory and think about these things. Your soul is the only thing you own. If you lose your job, you'll get another one. If your house burns down, you'll get another one. You hate to lose those things, but if you lose your soul, you won't get another one. There's no second chance. Regardless of what the religious world will teach you, there's no second chance. There's no second opportunity. You're not going to come back into this world and have another chance to make it right with your soul. The Bible says, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

How is your soul tonight? †

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- CD #1653 Heaven to Gain by Overcoming Obstacles—G. E. Tyler
- CD #1654 Seeing Myself—Thomas Harris
- CD #1655 Choosing a Family—Rebecca Bland
- CD #1656 Patriotic Service led by—Dan Swain
- CD #1657 True Freedom—G. E. Tyler
- CD #1658 Distinguishing Landmarks—Thomas Harris
- CD #1659 A Good Conversion—G. E. Tyler
- CD #1660 God's Choices—Rebecca Bland
- CD #1661 Leanness of the Soul—Doug Shenberger
- CD #1662 Whosoever Will—Brian Richards
- CD #1663 Likelihood of Trials and Sufferings—Doug Shenberger
- CD #1664 Mini-Messages by Four Deaconesses
- CD #1665 The Day of Visitation—G. E. Tyler
- CD #1666 Relationship God Wants to Have With Us—Thomas Harris

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

THE STEPS OF THE RIGHTEOUS THE SPIRIT WORKS WITH SAMSON

Scriptures: Judges 13:3-5, 24, 25; 14:5, 6; 15:14-19.

Judges 13:3 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:

5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

24 And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him.

25 And the spirit of the Lord began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Judges 14:5 Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him.

6 And the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Judges 15:14 And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.

15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

16 And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men.

17 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking, that he cast away the jawbone out of his hand, and called that place Ramathlehi.

18 And he was sore athirst, and called on the Lord, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?

19 But God clave an hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof Enhakkore, which is in Lehi unto this day.

Memory Verse: And the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.—Judges 14:6.

Aim: To give an insight into the dealings of God with the early saints.

INTRODUCTION

THE ACTIVITIES of Samson are very unique, and we find no other character in the Bible with whom the Spirit of the Lord worked in like manner. Samson was born a Nazarite, which was a life of separation unto God. He was to drink no wine, nor eat anything that came from the vine. He must not eat any unclean thing, and he must let his hair grow and must not touch the dead. To make his separation complete,

his mother was required to observe the same things while she carried him. God had a very special work for Samson to do and separated him unto that work.

MEDITATIONS

DIVINE VISITATION—Judges 13:3-5—We know not how long this couple had been married, but the woman was barren, and the angel came with the good news, “You shall bear a son.” The angel further instructed her, as to her own conduct, to take no strong drink, to eat nothing unclean, for her son was to be a Nazarite unto God. A Nazarite was one who consecrated himself to God. Samson was to be a Nazarite all his life.

GOD’S WORD FULFILLED—Judges 13:24—The Lord blessed him—Samson started out his life in a commendable way, for the Lord was able to bless him. So will He bless any man who will wholeheartedly do His gracious will. **Verse 25—Move him at times**—The Spirit of the Lord began to cause him to do things that were very much out of the ordinary. No doubt the things he did, for the most part, involved the use of his great strength, for it seemed that the Spirit of God used him extensively in a physical way.

SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH—Judges 14:5—Young lion roared against him—Being conscious of his great strength, doubtless, he had great boldness and thought little of the danger that would be associated with the attack of the lion. Rather than taking precaution against stirring up the lion, he would provoke him. **Verse 6—And he rent him**—Thus did God, by His Spirit, work with Samson in a very unusual way. **Judges 15:14—Philistines shouted against him**—The Philistines seemed to be unable to learn that they were not fighting against Samson but against God. As far as the natural eye could see, Samson was definitely under control, but the strong cords became as nothing when the Holy Spirit began to move. The great need of nations today is not material strength, but the strength of the Spirit. **Verse 15—Found a new jawbone**—A “green” jawbone would be heavier than one that had aged in the sun, thus being more deadly when wielded by one so powerful as Samson. If Samson had slain on the average of one man every ten seconds, he would have been engaged in strenuous effort for almost three hours. This was indeed a remarkable feat that would have required great strength and unusual endurance. The natural man would have worn down long before the length of time would have expired. His weapon was indeed very crude and cumbersome, drawing greatly upon his physical strength, demanding no little skill. **Verse 16—Heaps upon heaps**—It is hard for us who know the standards of the gospel age to understand how the Spirit of God could bless the efforts of a man who was engaged in such terrible slaughter, but his age was not characterized by the standards that we know, and he was responsible only for the light that God caused to shine on his pathway.

HUMAN STRENGTH EXHAUSTED—Judges 15:18—I die for thirst—According to his statement, he was so weakened by the need of water that there was danger of his being overcome by the Philistines. We see from this picture that God used the natural

strength of Samson as far as it would go in accomplishing His purpose and added to it when it was necessary. So it is today. God does not impart strength until it is needed; but if we trust Him, strength will always be given to perform the task that He has in mind for us to do.

AN ASTONISHING MOVE BY THE SPIRIT—Judges 15:19—Came water thereout—There is no use to try to explain this by natural means, for this is definitely an astonishing miracle performed by the great hand of God. He who spoke the mighty oceans into existence with their almost unbelievable expanse of vastness, how very simple it would be for Him to speak a few pints of water into existence and have them to issue forth from a piece of bone! God could have quenched the thirst of Samson by merely speaking the word, but Samson desired actual water to satisfy his thirst; so God gave him the water.

CONCLUSION

Samson found himself in some very trying situations, and as long as he stayed in the will of God, he found deliverance from every enemy and every difficult circumstance. However, when he disobeyed the Word of God, he was in a very serious situation that resulted in great disaster. The very same principles apply well today. In Jesus Christ we have complete victory over all sin. No one can touch us; but if any man departs from the will and Word of God, he at once becomes a slave indeed, having lost his place of kingship with God.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What was the particular avenue in Samson’s life in which the Spirit of God expressed Himself?
2. Why was it that the angel forbade Samson’s mother to drink wine or strong drink?
3. What is a Nazarite?
4. If the Spirit of God was upon Samson, why did he get thirsty with his great exertion?
5. How do you explain the issuing of the water from the jawbone? †

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

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

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We now have a site streaming Church of God music and messages 24/7 recorded during our services. It can be found by going to:

www.wayoftruth.org and clicking on:

Way of Truth Internet Radio

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



HEART AND HANDS

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"I noticed you didn't let your car warm up this morning before you took off," said my father one evening at the dinner table.

I was seventeen years old, and proud to have my own car and a driver's license that gave me permission to drive it. My father had helped me find the car—a used one that I could afford. He maintained the car for me by changing the oil, checking the coolant level, and doing many other things that I would never have thought about. He also gave me advice from time to time about how to take care of the car so it would last for a long time.

Today's cars require very little warm-up time, but the old car I drove as a teenager was built years before fuel injected engines became common.

I listened respectfully to my father's words, but I didn't always remember to do what he said.

"It's so cold in the mornings," I replied after my father had reminded me about warming up the car. "If I sit in the car while it warms up, I start shivering."

"Can't you go out and start the car, and then come back into the house for a few minutes while it warms up?" asked my sister, Twila.

"No," I said. "I've tried that, but when the car engine is cold, it stalls as soon as I take my foot off the gas pedal."

"Well, then," said my mother, "you're just going to have to toughen up and shiver for a few minutes while the car warms up. It's hard on your car to start it up on a bitter cold morning, and then take off right away."

I sighed. "I'll try to remember from now on," I told my parents.

The next morning, I jumped up from the breakfast table, grabbed my college textbooks, threw a jacket around my shoulders and headed for the front door. If I didn't get on the road soon, I would be late for class. Just as I started across the yard to the area where we parked our cars, I remembered what my father had said the evening before. No matter how much in a hurry I was, I knew I would need to sit for a few minutes in the cold car after I started the engine. I had promised to let it idle for a while and warm up before I took off. I began to run.

When I reached my car, I was surprised to hear the engine already purring and to see a plume of smoke coming from the exhaust pipe.

How is this possible? I wondered to myself. *There is no one in the car, but the engine is running smoothly!*

I opened the front door on the driver's side of the car and slipped into the front seat. I threw my textbooks

onto the seat beside me and prepared to put the car in reverse in order to back out of the parking spot. That was when I saw it—a short, stout twig was positioned in such a way that it pressed hard enough on the gas pedal to keep the car engine from stalling.

The car heater had been turned on, as well as the defroster. My windshield was clear of frost, and the interior of the car was nice and warm.

I didn't even have to wonder who might have warmed up my car. It was my father, who was back in the barn by now, hard at work on his morning chores.

As I drove toward the college campus that morning, I thought about what my father had done for me. I pictured him checking the clock in the milkhouse. At just the right time, he had picked up his set of keys, left his work, and walked to my car. He had searched the ground under the trees until he had found just the right twig to press down on my gas pedal. He had gotten into the cold car and started it up, adjusting all the necessary knobs so that the car would be warm and the windows defrosted by the time I came out of the house. His humble, loving heart had guided his hands to do this service for me, his daughter.

My father went out of his way to do something that I could have done for myself. But he allowed humility and love to direct his steps.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 29:23, which says, *A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.* We should never let pride get in the way of doing what we can to help those in need. God will bless us if we look for ways to make life more pleasant for others. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).

Ask the Lord to help you find ways to please Him by letting a humble heart guide your hands to serve others.

Activity

See if you can complete the verses below that tell us how important it is to have a humble heart. Use the scripture locations to check your answers.

1. "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour _____" (Proverbs 15:33).
2. "By humility and the fear of the Lord are _____" (Proverbs 22:4).
3. "Be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and _____" (1 Peter 5:5b).
4. "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself _____" (Matthew 23:12).
5. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and _____" (James 4:10).

Answers to Last Month's Activity


God created **Adam** and **Eve** and placed them in the beautiful Garden of **Eden**. He told them they could eat the fruit from every **tree** in the garden except for the Tree of **Knowledge** of **Good** and **Evil**. God told them that if they ate **fruit** from that tree, they would **die**.

Satan appeared to Eve in the form of a **serpent**. He told her not to **believe** God. Satan told Eve that she would not **die** if she ate fruit from the forbidden tree. Eve thought the fruit from the forbidden tree looked **delicious**. She did not **resist** temptation. She ate some of the fruit, and she gave some to **Adam**, and he ate it.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed **God** and ate the forbidden **fruit**, their **souls** died. They were no longer God's **children**. Adam and Eve needed to be **forgiven** so their **souls** could be alive again to God. †

CHOOSING

By the late Bro. Alvin A. Craig

 ON TODAY'S BROADCAST, I want you to think with me in regard to the thought of "Choosing." To *choose* is "to pick out by preference from what is available; to select; to decide." We are what we are as a sum total of the decisions that we make. I'm afraid that many of us make decisions without giving due consideration to their consequences.

I want to draw from the Scriptures thoughts concerning choosing. We'll start with Adam and Eve. God had created them and placed them in the beautiful garden that we call *The Garden of Eden*. He had given them a beautiful home. He had given them many rich blessings, but He had also given them a command, a law, that they should not eat of the fruit of the tree that was in the midst of the garden. God did this because we are all free moral agents, and we have the responsibility of choice. Now, I realize that's contrary to what some religious people believe, but it is not contrary to what the Bible teaches.

We find Adam and Eve in their beautiful garden home with the responsibility of making a choice—to obey God or to disobey God. We read in the Scriptures of how a tempter came in the garden and Eve yielded to the tempter. Having partaken of the forbidden fruit, she gave to her husband and he did eat also. They had a choice to make. What a choice it was, and how devastating the consequences were of their choice! It is still affecting humanity yet today. I say again, too many times we make choices without realizing, without considering the seriousness or the consequences of those choices. Adam and Eve were separated from God. Their souls died. They no longer had fellowship with God. They no longer had spiritual life. When they transgressed, they died, just as God told them they would. We trust that they did get back to God and made things right with God, but we know the immediate results were that their fellowship with God was broken. Spiritual death came upon them, and they were sent out of their beautiful garden home. Following that, they had the sad news that their son Cain had killed his brother Abel. Many other heartaches they had to face as they journeyed on in life towards their physical death.



So they made a choice, and what a choice it was! The consequences were indeed startling.

We read of another man who made a choice. This man's name was Moses. According to the Scriptures, the word *Moses* means "drawn out." That was not the name his parents gave him, but that's the name that we know him as. Moses made a choice, too. We are told in the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews that when Moses came of years, he "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."

Now, Moses had been cared for by his mother until he was weaned, and then he was turned over to Pharaoh's daughter. Presumably, he lived in the palace area and was schooled in all the learnings of Egypt. He was exposed to the religions of the Egyptians until he reached the age of forty. When he became of legal age, making his own choices, he chose "to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." I want you to consider this choice. This man was living in the palace. He had all the material things that he could possibly need, and if not an heir to become a Pharaoh himself, at least he was in line for a very important government position. "He had it made" as the world would express it

today, but he made a choice. Moses made the choice to give up all of that, that he might suffer affliction with the people of God. Some people today would certainly say he made a very poor choice: "Why would a man make such a choice to give up all the pleasures, all the riches, all the pomp and honor that was available to him there? Give all of that up and chose to suffer?"

There was a reason Moses made this choice. The Bible tells us that he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. Way back there, in what we might call "the dim past," Moses understood that there was going to be a judgment, and there were going to be rewards given. He understood that the material things of this world would not last forever. They would pass away. Not only that, he realized and knew that we would not live here forever. He himself would pass from this life, and that he would have to leave all those material things behind.

Beloved, every one of us must do the same. Yes, we must go the way of all flesh. We're not going to take one material thing with us. Not one! So we need to consider the choice that Moses made. It was not a foolish choice. It was not an unwise choice. It was the very best choice that he could possibly make. Look at the results: He chose to suffer affliction with the people of God. When he left this world, he left with victory in his soul. He left with God's approval upon his life, and he left to go to have eternal life, not eternal death. So Moses made a very wise choice. Although to the carnal mind it may seem to have been a foolish choice, in the

light of eternity it was the wisest choice that he could have possibly made. You, too, will make the wisest choice that you can possibly make if you will choose to leave sin, the evil, the ungodliness of this world, and follow the Lord Jesus Christ, and live in obedience to His Word.

Jesus gave us a number of parables. I want to refer to one which I'm sure is very familiar with everyone in our congregation today. I refer to the one who is commonly called "the prodigal son." This farmer had two sons. The younger son made a decision, a choice. He picked a preference that was before him. The choice was that he was going to leave his father. He was going to accept his inheritance and leave his father. He was going to go into another country and there make a living and a name for himself. I don't know just what all the young man had in mind. He may have had some very good and high ambitions, as far as the material world is concerned. But one thing we know from reading this parable in the fifteenth chapter in the book of Luke is that after he left home, and the environment of the home, he fell into some dire temptations. He yielded to those temptations. He gave in to those temptations and did some very unwise things.

I dare say that when this young man made the choice to leave home, he never expected to enter into some of the evil things that he did. He certainly did not expect to end up where he did. But after he left home and squandered his inheritance, then a great famine came upon the land, and he had no money. He had nothing to live off of, and so he went and hired out himself to a swine farmer. Now remember, we're talking about a Hebrew boy, one who was taught and knew that the swine was an unclean animal. Of course, in his homeland, his father did not raise swine, but his son was so desperate and had gone so low that he was willing, or you could say forced, to go and labor in this way. Farming was all he ever knew, so he went and hired himself out to this pig farmer. While he was feeding the swine, he looked at what he was feeding them. He was so hungry. The Bible doesn't say that he actually did eat it, but he considered eating what he was feeding the swine.

We understand this parable to be saying that this man went out from the father's house and went into sin. His hiring himself out to this pig farmer shows the depths of sin that this young man went into. Sin will indeed take you farther than you want to go. It will keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you more than you want to pay. But there is a beautiful truth brought out here. After this young man had made this wrong decision and went down into the depths of sin, he made another decision. The Bible says that he came to himself. I take from that, he came to the place where he was willing to face reality and face facts. He saw where he was and remembered where he had left.

The Bible says that when he came to himself he reasoned: "My father's hired servants have it better than I have it. They have plenty to eat. Father has provided a good place for them to live. He's provided them with all they need. I am going to arise and return to my father's house, and I am going to say to my father,

Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants." He didn't just say that, but he actually carried out the decision that he made. He returned to his father, and he found abundant pardon when he did.

All of us have gone astray. All have sinned and left the Father's house, but the wonderful message in this parable is that if we will come to the place where we're willing to leave a life of sin and return to God, He will abundantly pardon. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

There is another Bible character I'd like to mention who made a decision. His name was Judas. Judas was one of the twelve. He was one of the trusted ones. He was made the treasurer of the little band. His fellow disciples had confidence in him. Doubtless, Judas did live a righteous life for awhile because he had power to heal the sick, to preach the gospel, and cast out devils, just as the other disciples did. But he made a choice. He became covetous. He gave into a covetous spirit. He went to the rulers in Jerusalem. He knew that they were trying to get rid of this man Jesus. Judas went to them and bargained with them to betray Jesus into their hands for thirty pieces of silver. He doubtless figured that Jesus would get away from them, as He had in Nazareth, and also the time they took up stones to stone Him. Judas probably figured that he could betray Jesus into their hands and get his money. But the Bible says that when he saw that Jesus was not going to deliver Himself, he returned the money to the rulers, and then went out and hanged himself. He died a suicide because he made the wrong choice.

Today, I have brought to your attention those who made wrong choices and those who have made right choices. I challenge you to make a choice. If today you're still living in sin, I challenge you to choose Jesus Christ, for sin will destroy you. It will bring you heartache, misery, and woe; eventually, eternal separation from God. So I challenge you, even as Moses did, choose to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Choose as the prodigal son. Return to the Father. Ask His forgiveness. Be reestablished in the family of God, live for God, and be able at the judgment day, which is coming for us all, to hear Jesus say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

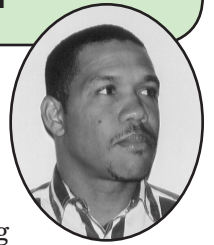
We beseech you to become a child of God. Come to the Lord with a broken and a contrite heart. Surrender your heart and life to Him. Live for Him, and live eternally. †

WATCH OUR WORSHIP SERVICES LIVE!

As many of our readers know, we can be found on the internet at www.wayoftruth.org where in addition to reading past issues and other information, you can watch our general services every Sunday LIVE at 10:40 A.M and 6:00 P.M. E.D.T. Enjoy Spirit-filled singing and preaching. Also, our mid-week service at 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays is aired live. There is a chatroom where you can interact with us and share your prayer requests.

HOPE IN STORMY TIMES

2024 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Paul Wilson



I WILL BE SPEAKING on “Hope in Stormy Times.” In the book of St. Matthew, chapter 8, verses 23-27, we read: “And when he [Jesus] was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!”

I don't want you to look to Bro. Paul this morning, but I want you to look to God. I believe He is the one who is going to bless us. I believe He has something in store for every one of us.

We are in stormy times, aren't we? Everywhere we look we see chaos and trouble. Bro. Ralph sings a song called, “The Anchor Holds.” There's another songwriter who wrote, “We have an anchor that keeps the soul, Steadfast and sure while the billows roll, Fastened to the Rock which cannot move, Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.” What a love! What a place to be grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love!

As Jesus entered the ship, His disciples followed Him. As they were on the sea, there arose a great tempest, a great storm. As Bro. Ray reminded us, we who come from the Islands know what it is to have storms and hurricanes. We know about the winds and the waves. We know the damage that storms can bring. It can be frightening. Just a few days ago we heard about a storm that hit the island of Jamaica and other places. Lives were lost, properties damaged, and people have been left homeless. Those are not the storms I want to talk about in the message.

STORMS OF LIFE CAN DISTURB OUR PEACE

This morning I will speak about the storms of life that come in to disturb our peace, our love, and our joy. They're real storms, and the winds are blowing. The winds of strife and indifference and false doctrines are blowing. They are doing everything to destroy the people of God, but thank God, our anchor holds. In spite of all that is happening, and going on around us, our anchor holds. There is still peace in the midst of the storm. There is still comfort and hope in the midst of the storm because we still have an anchor that holds.

The Bible says that there arose a tempest—a violent, windy storm. It was raging, and the disciples were afraid. What I am glad about is, Jesus was on the ship. That's the beauty about this. Even though you might be going through some things in your life, when Jesus is in the ship, everything is all right. The disciples came and awoke Jesus. “We are in trouble.” I'm glad they looked to the right source. There are times when our

lives have been disturbed and distracted and we look to the wrong source. We look to the wrong places. We look to the wrong people, but the disciples looked to the right source.

The ship must have been a fishing boat because many of Jesus' disciples were fishermen. Josephus, an ancient historian, wrote: *There were usually more than three on the fishing boats on the Sea of Galilee at one time. The boat was large enough to hold Jesus and His twelve disciples and was powered by both oars and sails. During a storm, however, the sails were taken down to keep them from ripping and to make the boat easier to control. The Sea of Galilee is undoubtedly an unusual body of water. It is relatively small—thirteen miles long—seven miles wide, but it is a hundred and fifty feet deep, and the shoreline is six hundred and eighty feet below sea level. Certain storms can appear.*

STORMS CAN APPEAR UNEXPECTEDLY

Certain storms appear in our lives at times when we don't expect them. They come out of nowhere. Sometimes that is what causes us to be so disturbed because we weren't expecting them. Do you know one of the worst storms that can get us so discouraged is the storm that comes from within? We don't expect it. That's a storm that shakes us sometimes. That's a storm that gets us discouraged.

The disciples were seasoned fishermen, but when the storm arose, they panicked. They had never seen any storm like that. They had experienced storms before, but nothing like this one they were going through. The Bible says that they thought they were going to perish.

Sometimes we may feel like we're going down, Church. We may feel like there is no way out. All we can see are the dark clouds. All we can see is the wind, but thank God, our anchor holds and grips the solid Rock. Someone wrote, “This Rock is Jesus; yes, He's the one.”

Certain storms can appear over the surrounding mountains with little warning, stirring the water into violent twenty foot waves. The disciples had not foolishly set out in the storm. They were caught without warning. As I said, sometimes storms come suddenly. You get caught without warning. You were not looking for them.

When there is a developing storm, there is a bulletin that comes over the radio. “There's a storm in your area.” We hear on our radios or televisions “batten down.” People go out and buy supplies to cover their windows and doors. Even though people do that and anchor down their roofs, they end up losing their roofs. Storms destroy life.

The storms of hate destroy life. Sometimes you question, “Why doesn't that person like me? Why is it

that they hate me so?" The Bible says that the enemy comes in like a flood. The enemy can come on the people of God like a flood. There's one problem after another.

I remember Job. Job was a man of God. He loved God, but the enemy came upon him like a flood. There was one problem after another. But Job knew God. He said, "I know that my redeemer liveth." Messages were coming to Job like a flood: "Your cattle have been burned up. Your servants have been killed. Your children are dead." Do you know what Job said in all of those things? "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job worshiped God. Job had a hope in God. He reached to the place where his body was taken over with boils. He said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither." With all the floods that came upon Job, he stood firm because he knew where his hope was.

A songwriter penned these words:

*Have we any hope within us of a life beyond the grave,
In the fair and vernal lands?*

*Do we know that when our earthly house by death shall
be dissolved,*

We've a house not made with hands?

*Blessed hope we have within us is an anchor to the soul,
It is both steadfast and sure;*

*It is founded on the promises of Father's written word,
And 'twill evermore endure.*

Sometimes it seems we have no hope, but there is hope in God. When things seem dark and dreary, there's hope in God. "Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance" (Psalm 42:5). There's help in God.

"PEACE, BE STILL"

I mentioned earlier, the disciples awoke Jesus. The disciples asked Him, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" In St. Mark 4:37, it reads a little differently. It says, "There arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full." The waves were beating into the ship. As I said before, it was so bad, they panicked. I believe they were doing everything in their power to keep the ship afloat. But thank God, the Master of the wind, the Master of the rain, stepped out on the deck and said, "Peace, be still."

When the winds and the waves are against us, I can hear Jesus saying, "Peace, be still." Someone may not like you, but Jesus is saying to you, "Peace, be still." Things may not be going in your life as you desire, but He is still saying, "Peace, be still. I am the Master of the wind. I am the Maker of the rain." He is still saying, "Peace, be still." You might be sick and can't get well, but He is still saying, "Peace, be still." Your children might not be saved, even though you are praying, but He is still saying, "Peace, be still." As Moses said, "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord."

Something happened when Jesus said, "Peace, be still." The Bible says, "The wind ceased, and there was a great calm." In the place that was so cloudy and dark, the sun began to shine. There may be some dark places in your life, but when Jesus speaks, "Peace, be still,"

the sun comes out. The wind ceased, the billows ceased, the tempest ceased because Jesus spoke, "Peace, be still." After the wind and the waves ceased, the disciples marveled, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

God spoke in the beginning of time and said, "Let there be, and there was." He was the one who said, "Let there be light, and there was light." That's the God I'm talking about. What a mighty God were serve! There's nothing that our God can't do. He's the one who said, "I Am that I Am," when He spoke to Moses.

It doesn't matter what storm you're facing, you can rely on the Master of the wind and the waves. He can speak the word to your life. He can speak the word in your situation, and there will be a change and a great calm. Jesus said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore."

Isaiah 59:19 says: "So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." Lift up a standard of praise when the enemy comes in like a flood. Glorify God. What a mighty God we serve!

"I WILL BE WITH YOU"

Jesus said, "I will be with you always." Whatever you're facing, let me encourage you that Jesus promised, "I will be with you. Through the fire, through the flood, I will be with you." I've seen it through the Scriptures time and time again how Jesus was with His people. When Daniel was thrown into the den of lions, God was with Him. When the Hebrew boys were thrown into the fiery furnace, God was with them. When you're going through your storm, Church, God is with you.

*Since we've walked the strait and narrow way our
path has ever shone*

Brighter, brighter, day by day;

*Hope within our hearts assures us it is better farther
on,*

It is brighter all the way.

It will be worth it all. Hope within our hearts gives us the assurance it is better farther on. Even though we see darkness and things don't go the way we want them to go, it is better farther on. Why? Because we have a hope. It will be brighter all the way.

*Life will end in joyful singing, "I have fought a faith-
ful fight,"*

Then we'll lay our armor down;

*And our spirits freed from earthly ties shall take
their happy flight*

To possess a starry crown.

When we lay our armor down, it will be worth it all. It will be worth it all when we see Jesus. That's comforting to know. All of what we're going through and facing, it will be worth it all!

Remember this: When we leave here after this convention, we're going back to face the real world, but rest assured, if we stay close to God, He will keep us.

Part of a song says: "The anchor holds, Though the ship is battered, The anchor holds, Though the sails are torn, The anchor holds, In spite of the storm." Yes, a lot of times our sails are torn, but the anchor holds.

Sometimes there are strains on the cable, but the anchor holds. Thank God, we have an Anchor that keeps the soul. I am glad this afternoon that Jesus is that Anchor. We can depend on Him. Stay true.

CONCLUSION

Let me say to our young people, stay true to God. Let your anchor hold. Let it grip the solid Rock. You can find it all in Jesus. All that you need is in Jesus.

Someone wrote: "My soul is satisfied, My soul is satisfied; I am complete in Jesus' love, And my soul is satisfied." There is hope in the midst of the storm.

God bless. †

CHRISTIANITY A LIGHT

By the late Charles E. Orr

THROUGHOUT THE Scriptures Christianity is spoken of as a light. The Christian era is referred to as a day. A day is when the light shineth. In speaking of the beautiful dawning of the Star of Christianity the prophet says: "And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." "Arise, shine; for thy light is come." "The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory." Isaiah 60. It is not meant to say here that Christians have no need of the light of the sun or the moon, but to teach that the light of the sun and the brightness of the moon is not to be compared to the transcendent light of Christianity. Whose heart has not been touched with a feeling of admiration as they beheld the bright dawning of the round, red sun, or the beautiful rising of a full moon? These are not to be compared with the "brightness of the rising" of the gospel day. "To them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." Matthew 4:16. "Through the tender mercy of our God, whereby the dayspring [sun rising—margin] from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:78, 79.

Jesus says of Himself, "I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." Revelation 22:16. Christ speaking to the church at Thyatira, says to those that overcome and keep His works unto the end, that He will give them the morning star. Revelation 2:28. He will give them the true light and glory of Christianity, or His own light and nature. All will do well to take heed to do His works "until the day dawn and the day star arise in their hearts."

In the natural world there is a literal solar system consisting of the sun, moon and planets. The sun is the center around which all the planets revolve, and from which they receive their light. The moon borrows its light from the sun. When some object interposes between the moon and the sun the moon is left in darkness. In the spiritual world there is a spiritual solar system consisting of sun, moon and stars. As in the literal

system, the moon and stars revolve around the Sun and borrow their light therefrom.

THE SPIRITUAL SUN OR LIGHT

It is not difficult to glean from the Scriptures the knowledge of the true center of this spiritual solar system, or the true source of light. The last writer of the Old Testament Scriptures, in his last chapter says: "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings." All understand this text to refer to the Lord Jesus. His visitation to this world, through the mercy of God, is termed, "The sun-rising." Luke 1:78, margin. Christ is the Sun and true source of light of the gospel day. The Church of God collectively is the moon of this spiritual solar system, and its individual members are the stars. In the Savior's prophecy as recorded in Mark 13:24, 25, the term "sun" is a metaphor, signifying Christ; the "moon," the Church, as a whole; the "stars," Christians, or especially the ministry.

This darkening of the sun and moon and the falling of the stars we will clearly explain in part second of this work. The Church of God receives its light from Jesus. He is "the light of the world." In the language of Isaiah 60:1 the Church is addressed: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come." Christ is her light. The Church shines by the light of Christ, as the moon shines by the light of the sun. "Out of Zion [the Church of God], the perfection of beauty, God hath shined." The Church as a whole is a brilliant reflector to reflect the light of Christ to this universe. Every Christian is a bright spot in this luminous reflector. Amen. "Let your light so shine."

A few years ago, one beautiful Sunday summer evening, as we were on our way to an appointed meeting, we observed the moon rising in the splendor of its fulness. It shed its soft, peaceful rays over the earth in marked beauty. After a short time we became aware of a gathering darkness. On looking up we saw a dark object gathering over the moon. Slowly, but surely the dark object crept on until all was darkened. Not one ray of light fell from the moon. The sun had ceased to shine upon her. We understood that the world had come in between the sun and the moon and obstructed the sun's rays. The same is true of the spiritual moon, the Church. In the first few centuries of this Christian day it shone with the light and glory of God, but the time came when the "moon [Church] ceased to give her light," and all because, as we will learn, the world came between it and the Sun (Christ).

CHRISTIAN POWER AND PURITY

Christianity is a light in this world because of the greatness of its power and the excellence of its purity. John, who is denominated the forerunner of Jesus, or the heralding star of Christianity, said that "he was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:8, 9. Of whom speaketh the prophet then? The Son of God will answer this question in these words: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12. Jesus was the light of the world because of His power and purity. All power was given unto Him in heaven and in earth. Matthew 28:18.

He was holy, harmless and undefiled. Hebrews 7:26. The Lord Jesus lived a pure and holy life. "He did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." He had power to open the blind eyes, to unstop the deaf ears, to loose the dumb tongue, to make the lame man leap as a hart, and to heal all manner of diseases, and to raise the dead. There is no sin in heaven; there is no sickness there. He brought the light of heaven to this world in displaying His power over sin and disease. Glory to His name!

We wish to impress this fact upon the reader's mind that He was a light because of His purity and power, and because He was the "Truth." And now if you will but believe it, that is the true light of Christianity. The Lord Jesus was only a visitant. His stay on earth was transient. He came from heaven, and heaven soon again received Him. Referring to His departure He said to His disciples: "Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light; ... while ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." John 12:35, 36.

Again He says, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9:5. We learn the sad story of His crucifixion, then the glad news of His resurrection, and then His ascension in a cloud to the glory, from whence He came. Is the light of Christianity gone from the world? Is this world left again in darkness? No; thank God! Jesus now says to His devoted followers: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." Matthew 5:14. It is the "city of Zion, the perfection of beauty," out of which God doth shine. "The glory of God is risen upon her." Jesus told them to believe in the light while they had the light, that they might be the children of light. Paul, in exhorting Christians to a holy life, said: "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." Philippians 2:15. "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." Ephesians 5:8. "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." I Thessalonians 5:5.

This is the spiritual moon reflecting the light of the Sun. It is "God that shineth in thee." They are "light in the Lord," and they are commanded to "let their light shine, that God might be glorified." This is beautiful. Oh, what a privilege

To be a vessel transparent,
Clear as the crystal sea,
Letting the glorious light of heaven
Brilliantly shine through thee.

Beloved Saints, take heed that there be not one spot in thee to obstruct the light of God. "Let it shine." Submissively place thyself in the crucible and there be polished and refined and purged and cleansed until thou art "purer than snow, and whiter than milk, and more ruddy than rubies."

How can the Lord now, since His ascension, shine through His church? The Scriptures make this very plain. Jesus told His own that He would not long be with them, but said, "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide

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with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." John 14:16-18.

In verse twenty-six he tells us the Comforter is the Holy Ghost. In the second chapter of Acts we have the account of the Holy Spirit's coming. ... Christ [through] the Spirit has now come to dwell in the midst of His people, and to be a light in them. Jesus was here in the body on a mission of mercy. He tasted death for every man. He comes again in the Spirit to "reprove the world of righteousness, of sin, and of judgment." In Hebrews 10:5 Jesus says, "A body hast thou prepared me." A body in which to offer a sacrifice for the sins of the world. He now has a body in which He dwells in the Spirit. Christians are "a holy temple in the Lord, in whom they are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit." Thus God inhabits His people, "dwells in them, and walks in them." The Church of God is now the body of Christ. He is the "head over all things to the church, which is his body." Ephesians 1:22, 23; see also Colossians 1:18.

In speaking of saints in I Corinthians 12:27 the apostle says, "Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular." He was the light of the world in His incarnation, and now the Church, His body, is the light of the world. Incarnate He was a light because of His purity and power, and He lives the same pure life and manifests the same marvelous power in His body, the Church, as when here in His personal ministry. He healed the sick, cast out devils, opened blinded eyes, unstopped deaf ears, and raised the dead. After the Holy Spirit's coming He performs the same wondrous works in His body, the Church. Through the apostle Peter He healed a lame man, restored to life a dead woman, etc. He is "the very same Jesus." When He was here in the flesh He could be seen and His marvelous works witnessed by the natural eye. The Holy Spirit is imperceptible to the natural eye, and therefore can only reveal Himself to the world as He works in the midst of His people. It is thus that Christians reflect the light of Christ.

In the sixteenth chapter of Mark the Lord commanded His disciples to go "into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God." Verses 15-19.

In verse nineteen it is said the Lord was received up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God. In verse twenty it is said, "They [the disciples] went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." The Lord worked with them; then He must have returned. He did in the manner we have told you. He returned to be a light in the midst of His people by confirming

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the truth wherever it is lifted up. He did do it, and He now does it. God bears witness to His truth, both with signs and wonders, and divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost. Hebrews 2:4. For Christianity to be a light there must be the performance of signs and wonders and divers miracles. Such is true Christianity, and such is her light, a queen swaying her scepter over the works of Satan, setting at liberty the captives, breaking the bands of Satan asunder, healing the diseased, and scattering peace and bright hopes in the hearts of men. Glory to God forevermore!

THE BEAUTIES OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Not only does the Lord dwell in the midst of His people to perform deeds and signs of wonder, but He dwells in them in all the beauty of His holiness. In their hearts He rules a "King of peace" and purity. Those in whom He dwells "walk even as he walked," and "as he is, so are they in this world."

A certain writer speaks thus of the beauties of Christian character: "Live as we may, age dims the luster of the eye, and pales the flush of the cheek, while infirmity mars the human form divine. But while this is true, dim as the eye is, pallid and sunken as may be the face of beauty, frail and feeble that once strong, erect and symmetrical form, the immortal soul, just fledging its wings for heaven, may look out through those faded windows, as beautiful as a dewdrop on a summer's morning, as melting as the tears that glisten in affection's eye, by growing kindly, by cultivating sympathy with all mankind, by cherishing forbearance toward the follies and frubbles of our race, and feeding day by day on that love of God and man which lifts us from the brute and makes us akin to angels."

Christian character is the same whether it be in Christians or in Christ. The character of the Savior is also the character of those in whom He dwells. Their nature is the same, and their outward life is the same. This is what is meant when it is said: "We should walk even as he walked." ...

Thus we could go on to a much greater length, showing by the Scriptures that the character of a Christian, or his nature or life is the same as the life or character of Christ. Christianity is Christ in us. The life of a true Christian is one of great beauty. It is a light in this world. It is far above the ways of sin and worldliness. It is the Christ-life in man. The self-life of man has ceased, is crucified; nevertheless he lives, yet not he, but it is Christ that liveth in him. The Christian life is inspiring, ennobling, clothed in humility. It points the way to Christ and heaven. It is a brilliant ornament, which in the sight of God is of great price. God places great value upon a Christian life. It is worth more than ten thousand worlds. Is it not a shame that it is trifled with as it is? Thousands are taking the name of Christian, when it is impossible to distinguish them from the world; they emit not one ray of light.

Aesthetics is the science of the beautiful, and treats of the feelings produced through the senses by objects of beauty. The most vile and dishonest admire honesty in others; thus gentleness, kindness, meekness, produce pleasant feelings and are called beautiful. God is the source of meekness, gentleness, and love. He is the source of the beautiful. Christianity is God in man,

exhibiting His beauty. "Lord, let thy beauty be upon us." The dewdrop sparkles like a diamond as the sun's rays fall upon it. The life of man sparkles with an unsurpassed beauty as the rays of light and salvation fall upon it from the throne. As we behold the beauty of God assimilated into the life of man and thus revealed we think what a pity that all in the world are not Christians.

Christian, oh, may thy tribe increase,
Thy light and glory ne'er decrease;
Shine on and magnify the Word,
And point the world to Christ and God. †

—Reprinted from **The Gospel Day**

QUOTES FOR THE NEW YEAR

"WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART THAT EVERY DAY IS THE BEST DAY IN THE YEAR."

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON

"THE NEW YEAR STANDS BEFORE US, LIKE A CHAPTER IN A BOOK, WAITING TO BE WRITTEN."—MELODY BEATTIE

"TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH AND BEGIN THIS WONDROUS NEW YEAR BY BELIEVING."

—SARAH BAN BREATHNACH

"THE NEW YEAR IS NOT JUST ABOUT A CHANGE IN THE CALENDAR; IT'S ABOUT SETTING FRESH GOALS, EMBRACING NEW OPPORTUNITIES, AND BELIEVING IN YOUR OWN POTENTIAL."—UNKNOWN

"THE ONLY LIMIT TO OUR REALIZATION OF TOMORROW IS OUR DOUBTS OF TODAY."—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

"NEW YEAR'S DAY IS A GOOD TIME TO FIX ONE'S EYES ON THE ONLY WAY TO BEGIN THE YEAR AS WE SHOULD: IN HUMILITY."

—ELISABETH ELLIOT

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MARRIAGE

By the late George W. Bailey

There is a subject which is deep and sacred, yet how lightly it is treated. Marriage is of God, and of heavenly origin, therefore should be well considered before taking this holy vow. For thus saith the Lord, "From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." So it is God that joins man and wife together. Listen to the apostle Paul; hear his advice on this subject: "Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife."—I Corinthians 7:27. And in the 35th verse he adds, "And this I speak for your own profit." Since it is God that joins together, just leave the matter in His hands. Are you a child of God? Then God has taken you under His watch-care and has promised to supply your every need. Philippians 4:17. Do you love God? Then God has said, "All things work together for good to them that love God."

Dear Unmarried Ones, if God sees it would be for your good to have a companion, He will bring it about. But if He sees it would be best for you to remain single, are you not willing thus to remain? Can you say, "Thy will be done"? If you would escape the tempter's snare just turn the whole matter over to God and let Him do the seeking, as well as the joining. God knows much better than you whom you could live happy with and keep saved. The devil would like to help you seek a companion; and when he gets you to ignore Paul's advice, "Seek not a wife," and you begin to seek instead of letting God seek, he has a thousand snares set for your soul, and he will muster a host of adulterous, free-love spirits and put them on your track. Oh, how my heart has been made to bleed as I have looked upon dear young people who have started and run well for a season, but alas, were captured by some ungodly free-love spirit and led captive at his will! The devil would like to have the contract of mismatching and bringing disgrace and shame on the whole human family. Just look upon this world and behold the sad homes, the broken hearts, the misery and even crime, caused by a mistake in marriage! I am sorry to have to say it, but evil concupiscence, urged on by the devil, is often the main object in marriage. May God have mercy on such individuals. Yet, some of these will say, "The Lord showed me I must get married."

See a young couple get married and set out for life, expecting all to be sunshine, since the highest object in life has been achieved. But alas! The cares of life and the storms of time take hold upon them; they soon find out there has been a mistake made somewhere. The truth is this: God was not counseled in the matter. As I look upon this dark world and see the blighted homes, hear the wrangling and jangling, and see the separations, I cannot help but say, "Oh, my Lord, what is the cause of all of this? Is not marriage honorable? Is it not

of God?" The answer comes back, "They have set at naught all my counsels, and would none of my reproofs; therefore they are filled with the fruits of their own doings." Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers, for Jesus' sake let God do the joining. Don't be meddlers in this affair. †

—Reprinted from the July 1997 issue

HOW IS THE CHURCH MOVING?

"Like a mighty army moves the Church of God." That might have been all right once. The trouble is that about 10 million men now know how the army moves. And it doesn't move the way a lot of you folk do in the church. Just suppose the army accepted the lame excuses many of you think good enough to serve as an alibi for not attending church.

Imagine this, if you can. Reveille at 7 a.m. Squad's on parade ground. The Sergeant barks out, "Count fours. One, two, three—number four is missing. Where's Private Smith?"

"Oh," says a chap by the vacant place, "Smith was too sleepy to get up this morning. He was out late last night. He said to tell you he would be with you in spirit."

"That's fine," says the Sergeant. "Remember me to him! Where's Brown?"

"Oh, he's fishing, Sarge," put in another chap. "He gets only one day a week for recreation, and you know how important this is."

"Sure, sure," says the Sergeant cheerfully. "Hope he has a great time. Where's Robinson?"

"Robinson," exclaims a buddy, "is sorry not to greet you in person, but he is entertaining friends today. Besides, he was at drill last week."

"Thank you," says the Sergeant smiling. "Tell him he is welcome any time he finds it convenient to drop in for a drill."—*Bible Illustrator*

SCORPION CHRISTIANS

Scorpions live on insects, but they kill and devour their own species as well. One experimenter placed a hundred of these arachnids in a large glass vessel, and after a few days only fourteen remained. The rest had been killed and eaten by the others.

He put a pregnant female in a glass vessel and observed her as she devoured her young as fast as they were born. One escaped, taking refuge on the mother's back, and found revenge by killing the mother scorpion in turn.

If cornered with no possible escape, a scorpion will sting itself to death with that flexible stinger on the back end of its body.

Have you ever met any scorpion Christians?

—*Bible Illustrator*

"BUT IF YE BITE AND DEVOUR ONE ANOTHER, TAKE HEED THAT YE BE NOT CONSUMED ONE OF ANOTHER."—GALATIANS 5:15.

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Bro. Peter Ramsay, Host Pastor



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